





# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Celebrating 91 Years in Forest Hills**

400 Barclay Avenue Forest Hills, PA 15221

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christlutheranfh.org

The Reverend Ronald Breight

Pastor

Vincent Mroz

Vicar

Douglas Skalka

Organist

Cal Eggers

Worship Assistant

Tammy Donaldson

Lector

Ryder Giovanetti

Acolyte

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

Sunday bulletins, news, puzzles, and sermons are available on our website listed above. Services are live-streamed on our Facebook page listed above.

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## Reformation Sunday

October 27, 2024

### ORDER OF SERVICE

**Prayer on entering church:** Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

### PRELUDE

Aria on "Ein feste burg"

Erik Meyer

### RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

## OPENING HYMN

### 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.

Though devils all the world should fill, all eager to devour us,  
We tremble not, we fear no ill; they shall not overpower 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.

The 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.

## CONGREGATIONAL GREETINGS

### 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.

### CONFESSION<sup>1</sup>

P: Let us pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, You have brought us together into Your presence to offer You 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.**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### 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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

Hymnal p. 155

### **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.

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your

church Your saving peace; 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**

Revelation 14:6–7

L: The first reading for Reformation Sunday is from chapter fourteen of Revelation.

*An angel proclaims the eternal Gospel message.*

*Following the reading...*

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALMODY**

**O God, Our Help in Ages Past**

Hymnal p. 733 sts. 1-3, 6

**O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:  
Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.  
Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.  
O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!**

**SECOND READING**

Romans 3:19–28

L: The second reading is from chapter three of Romans.

*God grants the gift of redemption through Jesus Christ.*

*Following the reading...*

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## CHOIR

God Is My Strong Salvation

Jan Reese

VERSE (*please rise and sing*)

Hymnal p. 156

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:31–36

P: The Holy Gospel is according to St. John, chapter eight.

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

*Jesus proclaims that "His truth will set you free."*

*Following the reading...*

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## THE NICENE CREED

**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

By Grace I'm Saved

Hymnal p. 566

By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;

My soul, believe and doubt it not.

Why stagger at this word of promise?

Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?

No! Then this word must true remain:

By grace you too will life obtain.

By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;

Our works and conduct have no worth.

God in His love sent our Redeemer,

Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;

His death did for our sins atone,

And we are saved by grace alone.

By grace God's Son, our only Savior,

Came down to earth to bear our sin.

Was it because of your own merit

That Jesus died your soul to win?

No, it was grace, and grace alone,

That brought Him from His heav'nly throne.

By grace! This ground of faith is certain;

As long as God is true, it stands.

What saints have penned by inspiration,

What in His Word our God commands,

Our faith in what our God has done

Depends on grace—grace through His Son.

By grace to timid hearts that tremble,

In tribulation's furnace tried,

By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,

The Father's heart is open wide.

Where could I help and strength secure  
If grace were not my anchor sure?  
By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;  
In Jesus' promise I rejoice;  
For though I know my heart's condition,  
I also know my Savior's voice.  
My heart is glad, all grief has flown  
Since I am saved by grace alone.

## SERMON

## OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

## VOLUNTARY

All Glory Be to God on High

David Cherwien

## OFFERING PRAYER *(please rise and sing)*

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.

# 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 Christ Lutheran Church, please speak with the pastor before receiving communion here for the first time. 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.

## 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 singing:

## 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.**

**Prayer before communing:** Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit one God now and forever. Amen.

## 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 to aid those using the handrail. 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

**Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice**

Hymnal p. 556

**Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,  
With exultation springing,  
And with united heart and voice  
And holy rapture singing,  
Proclaim the wonders God has done,  
How His right arm the vict'ry won.  
What price our ransom cost Him!  
Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;  
Death brooded darkly o'er me.  
Sin was my torment night and day;  
In sin my mother bore me.  
But daily deeper still I fell;**

My life became a living hell,  
So firmly sin possessed me.

My own good works all came to naught,  
No grace or merit gaining;  
Free will against God's judgment fought,  
Dead o all good remaining  
My fears increased till sheer despair  
Left only death to be myi share;  
The pangs of hell I suffered.

But God had seen my wretched state  
Before the world's foundation,  
And mindful of His mercies great,  
He planned for my salvation.  
He turned to me a father's heart;  
He did not choose the easy part  
But gave His dearest treasure.

God said to His belo`ved Son:  
"It's time to have compassion.  
Then go, bright jewel of My crown,  
And bring to all salvation.  
From sin and sorrow set them free;  
Slay bitter death for them that they  
May live with You forever."

The Son obeyed His Father's will,  
Was born of virgin mother;  
And God's good pleasure to fulfill,  
He came to be my brother.  
His royal pow'r disguised He bore;  
A servant's form, like mine, He wore  
To lead the devil captive.

To me He said: "Stay close to Me,  
I am your rock and castle.  
Your ransom I Myself will be;

For you I strive and wrestle.  
For I am yours, and you are Mine,  
And where I am you may remain;  
The foe shall not divide us.

“Though he will shed My precious blood,  
Me of My life bereaving,  
All this I suffer for your good;  
Be steadfast and believing.  
Life wil from death the vict’ry win;  
My innocence shall bear your sin,  
And you are blest forever.

“Now to My Father I depart,  
From earth to heav’n ascending,  
And, heavn’ly wisdom to impart,  
The Holy Spirit sending;  
In trouble He will comfort you  
And teach you always to be true  
And into truth shall guide you.

“What I on earth have done and taught  
Guide all your life and teaching;  
So shall the kingdom’s work be wrought  
And honored in your preaching.  
But watch lest foes with base alloy  
The heav’nly treasure should destroy;  
This final word I leave you.”

#### 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

**Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus**

Hymnal p. 660

**Stand up, stand up for Jesus! Ye soldiers of the cross;  
Lift high His royal banner, It must not suffer loss:  
From vict'ry unto vict'ry, His army shall He lead,  
Till every foe is vanquished, And Christ is Lord indeed.**

**Stand up, stand up for Jesus! The trumpet call obey:  
Stand forth in mighty conflict, In this His glorious day;  
Let all the faithful serve Him Against unnumbered foes;  
Let courage rise with danger, And strength to strength oppose.**

**Stand up, stand up for Jesus! Stand in His strength alone,  
The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own;  
Put on the gospel armor, Each piece put on with prayer,  
Where duty calls or danger, Be never wanting there.**

**Stand up, stand up for Jesus! The strife will not be long;**



**This day the din of battle, The next the victor's song;  
The soldiers overcoming, Their crown of life shall see;  
And with the King of glory Shall reign eternally.**

**Prayer after worship:** Almighty and merciful God, I have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for my many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. I thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep me in faith until, with all Your saints, I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen

## **POSTLUDE**

Prelude on "Foundation"

Nancy Hill Cobb

<sup>1</sup>*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.

<sup>2</sup>*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.

<sup>3</sup>Martin 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.*