

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating 91 Years in Forest Hills

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The Reverend Ronald Breight	Pastor
Vincent Mroz	Vicar
Douglas Skalka	Organist
Richard Mueller	Worship Assistant
Lois Frerking	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 First Sunday in Advent

December 1, 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

Canzona, Duo, Andante and Postlude on "NUN KOMM DER HEIDEHEILAND"
Michael Anthony Joseph

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN *(please rise and sing)*

The Advent of Our King

Hymnal p. 331

The advent of our King Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing In strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on To set His servants free.

O Zion's daughter, rise To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise The peace He comes to bring.

As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come again
And His true members all unite With Him in heav'n to reign.

Before the dawning day Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away, The new self now put on.

All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one Through all eternity.

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: 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, as we prepare for 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.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14–16

L: The first reading for the First Sunday in Advent is from chapter thirty-three of Jeremiah.

Jeremiah fortells the Lord's eternal covenant with us.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 25

L: Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

**C: Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

L: To You, O Lord,
I lift up my soul.

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

L: Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**C: Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

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

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

for You I wait all the day long.

**C: Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

L: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your
goodness, O Lord!

**C: Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

L: Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore He instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble His way.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

**C: Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

**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 Thessalonians 3:9–13

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

Lives of the faithful are made ready for Jesus' return.

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 21:25–36

P: The Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke, chapter twenty-one.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Be ready and watching for the appearing of the Son of Man.

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

Savior of the Nations, Come

Hymnal p. 332

Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh — Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

Here a maid was found with child, Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown: God was there upon His throne.

Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man, His heroic course began.

God the Father was His source, Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down, Back then to His throne and crown.

For You are the Father's Son Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole All our ills of flesh and soul.
From the manger newborn light Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.

(Please rise) Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.

Text: sts. 1,2 and tune: Public domain sts. 4-5,8 ©1978 Concordia Publishing House Used by permission. Lutheran Service book Hymn License #100014542 Text sts. 3,6-7 and setting: ©2006 Concordia Publishing House Used by permission. Lutheran Service book Hymn License #100014542

SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

Creator of the Stars at Night

Paul Fejko

OFFERING SONG

Hymnal p. 370 sts. 1,3

What Child Is This?

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!**

**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: William C. Dix; 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 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. 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... praising You and singing:

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.

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. 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

O Lord, We Praise Thee

Hymnal p. 617

**O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish**

Our weak souls that they may flourish:

**O Lord, have mercy! May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,
That our sins and sorrows did carry, And Thy blood for us plead
In all trial, fear, and need: O Lord, have mercy!**

Thy holy body into death was given, Life to win for us in heaven.

No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;

May this feast there of remind us! O Lord, have mercy!

Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee

That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.

All our debt Thou hast paid; Peace with God once more is made:

O Lord have mercy!

May God bestow on us His grace and favor

That we follow Christ our Savior

And live together here in love and union

Nor despise this blest Communion!

O Lord, have mercy! Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;

Grant that heav'nly minded He make us:

Give Thy Church, Lord, to see Days of peace and unity:

O Lord, have mercy!

Jesus, Thy Church with Longing Eyes

Jesus, Thy Church with longing eyes

For Thine expected coming waits.

When will the promised light arise

And glory beam from Zion's gates?

E'en now, when tempests round us fall

And wintry clouds o'er cast the sky,

Thy words with pleasure we recall

And deem that our redemption's nigh.

Come, gracious Lord, our hearts renew,

Our foes repel, our wrongs redress,

Man's rooted enmity subdue,

And crown Thy Gospel with success.

**Oh, come and reign o'er every land;
Let Satan from his throne be hurled,
All nations bow to Thy command,
And grace revive a dying world.**

**Teach us in watchfulness and prayer
To wait for the appointed hour
And fit us by Thy grace to share
The triumphs of Thy conquering power.**

VOLUNTARY

Oh, How I Love Jesus

Anthony Giamanco

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.**

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

Come Thou Precious Ransom, Come

Hymnal p. 350

Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come, Only hope for sinful mortals!

Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals.

Come, Thy beauty let us see; Anxiously we wait for Thee.

Enter now my waiting heart, Glorious King and Lord most holy.

Dwell in me and ne'er depart, Though I am but poor and lowly.

Ah, what riches will be mine When Thou art my guest divine!

My hosannas and my palms Graciously receive, I pray Thee;

Evermore, as best I can, Savior, I will homage pay Thee,

And in faith I will embrace, Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.

Hail! Hosanna, David's Son! Jesus, hear our supplication!

Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown, Bring us blessing and salvation,

That forever we may sing: Hail! Hosanna to our King.

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

Voluntary on "Veni Emmanuel"

Jaebon Hwang

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.