

Psalms of our Savior



CARR

Ruthfred Lutheran Church

Welcome to Ruthfred Lutheran Church!

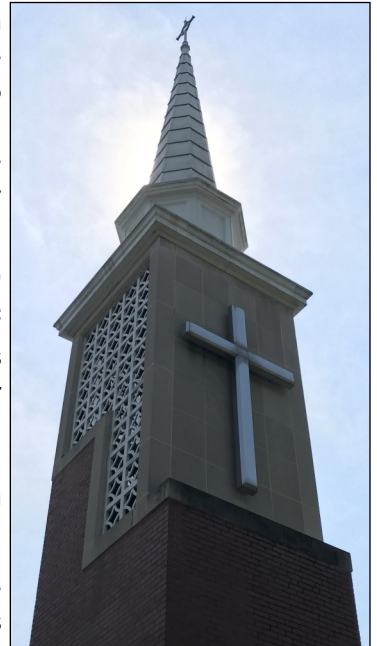
Member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (www.aflc.org)

**We are delighted to have you with us today as we gather to
worship the Lord Jesus Christ.**

If you are visiting today, we are glad you are here! Whether you are visiting from out of town, seeking a new church home, or for any other reason, thank you for choosing to worship with us. We would love to get in touch with you. Please fill out your contact information in the red folder at the end of your pew, or fill out the information on the back cover of this bulletin, and place it in an offering basket.

About Us:

- ♦ Since her opening service on Christmas Eve in 1948 and her charter the following year, Ruthfred Lutheran Church has been a congregation rooted in the conviction that the Bible is inspired by God, living and active, capable to produce faith in its hearers, and true and faithful in all its parts. As such, our preaching and teaching aim to be faithful to its correct interpretation and is central to our worship of God.
- ♦ Our Divine Service, called the “Common Service,” possesses a rich history that stems from the early days of the Lutheran Reformation. It is centered upon God’s Word, and proclaims the realities of God’s abundant grace in Jesus Christ from its start to its close. If this is a new form of worship for you, this bulletin will serve as a welcome companion. The order of service begins on page 3.
- ♦ The Divine Service begins as our organist begins the Prelude. When the music starts, please quiet your hearts as you prayerfully prepare for worship.



Our cover is a paper cut, or *scherschnitte*, created specially for our church by our very own Kathryn Carr. The artwork will reflect liturgical and Ruthfred-specific themes that occur throughout the year.

The Divine Service of the Word

The Third Wednesday in Lent, March 8, 2023

"Psalm of Rescue"

Prelude:

"Meditation on 'Beneath the Cross'"

(J. Barr)

"A Lenten Idyll"

(F. Ashdown)

The Opening Hymn:

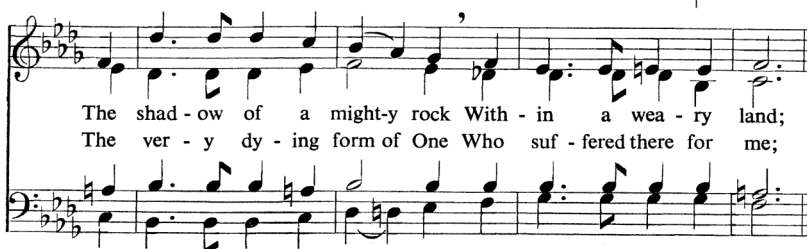
"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

(SBH #482)

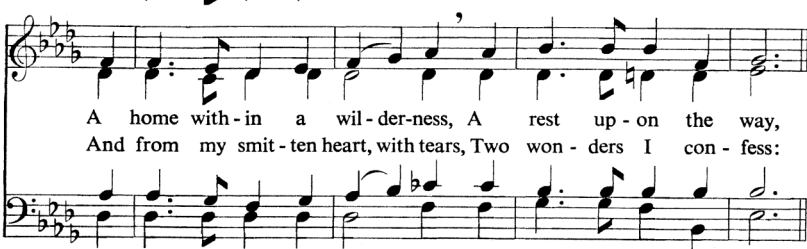
(Please stand as we
join our hearts in
song)



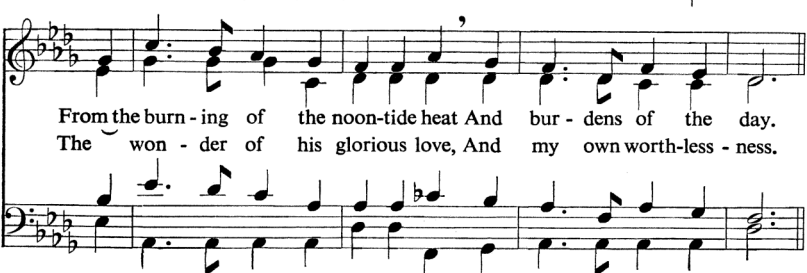
1. Be - neath the Cross of Je - sus I fain would take my stand;
2. Up - on that Cross of Je - sus, Mine eye at times can see



The shad - ow of a might-y rock With - in a wea - ry land;
The ver - y dy - ing form of One Who suf - fered there for me;



A home with - in a wil - der-ness, A rest up - on the way,
And from my smit - ten heart, with tears, Two won - ders I con - fess:



From the burn - ing of the noon-tide heat And bur - dens of the day,
The won - der of his glorious love, And my own worth - less - ness.

3 I take, O Cross, thy shadow
For my abiding-place;
I ask no other sunshine than
The sunshine of his face:
Content to let the world go by,
To know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self my only shame,
My glory all, the Cross.

Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830-69

The "invocation" is Latin for "call upon." In the Invocation we remember our baptism and acknowledge God as our Father. We are reminded that through Christ's name we have access to the Father's throne by the Holy Spirit. Because we are children of God, we have the privilege to invite (invoke) God's presence and blessing upon this service of "divine liturgy" in which we receive the Work of God through His Word and Spirit, and also in which we offer up to God our praise as an act of worship.

*Hebrews 10:19-25; 13:15;
Ephesians 2:18*

We confess our sins at the beginning of each service, because we are coming into the presence of a holy God. Though we are sinners who daily struggle with sin, we are invited to come to Him to receive the forgiveness of sin earned for us by Jesus. Through this forgiveness, we are given a right standing before a holy God.

Because sin is both corporate and personal, we confess our sins together, and privately in the silence of our hearts.

The Absolution is based upon God's instruction in Luke 24:47 that repentance and the forgiveness of sins should be widely proclaimed in the name of Jesus. (See also I John. 1:9).

The Call to Worship and Invocation

Pastor (P): We open this service in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen

The Confession of Sins

Pastor (P): Let us continue by confessing our sin.

Together:

O Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy and ask You for Christ's sake, grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Absolution

The Introit (Read Responsively; Please stand)

P: God forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ

C: In Him is salvation, life, and resurrection from the dead.

P: By Him, we are redeemed and set at liberty. God be merciful to us and bless us.

C: And cause His face to shine on us. (Galatians 6:14; Psalm 67:1)

The Gloria Patri (Sung in Unison; SBH p. 17)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Reading of the Passion History 3 (Page 12)

"Jesus Before The Sanhedrin"

The Scripture Reading: Psalm 121 (NASB)

¹ I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; from where shall my help come?

² My help *comes* from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

³ He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴ Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

⁶ The sun will not smite you by day, nor the moon by night.

⁷ The LORD will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul.

⁸ The LORD will guard your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forever.

The Holy Gospel Lesson: Luke 23:33-46 (NASB)

The Congregation shall rise and sing, “**Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**”

³³ When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. ³⁴

But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves. ³⁵ And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, “He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One.” ³⁶ The soldiers also

mocked Him, coming up to Him, offering Him sour wine, ³⁷ and saying, “If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!” ³⁸ Now there was also an inscription above Him, “THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.”

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged *there* was hurling abuse at Him, saying, “Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other answered, and rebuking him said, “Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed *are suffering* justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² And he was saying, “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!” ⁴³ And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.” ⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ because the sun was obscured; and the veil of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, “Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.” Having said this, He breathed His last.

The Congregation shall sing, “**Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**”

During different seasons of the year, we confess our faith using Luther's explanation of the 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed, which concerns the person and work of Jesus. In it we confess who Christ is, and what we believe about Him. This serves as a public witness of our faith, as well as personal and corporate affirmation of the salvation that is ours in Him.

The Confession of Faith (Confessed in Unison)

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord: who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood, and with His innocent sufferings and death, in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness; even as He is risen from the dead, and lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

The Special Music

2:00 Will Charlton, piano—*Precious Lord, Take My Hand* (T. A. Dorsey)

7:30 Women's Quartet (Peggy Glasser, Jill Kurtz, Jeanine Szalinski, and Mettelise Ziegler)

How Deep the Father's Love for Us (arr. L. Larson; written by S. Townsend)

How deep the Father's love for us, How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son, To make a wretch His treasure.

How great the pain of searing loss, The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One, Bring many unto glory.

Behold the man upon the cross, My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear the mocking voice, Call out among the scoffers.

It was my sin that held Him there, Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life, I know that it is finished.

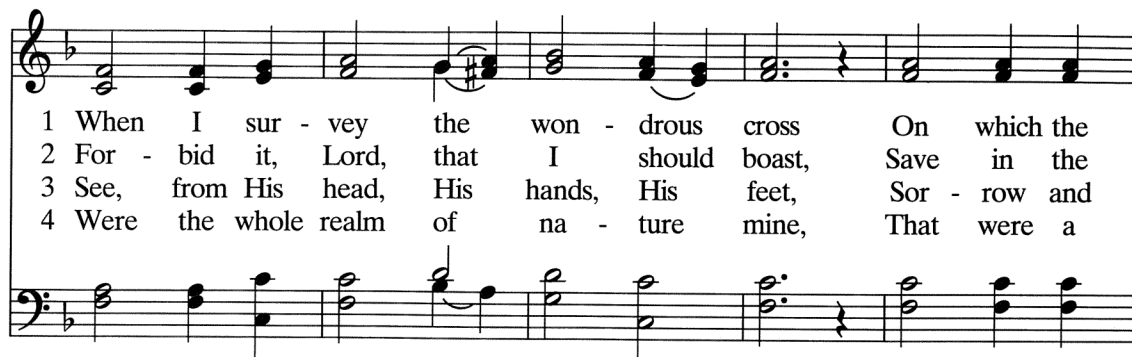
I will not boast in anything, No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.

Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart, His wounds have paid my ransom.

How deep the Father's love for us, How vast beyond all measure.

The Announcements


The Sermon Hymn: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (AMB #63)



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the
 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God: All the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss, And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
 sor - row meet? Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Tune: Gregorian chant; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

HAMBURG
LM

The Sermon is the central component of our Worship. In it, we hear God's Word taught and explained. We hear His Law, convicting of sin and guiding the believer. We also hear the promises of His Gospel, the Good News of Christ's work for us—His redemption, forgiveness and provision of life eternal.

The Sermon:

"Psalm of Rescue" | Psalm 121

The Offertory Response (Sung in Unison; Please Stand)

Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence: and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation: and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. (Psalm 51:10-12)

The Closing & Silent Prayer (Please bow or kneel in prayer)

The Lord's Prayer (Prayed in Unison)

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And, forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

The Benediction

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you.

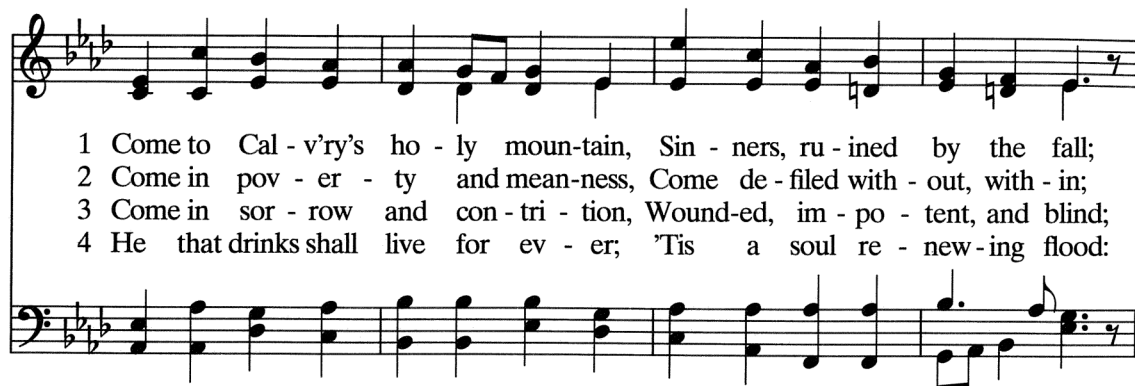
May He make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you

May He lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

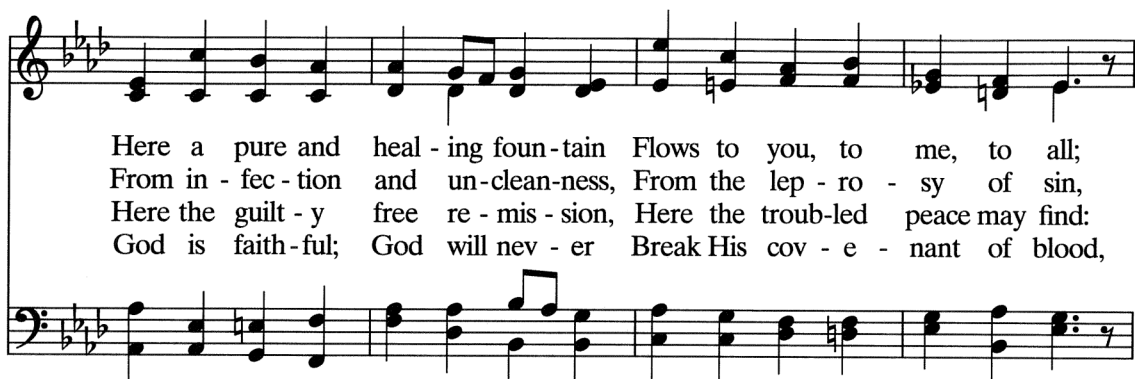
In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
(Numbers 6:24-26)

C: Amen.

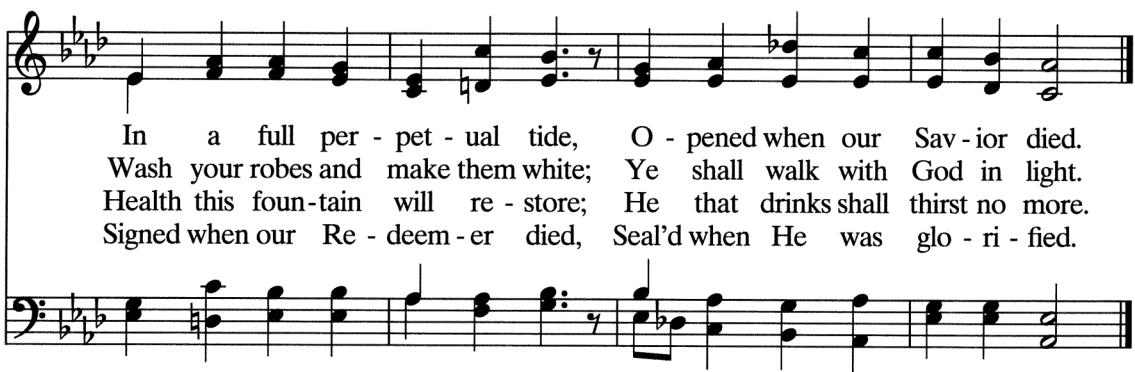
The Closing Hymn: "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain" (AMB #419)



1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun-tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined by the fall;
2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean-ness, Come de - filed with - out, with - in;
3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound-ed, im - po - tent, and blind;
4 He that drinks shall live for ev - er; 'Tis a soul re - new - ing flood:



Here a pure and heal - ing foun-tain Flows to you, to me, to all;
From in - fec - tion and un-clean-ness, From the lep - ro - sy of sin,
Here the guilt - y free re - mis - sion, Here the troub-led peace may find:
God is faith-ful; God will nev - er Break His cov - e - nant of blood,



In a full per - pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.
Wash your robes and make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
Health this foun-tain will re - store; He that drinks shall thirst no more.
Signed when our Re - deem - er died, Seal'd when He was glo - ri - fied.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854
Tune: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812-1887

NAAR MIT ØIE
87 87 77

The Silent Prayer & Chimes

The Postlude: "Adagio" (J. Boyvin)

We welcome you to our service. This is a time of deep reflection and commitment. Let us make every effort to attend all Lenten services and spend time in fellowship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Prayer Requests

Please use this space to let the
pastors, elders, and/or church
know of your prayer needs.

[illegible]

- ☐ Please keep this request Private (to be kept amongst the pastors only).
- ☐ Please make this request known to the Ruthfred prayer team and announce it to the congregation when appropriate.

Visiting with us?

Please use this tear-off section to help us get to know a little bit about you and how we may best serve you.

If you have a specific concern or prayer request, please use the space on the other side of this fold.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Children: _____

Address: _____

Phone (indicate home, cell, etc.) _____

Email: _____

I am a/an:

- ☐ 1st-Time Visitor
- ☐ 2nd-Time Visitor
- ☐ Out-of-Town Visitor
- ☐ Regular Attendee

I would like to learn more about:

- ☐ What It Means To Be a Christian
- ☐ Church Membership
- ☐ Ruthfred's Ministries or Groups
- ☐ Ways To Share My Gifts

Ruthfred Staff

Rev. Steven P. Carlson | Senior Pastor
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 229)
PastorCarlson@ruthfred.org

Rev. Bryce C. McMinn | Associate Pastor
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 226)
PastorMcMinn@ruthfred.org

Melissa Bostaph | Parish Assistant
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 225)
MelissaBostaph@ruthfred.org

Sally Ondrejko | Office Manager
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 222)
SallyOndrejko@ruthfred.org

John Morden | Accounting Manager
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 224)
JohnMorden@ruthfred.org

Felicia Rieck | Administrative Assistant
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 221)
FeliciaRieck@ruthfred.org

Brian Lyskava | Custodian

Andrew Vogel | Multi-Media Coordinator
(412) 568-3215
AndrewVogel@ruthfred.org

A. J. Dolence | Live Stream & Social Media Assistant
AJDolence@ruthfred.org

Robert Vogel
Senior & Bell Choirs

Frederick Schell
Organist

Essi Efthimiou
Interim Organist

Melissa Manzo
Children's Choir

Erin McMinn | Interim Preschool Head Teacher
(412) 835-7140 (ext. 234)
Preschool@ruthfred.org

Ruthfred Lutheran Church

3401 South Park Road
Bethel Park, Pennsylvania 15102
Phone: (412) 835-7140
Email: ruthfred@ruthfred.org
www.ruthfred.org