

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Missionaries: The Rev. Dr. Jonathan and Deaconess Cheryl Naumann

Sunday bulletins, news, puzzles, and sermons are available on our website listed above.
Video recordings of our weekly services can be viewed on our You Tube channel, *Christ Lutheran Forest Hills Pa*. Services are live-streamed on our Facebook page.

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Last Sunday of the Church Year

November 20, 2022

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

Rejoice the Lord is King

Ann Slowins

RINGING OF THE BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Lift High the Cross

Hymnal p. 837

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

**Come Christians follow where our captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ the Son of God. Refrain:**

**Led on their way by this triumphant sign
The host of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. Refrain:**

**All new born soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. Refrain:**

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. Refrain:**

**Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain:**

**So shall our song of triumph ever be.
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain:**

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INVOCATION

The sign of the cross (+) may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism

P: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION¹

P: Let us pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, You have brought us together into Your presence to offer our prayers and praise, hear Your holy word, and partake of the blessed sacrament of Holy Communion. Prepare our hearts and minds to worship You and receive Your gifts by giving us the spirit of repentance. Help us to approach the mercy seat of Christ and sincerely confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by Your infinite goodness and mercy.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

(We take a moment of silence before the Lord as we call to mind how we have not properly loved Him, ourselves, or other people.)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart; I have not loved my neighbors as myself. I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (†) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

This Is the Feast

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor,
blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all Creation:
Blessing, honor, glory and might be to God and
the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign.
Alleluia. *Refrain*

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, by the blood of Your cross You have delivered us from the domain of darkness into Your kingdom of light. Strengthen us to find our identity, not in the things of this world, but in all You have done for us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:13–18

L: The first reading for the Last Sunday of the Church Year is from chapter three of Malachi.

God's treasured possession

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

PSALM 46

L: The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our Fortress.

**C: The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our Fortress.**

L: God is our Refuge and Strength,
A very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
Though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
Though its waters roar and foam,
Though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

**C: The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our Fortress.**

L: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
The Holy Habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.

**C: The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our Fortress.**

L: The Nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
He utters His voice, the earth melts.
Come, behold the works of the Lord,
How He has brought desolation on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth;
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire.
Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

C: The Lord of hosts is with us;

The God of Jacob is our Fortress.

A: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SECOND READING

Colossians 1:13–20

L: The second reading is from chapter thirteen of Colossians.

Christ makes peace by the blood of His cross.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(please rise and sing)*

Hymnal p. 157

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 23:27–43

P: The Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke, chapter twenty-three.

C: (sung) Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus is crucified.

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (sung) Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED²

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified

also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Wake, Awake, for Night for Night Is Flying

Hymnal p. 516

“Wake, awake, for night is flying,”

The watchmen on the heights are crying;

**“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!” Midnight hears the welcome voices
And at the thrilling cry rejoices: “Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?**

The Bridegroom comes, awake! Your lamps with gladness take!

Alleluia! With bridal care Yourselves prepare

To meet the Bridegroom, who is near.”

**Zion hears the watchmen singing, And all her heart with joy is springing;
She wakes, she rises from her gloom. For her Lord comes down all glorious,
The strong in grace, in truth victorious; Her star is ris’n, her light is come.**

Now come, Thou Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God’s own Son,

Hail! Hosanna! We enter all The wedding hall

To eat the Supper at Thy call.

**Now let all the heav’ns adore Thee, Let saints and angels sing before Thee
With harp and cymbals’ clearest tone. Of one pearl each shining portal,**

Where, joining with the choir immortal,

We gather round Thy radiant throne.

No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might

Of Thy glory; Therefore will we Eternally

Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

For Me to Live Is Jesus

Jeffrey Blersch

OFFERING SONG (*please rise and sing*)

Hymnal p. 159

**What shall I render to the Lord
for all His benefits to me?**

**I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will take the cup of salvation
and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now
in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for ourselves, the church, and the world.

Following each petition:

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

C: Amen.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION⁴

PREFACE

Hymnal p. 160

P: The Lord be with you.

C: (*sung*) And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: (*sung*) We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: *(sung)* **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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; and 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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you in all ways.

C: *(sung)* Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

Form a line at the communion rail starting at the left side. When the line is half full, begin filling it in from the right side. When invited, approach the rail and kneel/stand. If you want to receive a gluten-free wafer at communion, let the worship assistant know as he comes by with the wafers. After communion, exit through the right doorway, place individual communion cups in the tray, and proceed down the stairs back to your seat.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Lord Jesus Christ, My Life, My Light

**Lord Jesus Christ, my Life, my Light,
My Strength by day, my Trust by night,
On earth I'm but a passing guest
And sorely with my sins opprest.**

**Far off I see my fatherland,
Where thro' Thy blood I hope to stand.
But ere I reach that Paradise,
A weary way before me lies.**

My heart sinks at the journey's length,
My wasted flesh has little strength;
My soul alone still cries in me:
"Lord, take me home, take me to Thee!"

Oh, let Thy suff'rings give me pow'r
To meet the last and darkest hour!
Thy blood refresh and comfort me;
Thy bonds and fetters make me free.

Oh, let Thy holy wounds for me
Clefts in the rock forever be
Where as a dove my soul can hide
And safe from Satan's rage abide
Lord, in Thy nail-prints let me read
That Thou to save me has decreed
And grant that in Thine opened side
My troubled soul may ever hide.

Since Thou hast died, the Pure, the Just,
I take my homeward way in trust.
The gates of heaven, Lord, open wide
When here I may no more abide.

And when the last Great Day shall come
And Thou, our Judge, shalt speak the doom,
Let me with joy behold the light
And set me then upon Thy right.

Ah, then I'll have my heart's desire,
When, singing with the angels' choir,
Among the ransomed of Thy grace,
Forever I'll behold Thy face!

Text and music: Public Domain

VOLUNTARY

Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me

Richard C. Resche

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ry-one what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(sung)* Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and (†) give you peace.

C: *(sung)* Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Hymnal p. 525

**Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own.**

**Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.**

**Crown Him the virgin's Son, The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose, yet of that rose the stem,**

The root whence mercy ever flows, The Babe of Bethlehem.

**Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.**

**No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes At mysteries so bright.**

**Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.**

**His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.**

**Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the King to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.**

**Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.**

Text and music: Public Domain

POSTLUDE

Toccato on "Bryn Calfaria

Eugene Butler

¹*The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."* John 20:22-23. We take heart that the absolution proclaimed by the pastor is as from the Lord Himself.

²*It is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.* Romans 10:10. Our response to the Word of God that has just been read is our confession of faith in the one, true, triune God.

³Martin Luther teaches us about hearing the Word: "Know, therefore, that you must be concerned not only about hearing, but also about learning and retaining it in memory, and do not think that it is optional with you or of no great importance, but that it is God's commandment, who will require of you how you have heard, learned, and honored His Word." (Large Catechism) *Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!* Luke 11:28

⁴If you are not a communing member of Christ Lutheran, you must speak with the pastor before receiving communion. If you choose to come forward to receive a blessing rather than the Lord's Supper, indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest.

Christ Lutheran Church is a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.