

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

400 Barclay Avenue Forest Hills, PA 15221

412-271-7173 www.christlutheranfhh.org

You Tube: Christ Lutheran Church Forest Hills PA

Facebook: [ChristLutheranChurchfh](https://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchfh)

The Reverend Ronald Bright	Pastor
The Reverend Reholma McCants	Pastor Emeritus
Douglas Skalka	Organist
Glenn Filler	Worship Assistant
Barb Mitchell	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 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 22, 2021

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

In This Holy Hour

Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN (*please rise and sing*)

Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens

Hymnal p. 589

Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens,
Let Your Word to me come near;

Newborn life and spirit give me,
Let each promise still my fear.
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife,
Wars against Your Word of life;
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor
That I cling to You forever!

Oh, what blessing to be near You
And to listen to Your voice;
Let me ever love and hear You,
Let Your Word be now my choice!
Many hardened sinners, Lord,
Flee in terror at Your Word;
But to all who feel sin's burden
You give words of peace and pardon.

Lord, Your words are waters living
When my thirsting spirit pleads.
Lord, Your words are bread lifegiving;
On Your words my spirit feeds,
Lord, Your words will be my light
Through death's cold and dreary night;
Yes, they are my sword prevailing
And my cup of joy unfailing!

As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me;
Let Your words in me take root.
May Your Spirit e'er be near me
That I bear abundant fruit.
May I daily sing Your praise,
From my heart glad anthems raise,
Till my highest praise is given
In the endless joy of heaven.

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: Our Help is in the name of the Lord.

C: **Who made heaven and earth.**

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

(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: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we confess unto You that we are sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. We therefore flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **O most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end, that by Your grace, we may receive the crown of eternal life in Your Kingdom of Glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness?

C: **Yes, so I believe.**

P: Let it be done for you as you believe.

As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Hymnal p. 575 sts.1,4

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;

No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,

Oh, may I then in Him be found,

Clothed in His righteousness alone,

Redeemed to stand before His throne!

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

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COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, defend Your Church from all false teaching and error that Your faithful people may confess You to be the only true God and rejoice in Your good gifts of life and salvation; 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

Isaiah 29:11–19

L: The first reading for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost is from chapter twenty-nine of Isaiah.

Isaiah's vision of God turning things upside down

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY

Psalm 14

L: Oh, that salvation for Israel

C: would come out of Zion!

L: The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

C: They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.

L: The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man,

C: to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.

L: They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt;

C: there is none who does good, not even one.

L: Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers

C: who eat up My people as they eat bread and do not call upon the Lord?

L: There they are in great terror,

C: for God is with the generation of the righteous.

L: You would shame the plans of the poor,

C: but the Lord is his refuge.

L: Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!

C: When the Lord restores the fortunes of His people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.

**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: Oh, that salvation for Israel

C: would come out of Zion!

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:22–33

L: The second reading is from chapter five of Ephesians.

Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 7:1–13

P: The Holy Gospel is according to St. Mark, chapter seven.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The Pharisees argue with Jesus about traditions.

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **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

Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain

Hymnal p. 865

**Lord, help us ever to retain
The Catechism's doctrine plain
As Luther taught the Word of truth
In simple style to tender youth.
Help us Your holy Law to learn,**

**To mourn our sin and from it return
In faith to You and to Your Son
And Holy Spirit, Three in One.**

**Hear us, dear Father, when we pray
For needed help from day to day
That as Your children we may live,
Whom You baptized and so received.**

**Lord, when we fall or go astray,
Absolve and lift us up, we pray;
And through the Sacrament increase
Our faith till we depart in peace.**

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SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

Creator of the Stars By Night

Dennis Eliot

OFFERING SONG

We Give Thee but Thine Own

Hymnal p. 781 sts. 1 & 2

**We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord from Thee.
May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our first-fruits give!**

Text and music: Public domain

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

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.

P: Almighty God, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts that He may rule and direct us according to Your will, strengthen us in all our temptations, afflictions and sorrows, defend us from all error, and lead us into all truth that we might continue steadfast in faith, may increase in all good works and in the end join You in Your everlasting kingdom of glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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 upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord look upon you with His favor and (+) give you His peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

How Great Thou Art

Hymnal p. 801

**O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;**

*Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
 How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
 Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
 How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
 I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
 When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
 And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; (*Refrain*)**

**But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
 Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in,
 That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
 He bled and died to take away my sin; (*Refrain*)**

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
 And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
 Then I shall bow in humble adoration
 And there proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!" (*Refrain*)**

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POSTLUDE

My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less

Carolyn Hamlin

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. Your help getting these packages out is needed. Talk to Pastor if you'd like to help.

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

