

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating 91 Years in Forest Hills

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Vicar

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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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The Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 12, 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

This Joyful Eastertide

Robert Lind

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN (*please rise and sing*)

The Lord, My God, Be Praised

Hymnal p. 794

**The Lord, my God, be praised, My light, my life from heaven;
My Maker, who to me has soul and body given;
My Father, who will shield and keep me day by day
And make each moment yield new blessings on my way.**

**The Lord, my God, be praised, My trust, my life from heaven,
The Father's own dear Son, Whose life for me was given,
Who for my sin atoned with His most precious blood
And gives to me by faith the highest heav'nly good.**

**The Lord, my God, be praised, my hope, my life from heaven,
The Spirit, whom the Son in love to me has given.
His grace revives my heart and gives my spirit pow'r,
Help, comfort, and support in sorrow's gloomy hour.**

**The Lord, my God, be praised, my God, the ever living,
To whom the heav'nly host their laud and praise are giving.
The Lord, my God, be praised in whose great name I boast,
God Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.**

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 set forth Your praise, to hear Your Holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. 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.

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: O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 1:12–26

L: The first reading for the Seventh Sunday of Easter is from chapter one of Acts.

The Lord chooses Matthias to fill the empty spot among the Twelve created by Judas' death.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

The Man Is Ever Blest

Hymnal p. 705

**The man is ever blessed Who shuns the sinners' ways,
Among their counsels never stands,
Nor takes the scorners' place,**

**But makes the Law of God His study and delight
Amid the labors of the day And watches of the night.**

**He like a tree shall thrive, With waters near the root;
Fresh as the leaf his name shall live,
His works are heav'nly fruit.**

**Not so the wicked race, They no such blessings find;
Their hopes shall flee like empty chaff Before the driving wind.**

**How will they bear to stand Before the judgment seat
Where all the saints at Christ's right hand In full assembly meet?**

**He knows and He approves The way the righteous go;
But sinners and their works shall meet A dreadful overthrow.**

SECOND READING

1 John 5:9–15

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

"Whoever has the Son has life"

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 17:11b–19

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

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

Jesus' prayer is that we be one as He and the Father are one.

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (*sung*) **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

The Church's One Foundation

Hymnal p.644

The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;

She is His new creation By water and the Word.

From heav'n He came and sought her To be His holy bride;

With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, Yet one o'er all the earth;

Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.

**One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses With ev'ry grace endued.**

**Though with a scornful wonder The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.**

**Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.**

**Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
O bless`ed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.**

SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

I Know That My Redeemer Liveth

George Frederic Handel

OFFERING SONG*(please rise and sing)*

Hymnal p.192

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.

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 GENERAL THANKSGIVING

P: Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we Your unworthy servants give You humble thanks for all Your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom You have made. We bless You for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for Your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of Your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth Your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to Your service, and by walking before You in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages.

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 His favor and (†) give you His peace.

C: *(sung)* Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

I love Your kingdom, Lord

Hymnal p.651

I love Your kingdom, Lord, The place of Your abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved With His own precious blood.

Beyond my highest joy I prize its heav'nly ways,
Its sweet communion, solemn vows, Its hymns of love and praise.

I love Your Church, O God, Your saints in ev'ry land,
Dear as the apple of Your eye And graven on Your hand.

For them my tears shall fall; For them my prayers ascend;
For them my cares and toils be giv'n Till toils and cares shall end.

Sure as Your truth shall last, To Zion shall be giv'n
The brightest glories earth can yield And brighter bliss of heav'n.

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

Thine Be the Glory

Jason W. Krug

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.