

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Reverend Ronald Breight	Pastor
The Reverend Reholma McCants	Pastor Emeritus
Douglas Skalka	Organist
	Worship Assistant
Rick Kern	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.

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The First Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2021

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

When All Thy Mercies, O My God

Robert J. Powell

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN (*please rise and sing*)

O Lord, throughout these Forty Days

Hymnal p. 418

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, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, 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

P: Heavenly Father, Your only begotten Son overcame Satan, sin, and death by His patience and suffering. Help us, we pray, to treasure in our hearts all that our Lord has borne for us that we would be inspired to patiently persevere in true faith unto life everlasting.

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

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the Promised Land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 22:1–18

L: The first reading for the First Sunday in Lent is from chapter twenty-two of *Genesis*.

Abraham is tested by God..

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 25

L: The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear Him,

C: and He makes known to them His covenant.

L: To You, O Lord,

C: I lift up my soul.

L: O my God, in You I trust; let me not be put to shame;

C: let not my enemies exult over me.

L: Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame;

C: they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

L: Make me to know Your ways, O Lord;

C: teach me Your paths.

L: Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation;

C: for You I wait all the day long.

L: Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love,

C: for they have been from of old.

L: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

C: according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord!

L: Good and upright is the Lord;

C: therefore He instructs sinners in the way.

L: He leads the humble in what is right,

C: and teaches the humble His way.

L: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,

C: for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

L: For Your name's sake, O Lord,

C: pardon my guilt, for it is great.

L: Who is the man who fears the Lord?

C: Him will He instruct in the way that he should choose.

L: His soul shall abide in well-being,

C: and his offspring shall inherit the land.

L: The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear Him,

C: and He makes known to them His covenant.

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: The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear Him,

C: and He makes known to them His covenant.

SECOND READING

James 1:12–18

L: The second reading is from chapter one of James.

We are encouraged to resist temptation.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:9–15

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus is baptized and then tempted by Satan.

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: 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

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Hymnal p. 656

**A mighty fortress is our God, a trusty Shield and Weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need that hath us now o'ertaken.**

**The old evil foe now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.**

**With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One, Whom God Himself elected.**

**Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is,
Of Sabaoth Lord, And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.**

**Through devils all the world should fill, all eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill; they shall not overpow'r us.**

**This world's prince may still scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.**

**Word they still shall let remain nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain with His good gifts and Spirit.**

**And take they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone, our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.**

Text and music: Public Domain

SERMON³

VERSE

Hymnal p. 422

**On My Heart Imprint your Image
On my heart imprint Your image, Blessed Jesus, King of grace,**

**That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and salvation!**

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.

C: Amen.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper (Holy Communion) is being celebrated in today's service. In preparation for that, please be reminded that the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper are not merely representations or symbols of Jesus' body and blood but Jesus' body and blood sacrificed on the cross are present in, with, and under the bread and wine (The Real Presence). How is this possible? This is beyond human understanding, but we remember that with God all things are possible. This truth is a divine mystery instituted by Jesus, taught by his Apostles, fervently held by the Christian church, and one in which we participate through faith. To be properly prepared to receive this sacrament, you must

- 1) Recognize that you have indeed sinned against God and other people and are accountable to God for those sins;
- 2) Be sorry (repentant) for those sins;
- 3) Believe that in this sacrament Jesus bestows forgiveness, life, and salvation; and
- 4) Sincerely desire to live a godly life from this point forward.

If you are not a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, please speak with the pastor before receiving communion here for the first time.

PREFACE

Hymnal p. 208

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C: It is meet and right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary

SANCTUS (*sung*)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life....

THE 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

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

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI(*sung*)

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

DISTRIBUTION

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.**

Text and music: Public Domain

NUNC DIMITTIS

Hymnal p. 211

**O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.
All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity. Amen.**

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: 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: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

There is a Green Hill Far Away

There is a green hill far away, Outside a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified, Who died to save us all.
We may not know, we cannot tell What pains He had to bear,
But we believe it was for us He hung and suffered there.
He died that we might be forgiv'n, He died to make us good,
That we might go at last to Heav'n Saved by His precious blood.
There was no other good enough To pay the price of sin,
He only could unlock the gate Of heav'n and let us in.
Oh, dearly, dearly has He loved! And we will love Him too
And trust in His redeeming blood And try His works to do.

POSTLUDE

Postlude on "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Dennis Eliot

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

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ONLINE VIEWERS

For those worshipping with us online and those sheltering in place, we encourage you to bring your tithes and offerings to the church office open M-F mornings from 9-12, or mail your check in to church, or for those who bank online, simply instruct your bank to send us a check in the mail. We all owe God our tithes and offerings and we encourage everyone to continue in the joy that is found in faithful financial stewardship. Thank you.

HOME COMMUNION: Christ Lutheran is providing Home Communion Packages with individually wrapped wafers and wine cups. These packages are to be distributed to those who are institutionalized or remain at home on Sundays. Your help getting these packages out is needed. Talk to Pastor if you'd like to help.

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