

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

400 Barclay Avenue Forest Hills, PA 15221
412-271-7173 www.christlutheranfhs.org

The Reverend Ronald Breight
Douglas Skalka
Glenn Filler
Joyce Purucker

Pastor
Organist
Worship Assistant
Lector

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.

The First Sunday after Christmas

December 27, 2020

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

Meditation on "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Regina Pozzi

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN (*please rise and sing*)

Let All Together Praise Our God

Hymnal p. 389

**Let all together praise our God
Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav'n again
To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.**

Within an earthborn form
He hides His all creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks
The splendor of His might,
The splendor of His might.

He undertakes a great exchange,
Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm,
His glory, and His name,
His glory, and His name.

He is a servant, I a lord:
How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!
No truer friend than He,
No truer friend than He.

He is the key and He the door
To blessed paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise.

Text: (sts. 1, 3-6)© 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. Lutheran Service Book Hymn License#100014542
Music: Public Domain

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: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word and to call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

(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.)

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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

Hymnal p.204

P: Heavenly Father, as we welcome the arrival of Your Son, enlighten and empower us by Your Word and Spirit that we would remain steadfast in the hope of everlasting life, be strengthened in the peace we have with You through Christ Jesus, overflow with joy because of the abundance of Your mercies, and live in the way of love towards all people.

C: *(sung)* Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Hymnal p. 204

**To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

**To You, O sole begotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,**

Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high —

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.

Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;

You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,

In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:10–62:3

L: The first reading for the First Sunday after Christmas is from chapter sixty-one of Isaiah. Nations will acknowledge the Chosen One of the Lord.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY

Psalm 111

L: He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever.

C: **Holy and awesome is His name!**

L: Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,

C: **in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**

L: Great are the works of the Lord,

C: studied by all who delight in them.

L: Full of splendor and majesty is His work,

C: and His righteousness endures forever.

L: He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered;

C: the Lord is gracious and merciful.

L: He provides food for those who fear Him;

C: He remembers His covenant forever.

L: He has shown His people the power of His works,

C: in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

L: The works of His hands are faithful and just:

C: all His precepts are trustworthy;

L: they are established forever and ever.

C: to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

L: He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever.

C: Holy and awesome is His name!

L: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.

C: His praise endures forever!

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.

L: He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded His covenant forever.

C: Holy and awesome is His name!

SECOND READING

Galatians 4:4–7

L: The second reading is from chapter four Galatians.

At the right time, God sent His Son into the world.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*(please rise and sing)*

Hymnal p. 205

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**These things are written that you may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:22–40

P: The Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke, chapter two.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Jesus is presented in the temple by Mary and Joseph.

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED²

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Once in Royal David's City

Hymnal 376

Once in royal David's city

Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

For He is our childhood's pattern,
Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness,
And He shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor, lowly stable
With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned,
All in white, His praise will sound!

Text and tune: Public domain

Setting©1957 Novello & Company Limited, London, UK. Reprinted by Permission. Used by permission. Lutheran Service Book Hymn

License#100014542

(Please rise)

VERSE

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!**

Text and music: Public Domain

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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

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 His favor and (†) give you His peace.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

Hymnal p. 390

Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven,

**Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son hath given.
To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in gladness.
We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore Here on earth and yonder.
Christ, our Lord and Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen. Jesus, hear us.**

Text and music: Public Domain

POSTLUDE

Prelude on a Swedish Carol

George Emlen

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

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