





# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Celebrating 90 Years in Forest Hills**

400 Barclay Avenue Forest Hills, PA 15221

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The Reverend Ronald Bright	Pastor
Vincent Mroz	Vicar
Douglas Skalka	Organist
Barry Schoenthal	Worship Assistant
Annette Bowen	Lector
Makayla Schriver	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 Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2023

### 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

Fanfare-Voluntary on "Darwall's 148<sup>th</sup>"

George Blake

### RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

**Praise the One Who breaks the darkness  
With a liberating light;  
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,  
Turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the Gospel,  
Healing ev'ry dread disease,  
Calming storms, and feeding thousands  
With the very Bread of Peace  
Praise the One who blessed the children  
With a strong, yet gentle, word;  
Praise the One who drove out demons  
With the piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water  
To the desert's burning sand;  
From this Well comes living water,  
Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.  
Let us praise the Word Incarnate,  
Christ, who suffered in our place.  
Jesus died and rose victorious  
That we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
Seeing what our God has done;  
Let us praise the true Redeemer,  
Praise to Him who makes us one.**

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## 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.**

## CONFESSION<sup>1</sup>

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: Let us pray.

O God, You are the Creator of all things in heaven and on earth, and You have claimed and cleansed us to be Your people through the waters of Baptism. By Your Spirit, give us hearts and minds to hear Your Word.

**C: Amen.**

## FIRST READING

Acts 17:16–31

L: The first reading for the Sixth Sunday of Easter is from chapter seventeen of Acts.

*Paul witnesses about the one true God.*

*Following the reading...*

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALMODY

### PSALM 66

L: Bless our God, O peoples;  
let the sound of His praise be heard,

**C: Bless our God, O peoples;  
let the sound of His praise be heard,**

L: who has kept our soul among the living  
and has not let our feet slip.

For You, O God, have tested us;

You have tried us as silver is tried.

You brought us into the net;

You laid a crushing burden on our backs;

You let men ride over our heads;

we went through fire and through water; yet You have brought us out to  
a place of abundance.

**C: Bless our God, O peoples;**

**let the sound of His praise be heard,**

L: I will come into Your house with burnt offerings;

I will perform my vows to You,

that which my lips uttered

and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

I will offer to You burnt offerings of fattened animals, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;

I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

**C: Bless our God, O peoples;**

**let the sound of His praise be heard,**

L: Come and hear, all you who fear God,

and I will tell what He has done for my soul.

I cried to Him with my mouth,

and high praise was on my tongue.

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,

the Lord would not have listened.

But truly God has listened;

He has attended to the voice of my prayer.

**C: Bless our God, O peoples;**

**let the sound of His praise be heard,**

L: Blessed be God,

because He has not rejected my prayer or removed His steadfast love from me!

**C: Bless our God, O peoples;**

**let the sound of His praise be heard,**

**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 Peter 3:13–22

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

*Be prepared to share your faith with gentleness and respect.*



*Following the reading...*

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*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**

John 14:15–21

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

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

*Jesus is with us now and forever.*

*Following the reading...*

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (*sung*) **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**THE APOSTLES' CREED<sup>2</sup>**

**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**

**Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!**

Hymnal p. 821

**Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! His the scepter, His the throne.**

**Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood.  
"Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by His blood."**

**Alleluia! Not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! He is near us; Faith believes, nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received Him When the forty days were o'er,  
Shall our hearts forget His promise: "I am with you evermore"?**

**Alleluia! Bread of heaven, Here on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to You from day to day:  
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea,  
Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.**

**Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;  
Alleluia! Born of Mary, Earth Your footstool, heav'n Your throne.  
As within the veil You entered, Robed in Flesh, our great High Priest,  
Here on earth both Priest and victim In the eucharistic feast.**

**Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;  
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood;  
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood."**

### **SERMON<sup>3</sup>**

### **OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS**

#### **VOLUNTARY**

**Our Heart's Sweet Joy**

**Linda Moeller**

**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**

**A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing**

Hymnal p. 493

**A hymn of glory let us sing!**

**New hymns throughout the world shall ring: Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Christ by a road before untrod, Ascends unto the throne of God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**The holy apostolic band**

**Upon the Mount of Olives stand. Alleluia, alleluia!**

**And with His faithful foll'wers see Their Lord ascend in majesty.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**To them the shining angels cry,**

**"Why stand and gaze upon the sky?" Alleluia, alleluia!**

**"This is the Savior," thus they say; "This is His glorious triumph day!"**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**"You see Him now, ascending high**

**Up to the portals of the sky," Alleluia, alleluia!**

**"Here after Jesus you shall see Returning in great majesty."**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Be now our joy on earth, O Lord,**

**And be our future great reward. Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Then, throned with You forever, we Shall praise Your name eternally.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**O risen Christ, ascended Lord,**

**All praise to You let earth accord: Alleluia, alleluia!**

**You are, while endless ages run, With Father and with Spirit one.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

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**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**

Intrada on "Duke Street"

Felix Bräuer

<sup>1</sup>*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.

<sup>2</sup>*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.

<sup>3</sup>Martin 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

**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.*