

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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You Tube: Christ Lutheran Church Forest Hills PA

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The Reverend Ronald Bright	Pastor
The Reverend Reholma McCants	Pastor Emeritus
Douglas Skalka	Organist
John Crawford	Worship Assistant
Rick Kern	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 Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

What a Friend We Have in Jesus Dale Wood

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN (*please rise and sing*)

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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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 God, the Giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; 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 10:34–48

L: The first reading for the sixth Sunday of Easter is from chapter ten of Acts.

People from every nation are accepted by God.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

PSALM 139

L: O Lord, You have searched me and known me!

C: You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You discern my thoughts from afar.

L: You search out my path and my lying down

C: and are acquainted with all my ways.

L: Even before a word is on my tongue,

C: behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.

L: You hem me in, behind and before,

C: and lay Your hand upon me.

L: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

C: it is high, I cannot attain it.

L: Where shall I go from Your spirit?

C: Or where shall I flee from Your presence?

L: If I ascend to heaven, You are there!

C: If I make a bed in Sheol, You are there!

L: If I take the wings of the morning

C: and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

L: even there Your hand shall lead me,

C: and Your right hand shall hold me.

L: If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,

C: and the night about me be night,"

L: even the darkness is not dark to You;

C: the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with You.

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: O Lord, You have searched me and known me!

C: You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You discern my thoughts from afar.

SECOND READING

1 John 5:1–8

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

The victory of Christ overcomes the world.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(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 15:9–17

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

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

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

Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

Hymnal p.563

**Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.**

**Bold shall I stand in that great day
Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;
Fully absolved through these I am
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.**

**Lord, I believe Thy precious blood,
Which at the mercy seat of God
Pleads for the captives' liberty,
Was also shed in love for me.**

Lord, I believe, were sinners more

**Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid,
For all a full atonement made.**

**When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea:
Jesus hath lived and died for me.**

**Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.**

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SERMON³

VERSE (*please rise and sing*)

Hymnal p.192

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from Your presence,
and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation,
and uphold me with Your free Spirit.**

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: *(sung)* **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

On Christ's Ascension I Now Build

Hymnal p. 492

**On Christ's ascension I now build The hope of my ascension;
This hope alone has always stilled All doubt and apprehension;
For where the Head is, there as well I know His members are to dwell
When Christ will come and call them.**

**Since Christ returned to claim His throne, Great gifts for me obtaining,
My heart will rest in Him alone,**

**No other rest remaining; For where my treasure went before,
There all my thoughts will ever soar To still their deepest yearning.**

**O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Recalling Your ascension,
That I may serve You faithfully In thanks for my redemption;
And then, when all my days will cease, Let me depart in joy and peace
In answer to my pleading.**

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POSTLUDE

Fanfare Fantasia on "Duke Street"

Craig A. Penfield

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.