

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating 90 Years in Forest Hills

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The Reverend Ronald Breight	Pastor
Douglas Skalka	Organist
Vincent Mroz	Vicar
Cal Eggers	Worship Assistant
Tammy Donaldson	Lector
Julia 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 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 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

O Worship the King

Elizabeth Krouse

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN *(please rise and sing)*

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Hymnal p. 770

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear

All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations! Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Savior, still our refuge Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.

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.

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.

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.

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding presence and care that confidently we may live according to Your Word, learning of You at all times and ever growing in Your grace and mercy; 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.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:6–9

L: The first reading for the seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost is from chapter fifty-five of Isaiah.

The generosity of God

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY

Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing Hymnal p 737 sts. 1-3, 6

**Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing,
A cheerful trust maintain;
For God, the source of ev'rything,
Your portion shall remain.**

**He is your treasure, He your joy,
Your life and light and Lord,
Your counselor when doubts annoy,
Your shield and great reward.**

**Why spend the day in blank despair,
In restless thought the night?
On your Creator cast your care;
He makes your burdens light.**

**His wisdom never plans in vain
Nor falters nor mistakes.**

**All that His counsels may ordain
A blessed ending makes.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

L: The second reading is from chapter one of Philippians.

Paul writes that to live is Christ.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P: Alleluia, alleluia.

My sheep hear My voice, says the Lord.

I know them, and they follow Me.

cf John 10.27

A: (sung) Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1–16

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

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

The parable of the laborers in the vineyard.

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: (sung) Praise be to Thee, 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

Thy Strong Word

Hymnal p. 578

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; At Thy speaking it was done.

For created light we thank Thee, While Thine ordered seasons run.

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

**Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, Dark as night and deep as death,
Broke the light of Thy salvation,
Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath. *Refrain:***

**Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; Bright with Thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory, And our lives our hopes confess.**

Refrain:

**From the cross Thy wisdom shining Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth All Thy bright redeeming light *Refrain:***

**Give us lips to sing Thy glory, Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy holy name.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!**

***(Please rise)* God the Father, light-creator, To Thee laud and honor be.**

To Thee Light of Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally.

Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to Thee

Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!

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SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

We Give Thee But Thine Own

Anthony Giamanco

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.**

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

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

Hymnal p. 685

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure,
Through a world, that would deceive us And to sin our souls allure.
Onward in His footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where You guide.

Let us suffer here with Jesus, And with patience bear our cross,
Joy will follow all our sadness; Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth here after.
Jesus, here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.

Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction, Give to us immortal breath.

Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die, There to live with You on high.

Let us also live with Jesus; He has risen from the dead,
That to life we may awaken. Jesus You are now our head.
We are Your own living members; Where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly, Living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be, Life eternal grant to me.

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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

Scherzo on "Holy Manna"

Karen Beaumont

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.