

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

John Crawford

Worship Assistant

Gloria Stern

Lector

Julia Stoner

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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All Saints Sunday

November 3, 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

Meditation on "For All the Saints"

Dennis Janzer

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

For All the Saints

Hymnal p. 677

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
And win with them the victor's crown of gold!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, blest communion fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day:
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of Glory passes on His way.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,

**Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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.

CONFESSION¹

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 drawing us to the mercy seat of Christ that we may sincerely confess our sins, and receive 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 everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Revelation 7:9–17

L: The first reading for All Saints' Sunday is from chapter seven of Revelation.

God is worshiped by a great multitude.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY

Psalm 146

L: The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

C: **The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.**

L: Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord, O my soul!
I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

**C: The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.**

L: Put not your trust in princes,
In a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.
When his breath departs he returns to the earth;
On that very day his plans perish.

**C: The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.**

L: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
Whose hope is in the Lord his God,
Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,
Who keeps faith forever;
Who executes justice for the oppressed,
Who gives food to the hungry.

**C: The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.**

L: The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.
The Lord watches over the sojourners; He upholds the widow and the
fatherless,
But the way of the wicked He brings to ruin.
The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.
Praise the Lord!

**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

1 John 3:1–3

L: The second reading is from chapter three of 1 John.

We are called God's children now through His love.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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

Matthew 5:1–12

P: The Holy Gospel is according to St. Matthew, chapter five.

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

Jesus gives His sermon on the mount.

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

We Sing for All the Unsung Saints

Hymnal p. 678

**We sing for all the unsung saints, That countless, nameless throng,
Who kept the faith and passed it on With hope steadfast and strong
Through all the daily griefs and joys No chronicles record,
Forgetful of their lack of fame, But mindful of their Lord.**

**Though uninscribed with date or place, With title, rank, or name,
As living stones their stories join To form a hallowed frame
Around the myst'ry in their midst: The lamb once sacrificed,
The Love that wrested life from death, The wounded, risen Christ**

**So we take heart from unknown saints Bereft of earthly fame,
Those faithful ones who have received A more enduring name:
For they reveal true blessing comes When we our pride efface
And offer back our lives to be The vessels of God's grace.**

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SERMON

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

Robert J. Powell

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.**

COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

On this day when we celebrate All Saints, we remember with thanksgiving those of our parish and loved ones for whom we have prayed who have gone before us with faith, for they were created by God to offer Him praise forever, redeemed by Jesus, God's Son, and filled with the Holy Spirit through Baptism, where God gave them new life; they have been nourished in the company of His people through the Lord's Supper and the Word, and in His mercy God has summoned them to His presence so that they may continue in joyful service to Him forever. We especially remember this day those of our congregation who have died in the last twelve months.

Mila McNutt 12-21-23

Albert Dick 1-21-24

Flo Kost 3-26-24

Joyce Alma Purucker 5-26-24

Barb Marie Urban 9-20-24

Geraldine Hildenbrand 10-5-24

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.

CHOIR

Pass the Bread, Pass the Cup

Ruth Elaine Schram

Pass the bread, pass the wine. At the table of the Lord, we dine with Jesus. Pass the bread, pass the cup. We proclaim our Lord's death, until He comes again. Pass the bread, Pass the bread, pass the wine.

Pass the wine. At the table of the Lord, we find forgiveness. Pass the bread, Pass the cup, pass the cup. We proclaim our Lord's death until He comes again. Here at the supper that we share, we feel His peace, we see His love. Here, in an attitude of prayer, we pass the bread, pass the cup, pass the peace, pass the love.

Pass the peace, pass the love. Take them with you as you leave this house of worship. Pass the peace, Pass the peace, pass the love. Pass the love. To a waiting world that longs for Jesus, pass the bread, pass the bread, pass the cup, pass the cup, pass the peace, pass the love.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Jesus Thy Blood and Righteousness

Hymnal p. 563

**Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.
Bold shall I stand in that great day
Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;
Fully absolved through these I am
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.**

**Lord, I believe Thy precious blood,
Which at the mercy seat of God
Pleads for the captives' liberty,
Was also shed in love for me.**

**Lord, I believe, were sinners more
Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid,
For all a full atonement made.**

**When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea:
Jesus hath lived and died for me.**

**Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.**

VOLUNTARY

Oh, What Their Joy

David Cherwien

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

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

Hymnal p. 670

Ye watchers and ye holy ones, Bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,
Raise the glad strain: "Alleluia!" Cry out, dominions, principedoms, pow'rs,

Virtues, archangels, angels' choirs:

"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

O Higher than the cherubim, More glorious than the seraphim,
Lead their praises: "Alleluia!" Thou bearer of the eternal Word,

Most gracious, magnify the Lord:

"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

Respond, ye souls in endless rest, Ye patriarchs and prophets blest:

"Alleluia, alleluia!" Ye holy Twelve, ye martyrs strong,

All saints triumphant, raise the song:

"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

O friends, in gladness let us sing, Supernal anthems echoing: "Alleluia,
alleluia!" To God the Father, God the Son,

And God the Spirit, Three in One:

"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

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

For All the Saints

James J. Stanley

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.