

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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You Tube: Christ Lutheran Church Forest Hills PA

Facebook: [ChristLutheranChurchfhh](https://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchfhh)

The Reverend Ronald Bright	Pastor
The Reverend Reholma McCants	Pastor Emeritus
Douglas Skalka	Organist
Glenn Filler	Worship Assistant
Tammy Donaldson	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 Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

Amazing Grace (Canonic Pastoral)

J. William Greene

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN (*please rise and sing*)

Christ, the Life of All the Living

Hymnal p. 420

**Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving**

To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy suff'rings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou, ah! Thou, has taken on Thee
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,
O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver
From the bonds of sin forever.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou has borne the smiting only
That my wounds might all be whole;
Thou has suffered, sad and lonely,
Rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring,
Blessing unto me securing.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,
Treating Thee with shameful scorn
And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee.

All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,
That as Thine Thou mightest own me
And with heav'nly glory crown me.

Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou has suffered men to bruise Thee,
That from pain I might be free;
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:

Thence I gain security;
Comfortless Thy soul did languish
Me to comfort in my anguish.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast suffered great affliction
And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion,
Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented
That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden,
I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry,
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

Text and music: Public domain

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 and call upon Him in prayer and praise, 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.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant

that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING

Numbers 21:4–9

L: The first reading for the Fourth Sunday in Lent is from chapter twenty-one of Numbers.

The Lord provides a way of healing in the desert.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 107

L: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

C: for His steadfast love endures forever!

L: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,

C: whom He has redeemed from trouble

L: and gathered in from the lands,

C: from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

L: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

C: for His steadfast love endures forever!

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: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

C: for His steadfast love endures forever!

SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:1–10

L: The second reading is from chapter two of Ephesians.

We are saved unto eternal life only by the grace of God.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:14–21

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

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

All who look to Jesus will be saved, and have eternal life.

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED²

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

God Loved the World So That He Gave

Hymnal p. 571

God loved the world so that He gave

His only Son the lost to save,

That all who would in Him believe

Should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,

**Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone
Are built on this chief cornerstone.
God would not have the sinner die;
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.
Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood,
Your Baptism grants the highest good.
If you are sick, if death is near,
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.**

(Please rise) **Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally!**

Text and music: Public domain

SERMON³

VERSE

Hymnal p. 422

**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 tune: Public domain

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Roger Custis Barnes

Cynthia Renee' Barnes

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.

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.

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 His favor and (†) give you His peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood

**There is a fountain filled with blood Drawn from Immanuel's veins,
And sinners plunged beneath that flood Lose all their guilty stains.**

**The dying thief rejoiced to see That fountain in his day;
And there have I, as vile as he, Washed all my sins away.**

**Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood Shall never lose its power
Till all the ransomed Church of God Be saved to sin no more.**

**E'er since by faith I saw the stream Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme And shall be till I die.**

**When this poor lisping, stammering tongue Lies silent in the grave,
Then in a nobler, sweeter song I'll sing Thy power to save.**

Text and tune: Public Domain

POSTLUDE

Lenten Recessional on "Llangloffan"

Franklin D. Ashdown

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. Home communions are available after worship and at the church office Monday through Friday 9am-Noon. Please write on the clipboard to whom you are taking communion.

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