

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

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Vincent Mroz

Vicar

Douglas Skalka

Organist

Richard Mueller

Worship Assistant

Tammy Donaldson

Lector

Madeline 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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The Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

November 17, 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

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

James J. Stanley

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Wake, Awake 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!**

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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 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.

O Lord, by Your bountiful goodness release us from the bonds of our sins, which by reason of our weakness we have brought upon ourselves, that we may stand firm until the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING

Daniel 12:1–3

L: The first reading for the Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost is from chapter twelve of Daniel.

Daniel speaks of end times.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 16

L: You make known to me the path of life;
In Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**C: You make known to me the path of life;
In Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

L: The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
You hold my lot.
The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
Indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.
I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
In the night also my heart instructs me.

**C: You make known to me the path of life;
In Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures
forevermore.**

L: I have set the Lord always before me;
Because He is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.
Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;
My flesh also dwells secure.

**C: You make known to me the path of life;
In Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures
forevermore.**

L: For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
Or let Your holy one see corruption.
You make known to me the path of life;
In Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures
forevermore.

**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

Hebrews 10:11–2

L: The second reading is from chapter ten of Hebrews.

We are assured in hope by our faith.

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

Mark 13:1–13

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

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

Jesus gives signs of the end of the age.

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

The World Is Very Evil

The world is very evil The times are waxing late;
Be sober and keep vigil, The Judge is at the gate;
The Judge that comes in mercy, The Judge that comes with might,
To terminate the evil, To diadem the right.

Arise, arise, good Christian, Let right to wrong succeed;
Let penitential sorrow To heav'nly gladness lead,
To light that hath no evening, That knows no moon nor sun,
The light so new and golden, The light that is but one.

O home of fadeless splendor, Of flow'rs that bear no thorn,
Where they shall dwell as children Who here as exiles mourn.
Midst pow'r that knows no limit, Where knowledge has no bound,
The beatific vision Shall glad the saints around.

Strive, man, to win that glory; Toil, man, to gain that light;
Send hope before to grasp it Till hope be lost in sight.
Exult, O dust and ashes, The Lord shall be thy part;
His only, His forever, Thou shalt be and thou art.

(Please rise) O sweet and blessed country, The home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessed country That eager hearts expect!
Jesus, in mercy brings us To that dear land of rest,
Who art, with God the Father And Spirit, ever blest.

SERMON

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

CHOIR

Sweet Hour of Prayer David Paxton
Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, That calls me from a world of
care, And bids me at my Father's throne, Make all my wants and wishes
known!

In seasons of distress and grief, My soul has often found relief, And oft

escaped the tempter's snare By your return, sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, The joys I feel, the bliss I share Of those whose anxious spirits burn With strong desires for your return! With such I hasten to the place Where God my Savior shows his face,

And gladly take my station there, And wait for you, sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, Your wings shall my petition bear To him, whose truth and faithfulness Engage the waiting soul to bless: And since he bids me seek his face, Believe his word, and trust his grace, I'll cast on him my ev'ry care, And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.

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 HYMNS

Here, My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face

Hymnal p. 631

**Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen;
Here grasp with firmer hand th'eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon Thee lean.**

**Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
Here drink with Thee the royal wine of heav'n;
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,
Here taste a fresh the calm of sin forgiv'n**

**This is the hour of banquet and of song;
This is the heav'nly table spread for me;
Here let me feast and, feasting, still prolong
The brief bright hour of fellowship with Thee.**

**I have no help but Thine; nor do I need
Anther arm but Thine to lean upon.**

**It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;
My strength is in Thy might, Thy might alone.**

**Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness;
Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood;
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace;
Thy blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord my God**

Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;
The bread and wine remove, but Thou art here;
Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.

Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

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A Multitude Comes from the East and the West

Hymnal p. 510

A multitude comes from the east and the west
To sit at the feast of salvation
With Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the blest,
Obeying the Lord's invitation. Have mercy upon us, O Jesus!
O God, let us hear when our Shepherd shall call
In accents persuasive and tender,
That while there is time we make haste, one and all,
And find Him, our mighty defender. Have mercy upon us, O Jesus.
All trials shall be like a dream that is past,
Forgotten all trouble and mourning.
All questions and doubts have been answered at last,
When rises the light of that morning. Have mercy upon us, O Jesus.
The heavens shall ring with an anthem more grand
Than ever on earth was recorded.
The blest of the Lord shall receive at His hand
The crown to the victors awarded. Have mercy upon us, O Jesus.

VOLUNTARY

Built on the Rock

Scott M. Hyslop

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

The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

Hymnal p. 508

**The day is surely drawing near
When Jesus, God's anointed,
In all His power shall appear
As judge whom God appointed.
Then fright shall banish idle mirth,
And flames on flames shall ravage earth
As Scripture long has warned us.
The final trumpet then shall sound
And all the earth be shaken,
And all who rest beneath the ground**

Shall from their sleep awaken.
But all who live will in that hour,
By God's almighty, boundless pow'r,
Be changed at His commanding.

The books are opened then to all,
A record truly telling
What each has done, both great and small,
When he on earth was dwelling,
And ev'ry heart be clearly seen,
And all be known as they have been
In thought and words and actions.

Then woe to those who scorned the Lord
And sought but carnal pleasures,
Who here despised His precious Word
And loved their earthly treasures!
With shame and trembling they will stand
And at the judge's stern command
To Satan be delivered.

My Savior paid the debt I owe
And for my sin was smitten;
Within the Book of Life I know
My name has now been written.
I will not doubt, for I am free,
And Satan cannot threaten me;
There is no condemnation!

May Christ our intercessor be
And through His blood and merit
Read from His book that we are free
With all who life inherit.

Then we shall see Him face to face,
With all His saints in that blest place
Which He has purchased for us.

O Jesus Christ, do not delay,

**But hasten our salvation;
We often tremble on our way
In fear and tribulation
O hear and grant our fervent plea:
Come, mighty judge, and set us free
From death and ev'ry evil.**

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

Rigaudon on "Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

Dennis Janzer

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.