

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

400 Barclay Avenue Forest Hills, PA 15221
412-271-7173 www.christlutheranfh.org

The Reverend Ronald Bright	Pastor
The Reverend Reholma McCants	Pastor Emeritus
Vincent Mroz	Vicar
Douglas Skalka	Organist
Paul Simpson	Worship Assistant
Tammy Donaldson	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.

+++++

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 19, 2021

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

I Love Your Kingdom, Lord

Gerhard Krapf

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN *(please rise and sing)*

Amazing Grace

Hymnal p. 744

**Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,**

Was blind but now I see!

**Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.**

**Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.**

Text: and tune: Public domain

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Hymnal p. 152

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, whose strength is made perfect in weakness, grant us humility and childlike faith that we may please You in both will and deed; 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

Jeremiah 11:18–20

L: The first reading for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost is from chapter eleven of Jeremiah.

The prophet relies on God's protection as his opponents plot against him.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 54

L: Behold, God, is my helper;
The Lord is the upholder of my life.

**C: O God, save me, by Your name,
And vindicate me by Your might.
O God, hear my prayer;
Give ear to the words of my mouth.**

L: Behold, God, is my helper;
The Lord is the upholder of my life.

**C: For strangers have risen against me; ruthless men seek my life;
They do not set God before themselves.
He will return the evil to my enemies;
In Your faithfulness put an end to them.**

L: Behold, God, is my helper;
The Lord is the upholder of my life.

**C: With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to You;
I will give thanks to Your name, O Lord, for it is good.
For He has delivered me from every trouble,
And my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.**

**All: 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: Behold, God, is my helper;
The Lord is the upholder of my life.

SECOND READING

James 3:13–4:10

L: The second reading is from chapter three of James.

The apostle proclaims God's peace even as we struggle with inner warfare.

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

Mark 9:30–37

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

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

After prophesying His death and resurrection, Jesus teaches the disciples how to serve humbly.

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

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

Hymnal p. 851

**Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given Blessings countless as the sand
To the unthankful and the evil With Your own unsparing hand.**

**Grant our hearts, dear Lord, to give You gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.**

**Wondrous honor You have given To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence, "You have done it all to Me."
Can it be, O gracious Master, That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?**

**Lord of glory, You have brought us With Your life blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on You;
But, oh, best of all Your graces, With Your love our love renew.**

Text and music: Public domain

SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

Our Paschal Lamb, That Sets Us Free

Walter L. Pelz

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.**

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 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.

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 saying:

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.

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

Thine the Amen

Hymnal p. 680

**Thine the amen Thine the praise
alleluias angels raise
Thine the everlasting head
Thine the breaking of the bread
Thine the glory Thine the story
Thine the harvest then the cup
Thine the vineyard then the cup is
lifted up lifted up.**

Thine the life eternally
Thine the promise let there be
Thine the vision Thine the tree
all the earth on bended knee
Gone the nailing gone the railing
gone the pleading gone the cry
Gone the sighing gone the dying
what was loss lifted high.

Thine the truly Thine the yes
Thine the table we the guest
Thine the mercy all from Thee
Thine the glory yet to be
Then the ringing and the singing
then the end of all the war
Thine the living Thine the loving
evermore evermore.

Thine the kingdom Thine the prize
Thine the wonder full surprise
Thine the banquet then the praise
then the justice of Thy ways
Thine the glory Thine the story
Then the welcome to the least
Then the wonder all increasing
at Thy feast at Thy feast.

Thine the glory in the night
no more dying only light
Thine the river Thine the tree
Then the Lamb eternally
Then the holy holy holy
celebration jubilee
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness
only Thee only Thee.

VOLUNTARY

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

Irene Beethe

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

Lift High the Cross

Hymnal p. 744

***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:*

Text: © 1974 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission. Lutheran Service Book Hymn License # 100014542

POSTLUDE

Sing Hallelujah, Praise the Lord

Robert J. Powell

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.