

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating 90 Years in Forest Hills

400 Barclay Avenue Forest Hills, PA 15221
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The Reverend Ronald Breight	Pastor
Vincent Mroz	Vicar
Douglas Skalka	Organist
John Crawford	Worship Assistant
Annette Bowen	Lector

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 Fifth Sunday of Easter **Confirmation Day**

May 7, 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

Prelude on "Slane" (Christ Be My Leader) Gilbert M. Martin

RINGING OF THE BELLS AND WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

There is a Redeemer

Hymnal p. 971

**There is a Redeemer Jesus, God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.**

*Refrain: Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit till the work on earth is done.*

**Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Hope for sinners slain. Refrain**

**When I stand in glory, I will see His face;
There I'll serve my King forever in that holy place. Refrain**

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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.

CONFESSION¹

P: Let us pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, You have brought us together into Your presence to offer 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.

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.

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 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

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

Stephen remains faithful in the midst of death.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Praise the Almighty

Hymnal p. 797 1,3

**Praise the Almighty, my soul, adore Him!
Yes, I will laud Him until death;
With songs and anthems I come before Him
As long as He allows me breath.
From Him my life and all things came;
Bless, O my soul, His holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Blessed, oh, blessed are they forever
Whose help is from the Lord Most High,
Whom from salvation can nothing sever,
And who in hope to Christ draw nigh.
To all who trust in Him, our Lord;
Will aid and counsel now afford.
Alleluia, alleluia!**

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:2–10

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

Built on Jesus, we are a chosen people.

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.**

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

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

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* **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

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!**

**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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SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

HANDBELLS

Praise to the Lord

OFFERING SONG (*please rise and sing*)

Hymnal p. 159

**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.**

HYMN (*Please be seated*)

Our Lord and God, Oh, Bless This Day

**Our Lord and God, oh, bless this day And hear us, we implore Thee;
None of Thy children turn away Who now appear before Thee.**

**We come before Thy face and pray: Let Thy rich grace
Descend from heav'n above In all Thy wondrous love
And keep us by Thy Spirit.**

**Oh, bless Thy Word to all the young; Let them, Thy truth possessing,
Bear witness true with heart and tongue, Their faith and ours confessing.**

**From mother's arms Thy grace With love did them embrace;
Baptized into Thy name, As Thine Thou didst them claim.**

O Lord, as Thine now own them!

**When they their vows today renew, Accept them with Thy favor;
And when they promise to be true, May they forget it never!**

**But they are weak and frail When Satan's hosts assail;
Oh, arm them with Thy might And grant that in the fight
They unto death be faithful!**

**And when they leave their childhood home, When Satan comes alluring,
May their baptismal grace become A refuge reassuring!
Blest he who then can say: "God's cov-'nant stands for aye"
He ne'er shall be undone Who trusts in God alone—
God is his mighty Father!**

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

Hymnal p.272

Conner Louis Schriver

Makayla Louise Schriver

Madeline Paige Stoner

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 COMMUNION⁴

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 singing:

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.

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.

CHOIR

Worthy Thou Art

Stan Pethel

Lord of creation, Now You sustain us,

Lord of the heavens, Come bless us now;

Savior, Redeemer, Life You have given, Lord, You are worthy,

We humbly bow. Holy, and mighty, We seek Your blessing,

Grace, love, and goodness, Fills ev'ry heart;

Source of all hope and Promise of mercy,

We come to praise You Worthy Thou art.

Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray

Hymnal p. 623

Lord Jesus Christ we humbly pray
That we may feast on You today;
Beneath these forms of bread and wine
Enrich us with Your grace divine.
Give us, who share this wondrous food,
Your body broken and Your blood,
The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n,
The certain joys of heirs of heav'n.
By faith Your Word has made us bold
To seize the gift of love retold;
All that You are we here receive,
And all we are to You we give.
One bread, one cup, one body, we,
Rejoicing in our unity,
Proclaim Your love until You come
To bring Your scattered loved ones home.
Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray:
O keep us steadfast till that day
When each will be Your welcomed guest
In heaven's high and holy feast.

Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying

Hymnal p. 597

Water, blood, and Spirit crying,
By their witness testifying
To the One whose death defying
Life has come, with life for all.
In a wat'ry grave are buried
All our sins that Jesus carried;

**Christ, the Ark of Life, has ferried
Us across death's raging flood.**

**Dark the way, yet Christ precedes us,
Past the scowl of death He leads us;
Spreads a table where He feeds us
With His body and His blood.**

**Though around us death is seething,
God, His two-edged sword unsheathing,
By His Spirit life is breathing
Through the living, active Word.**

**Spirit, water, blood entreating,
Working faith and its completing
In the One whose death defeating
Life has come, with life for all.**

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VOLUNTARY

Thine Forever, God of Love

Stephen P. Johnson

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

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Hymnal p. 461

**I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives my everliving head!
He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives exalted, throned above;
He lives to rule His Church in love.
He lives to bless me with His love;
He lives to plead for me above;
He lives my hungry soul to feed;
He lives to help in time of need.
He lives to grant me rich supply;
He lives to guide me with His eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint;
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.
He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.
He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
He lives and loves me in the end;**

**He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.**

**He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.**

**He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!**

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

The Church's One Foundation

Matthew Macheimer

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

⁴If you are not a communing member of Christ Lutheran, you must speak with the pastor before receiving communion. 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.

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