

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating 90 Years in Forest Hills

400 Barclay Avenue Forest Hills, PA 15221

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You Tube: Christ Lutheran Church Forest Hills PA

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The Reverend Ronald Bright	Pastor
Vincent Mroz	Vicar
Douglas Skalka	Organist
John Crawford	Worship Assistant
Darlene James	Lector
Makayla Schriver	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.

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

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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

At the Name of Jesus

Anthony Giamanco

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN *(please rise and sing)*

Open Our Eyes Lord

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him and say that we love Him.

Open our ears, Lord, Help us to listen.

Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus. *(Repeat)*

Text: Bob Cull All God's People Sing CCLI#

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.**

CONFESSION¹

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.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

KYRIE

Hymnal p. 186

P: Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope 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.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Hymnal p. 187

P: Glory be to God on high,
C: and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee,
we worship Thee, we glorify Thee,
we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.

**For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

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

P: Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, the Author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15–21

L: The first reading for the sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost is from chapter fifty of Genesis.

Joseph and his brothers are reconciled.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY *from Psalm 103*

O Bless the Lord, My Soul

Hymnal p. 814 sts 1,3,5,6

**O Bless the Lord, my soul! Let all within me join
And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose favors are divine.**

**'Tis He forgives the sins; 'Tis He relieves thy pain;
'Tis He that heals thy sicknesses And makes thee young again.**

**He fills the poor with good; He gives the suff'ers rest.
The Lord hath judgments for the proud And justice for th'oppressed.**

**His wondrous works and ways He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace By His beloved Son.**

SECOND READING

Romans 14:1–12

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

We belong to the Lord

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.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord.

Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness

but will have the light of life.

cf John 8.12

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21–35

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

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

The parable of the servant who would not forgive

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Hymnal p. 549

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' Name!

Let angels prostrate fall;

Bring forth the royal diadem,

And crown Him Lord of all!

Bring forth the royal diadem

And crown Him Lord of all!

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race

Ye ransomed from the fall,

Hail Him who saves you by His grace,

and crown Him Lord of all.

Hail Him who saves you by His grace,

and crown Him Lord of all!

Hail Him, ye heirs of David's line,

Whom David Lord did call,

The God incarnate, man divine,

And crown Him Lord of all,

The God incarnate, man divine,

And crown Him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can n'er forget

the wormwood and the gall,

Go, spread your trophies at His feet

and crown him Lord of all.

Go, spread your trophies at His feet

and crown him Lord of all.

Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe,
On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all!
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all!

Oh, that with all the sacred throng
we at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown Him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown Him Lord of all.

SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

Andante

Johann Pinck

OFFERING HYMN

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.

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. 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.

PREFACE

Hymnal p. 194

P: The Lord be with you.

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

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: *(sung)* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C: *(sung)* **It is meet and right so to do.**

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;

Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He,

Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

THE 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you in all ways.

C: *(sung)* Amen.

AGNUS DEI

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.

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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

I Lay My Sins on Jesus

Hymnal p. 606

I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us From the accursed load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus To wash my crimson stains
Clean in His blood most precious Till not a spot remains.

I lay my wants on Jesus; All fullness dwells in Him;
He heals all my diseases; My soul He does redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus, My burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases; He all my sorrows shares.

I rest my soul on Jesus, This weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces; I on His breast recline.
I love the name of Jesus, Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes His name abroad is poured.

Just as I Am, without One Plea

Hymnal p. 570

Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O lamb of God, I come, I come.

VOLUNTARY

In the Very Midst of Life

Jacob B. Weber

NUNC DIMITTIS

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace
according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast prepared
before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles
and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

THANKSGIVING

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C: (*sung*) and His mercy endureth forever.

COLLECT

P: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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: The Lord be with you.

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

P: Bless we 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 unto you The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: *(sung)* **Amen, amen, 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 saves 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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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

Long Before the World Is Waiting

Paul Fejko

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

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.