



# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Reverend Ronald Bright	Pastor
The Reverend Reholma McCants	Pastor Emeritus
Douglas Skalka	Organist
Neil Ackerman	Worship Assistant
Neil Ackerman	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 Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

### ORDER OF SERVICE

#### PRELUDE

When I Behold Jesus Christ

Jon D. Vicker

#### RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

#### OPENING HYMN

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Hymnal p. 807

When morning gilds the skies, My heart, awaking, cries,  
"May Jesus Christ be praised!" When evening shadows fall,  
This rings my curfew call: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"

When mirth for music longs, This is my song of songs:  
"May Jesus Christ be praised!" God's holy house of prayer  
Hath none that can compare With "Jesus Christ be praised!"

No lovelier antiphon In all high heav'n is known  
Than "Jesus Christ be praised!" There to th'eternal Word  
Th'eternal psalm is heard: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"

Ye nations of mankind, In this your concord find:  
"May Jesus Christ be praised!" Let all the earth around  
Ring joyous with the sound: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"

Sing, suns and stars of space, Sing, ye that see His face,  
Sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!" God's whole creation o'er,  
Both now and evermore Shall Jesus Christ be praised!

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## INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

*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.**

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. 152

#### **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 make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **FIRST READING**

Acts 8:26–40

L: The first reading for the Fifth Sunday of Easter is from chapter eight of Acts.

*Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.*

*Following the reading...*

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

# PSALMODY

## Psalm 150

L: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

**C: Praise the Lord!**

L: Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary;

**C: Praise Him in His mighty heavens!**

L: Praise Him for His mighty deeds;

**C: Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!**

L: Praise Him with trumpet sounds;

**C: Praise Him with lute and harp!**

L: Praise Him with tambourine and dance;

**C: Praise Him with strings and pipe!**

L: Praise Him with sounding cymbals;

**C: Praise Him with loud clashing cymbals!**

L: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

**C: Praise the Lord!**

**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: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

**C: Praise the Lord!**

## SECOND READING

1 John 4:1–11

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

*An exhortation to lives of Christian love*

*Following the reading...*

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

VERSE (*please rise and sing*)

Hymnal p. 157

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1–8

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

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

*Jesus says that He is the vine and His people are the branches.*

*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

**Alleluia! Jesus is Risen**

Hymnal p. 474

**Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light! Splendor,  
the Lamb, Heavens forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!**

***Refrain:*** Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Walking the way, Christ in the center Telling the story to open our eyes;  
Breaking our bread, Giving us glory: Jesus our blessing, our constant  
surprise. *Refrain*

Jesus the vine, We are the branches; Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;  
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people, Gift of the future now flowing to me.  
*Refrain*

Weeping, be gone; Sorrow, be silent: Death put asunder, and Easter is  
bright. Cherubim sing: "O grave, be open!" Clothe us in wonder, adorn us  
in light. *Refrain*

City of God, Easter forever, Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb, River of life,  
Saints and archangels, Sing with creation to God the I AM! *Refrain*

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## SERMON

VERSE (*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.

## 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 saying:

## 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.**

## DISTRIBUTION

*Communion will be offered using the "continuous" method. Approach the front using the main isle. Take both your wafer and individual communion cup from the trays in the front. Place the individual cup and liner in the receptacle at the end of the front pew. Return to your pew using the side isle, if possible. Please observe the 6-foot spacing between communicants. You need not have your mask on when you come up for communion.*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

**At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing**

Hymnal p. 633

**At the Lamb's high feast we sing,  
Praise to our victorious King,  
Who has washed us in the tide  
Flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!**

**Praise we Him, whose love divine  
Gives His sacred blood for wine,  
Gives His body for the feast,  
Christ the Victim, Christ the Priest. Alleluia!**

**Where the Paschal blood is poured,  
Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;  
Israel's hosts triumphant go  
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!**

**Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,  
Paschal victim, paschal bread;  
With sincerity and love  
Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!**

**Mighty Victim from the sky,  
Hell's fierce powers beneath You lie;  
You have conquered in the fight,  
You have brought us life and light; Alleluia!**

**Now no more can death appall,  
Now no more the grave enthrall;  
You have opened Paradise,**

**And in Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!**

**Easter triumph, Easter joy!**

**This alone can sin destroy;**

**From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,  
Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!**

*(Please rise)* **Father, who the crown shall give,**

**Savior, by whose death we live,**

**Spirit, guide through all our days:**

**Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!**

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## **VOLUNTARY**

Abide, O Dearest Jesus

Jeffrey Blersch

## **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

Lift High the Cross

Hymnal p. 837

*Refrain:* Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

Come Christians follow where our captain trod,  
Our king victorious, Christ the Son of God. *Refrain:*

Led on their way by this triumphant sign  
The host of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. *Refrain:*

All new born soldiers of the Crucified  
Bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain:*

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
As thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. *Refrain:*

Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell  
Of Him who save our lives from death and hell. *Refrain:*

So shall our song of triumph ever be.

Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain:*

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## POSTLUDE

Fanfare-Recessional on "Llanfair"

Franklin D. Ashdown

<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.

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.*