



# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Celebrating 90 Years in Forest Hills**

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The Reverend Ronald Breight

Pastor

Vincent Mroz

Vicar

Douglas Skalka

Organist

Barry Schoenthal

Worship Assistant

Gloria Stern

Lector

Madeline Stoner

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 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 10, 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

Adagio Cantabile

Johann Christian

#### RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

**OPENING HYMN** (*please rise and sing*)

Shepherd of Tender Youth

Hymnal p. 864

**Shepherd of tender youth, Guiding in love and truth  
Through devious ways; Christ, our triumphant king,  
We come Your name to sing And here our children bring  
To join Your praise.**

**You are the holy Lord, O all subduing Word,  
Healer of strife. Yourself You did abase  
That from sin's deep disgrace You so might save our race  
And give us life.**

**You are the great High Priest; You have prepared the feast  
Of holy love; And in our mortal pain  
None calls on You in vain; Our plea do not disdain;  
Help from above.**

**O ever be our guide, Our shepherd, and our pride,  
Our staff and song. Jesus, O Christ of God,  
By Your enduring Word Lead us where You have trod;  
Make our faith strong.**

**So now, and till we die, Sound we Your praises high  
And joyful sing: Infants and all the throng,  
Who to the Church belong, Unite to swell the song  
To Christ, our King!**

**CONGREGATIONAL GREETINGS**

**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:** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess

our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C: who made Heaven and Earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*(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: O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C: I, a poor miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (†) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## KYRIE

Hymnal p.186

P: Merciful God, we humbly implore You to cast the bright beams of Your light upon Your church that we, being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, may walk in the light of Your truth and finally attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**A: (sung) Lord, have mercy upon us;  
Christ, have mercy upon us;  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**CHOIR (Congregation sings chorus with choir)**

Same God: Brandon Lake, Steven Furtick, Pat Barrett, Chris Brown

I'm calling on the God of Jacob,  
Whose love endures through generations.  
I know that You will keep Your covenant.

I'm calling on the God of Moses,  
the One who opened up the ocean.

I need You now to do the same thing for me. **(Chorus):**

***Chorus: Oh God my God, I need You. Oh God my God, I need You now.  
How I need You now. O Rock, O Rock of Ages, I'm standing on Your  
faithfulness, on Your faithfulness.***

I'm calling on the God of Mary, whose favor rests upon the lowly.  
I know with You all things are possible.

I'm calling on the God of David, who made a shepherd boy courageous.

I may not face Goliath but I've got my own giants. **(Chorus):**

You heard your children then, You hear Your children now.

You are the same God, You are the same God.

You answered prayers back then, and You will answer now.

You are the same God, You are the same God.

You were providing then, You are providing now.

You are the same God, You are the same God.

You moved in power then, You move in power now.

You are the same God, You are the same God!

You were a healer then, You are a healer now.

You are the same God, You are the same God!

You were a Savior then, You are a Savior now.

You are the same God, You are the same God! **(Chorus-- Repeat Chorus):**

You freed the captives then, You're freeing captives now.

You are the same God, You are the same God.

You touched the lepers then, I feel Your touch right now.

You are the same God, You are the same God.

I'm calling on the Holy Spirit.

Almighty River come and fill me again.

Come and fill me again. Come and fill me again."

## COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* **And with thy spirit.**

P: Let us pray.

O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the 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. Amen.

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

## FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-9

L: The first reading for the fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost is from chapter thirty-three of Ezekiel.

*Ezekiel warns the wicked.*

*Following the reading...*

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALMODY

**Psalm 32:1-7**

L: Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

C: **Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.**

L: Blessèd is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.  
For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.  
I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and You forgave  
the iniquity of my sin.

**C: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.**

L: Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when  
You may be found;  
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach Him.  
You are a Hiding Place for me; You preserve me from trouble;  
You surround me with shouts of deliverance,

**C: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.**

**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

Romans 13:1–10

L: The second reading is from chapter thirteen of Romans.

*Paul reflects on the source of all authority*

*Following the reading...*

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(please rise)*

Hymnal p. 190

P: Alleluia, alleluia.

Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.

You have the words of eternal life.

*1 Samuel 3.9; John 6.68*

**A: *(sung)* Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**P:** The Holy Gospel is according to St. Matthew, chapter eighteen.

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

*Dealing with responding to sin in our relationships*

*Following the reading...*

**P:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** *(sung)* **Praise be to Thee, 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**

**Oh, Blest the House**

Hymnal p. 862

**Oh, blest the house, whate'er befall,  
Where Jesus Christ is all in all!  
A home that is not wholly His  
How sad and poor and dark it is!**

**Oh, blest that house where faith is found  
And all in hope and love abound;  
They trust their God and serve Him still  
And do in all His holy will!**

**Oh, blest the parents who give heed**



Unto their children's foremost need  
And weary not of care or cost.  
May none to them and heav'n be lost!  
Oh, blest that house; I prospers well.  
In peace and joy the parents dwell,  
And in their children's lives is shown  
How richly God can bless His own  
Then here will I and mine today  
A solemn promise make and say:  
Though all the world forsake His Word,  
I and my house will serve the Lord!

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

### OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

#### VOLUNTARY

Father Welcomes

Robin Mann

#### OFFERING SONG

Hymnal p. 192

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence,  
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,  
and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Amen.

### INSTALLATION OF TEACHERS

#### 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.**

**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:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** *(sung)* **And with thy spirit.**

**P:** Let us bless the Lord.

**C:** *(sung)* **Thanks be to God.**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

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

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

## CLOSING HYMN

**May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill**

Hymnal p. 698

**May we Thy precepts, Lord, fulfill**

**And do on earth our Father's will**

**As angels do above;**

**Still walk in Christ, the living way,**

**With all Thy children and obey**

**The law of Christian love.**

**So may we join Thy name to bless,  
Thy grace adore, Thy pow'r confess,  
From sin and strife to flee.**

**One is our calling, one our name,  
The end of all our hopes the same,  
A crown of life with Thee.**

**Spirit of life, of love and peace,  
Unite our hearts, our joy increase,  
Thy gracious help supply.**

**To each of us the blessing give  
In Christian fellowship to live,  
In joyful hope to die.**

**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**

Recessional on 'Ebenezer'

Douglas E. Wagner

<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