

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating 90 Years in Forest Hills

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

The Reverend Ronald Breight	Pastor
Vincent Mroz	Vicar
Douglas Skalka	Organist
Cal Eggers	Worship Assistant
Cal Eggers	Lector
Conner 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 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 3, 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

Meditation on "Moment By Moment"

James Conely

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN (*please rise and sing*)

There is a Redeemer

**There is a Redeemer Jesus, God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.**

Refrain: **Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit till the work on earth is done.**

**Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Hope for sinners slain. *Refrain***

**When I stand in glory, I will see His face;
There I'll serve my King forever in that holy place. *Refrain***

Text and tune: © 1982 Birdwing Music. Used by permission. Lutheran Service Book Hymn License#100014542

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: 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. 656 sts. 1,4

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

**A mighty fortress is our God, a trusty Shield and Weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need that hath us now o'ertaken.**

**The old evil foe now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.**

**The Word they still shall let remain nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain with His good gifts and Spirit.**

**And take they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone, our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.**

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads. Delighting in Your goodness to us, we ask for this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 15:15–21

L: The first reading is from Jeremiah chapter fifteen.

“I am with you to save you and deliver you.”

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

I Love Your Kingdom, Lord *based on Psalm 26*

Hymnal p. 651

**I love Your kingdom, Lord, The place of Your abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved With His own precious blood.**

**Beyond my highest joy I prize its heav’nly ways,
Its sweet communion, solemn vows, Its hymns of love and praise.**

**I love Your Church, O God, Your saints in ev’ry land,
Dear as the apple of Your eye And graven on Your hand.**

**For them my tears shall fall; For them my prayers ascend;
For them my cares and toils be giv’n Till toils and cares shall end.**

**Sure as Your truth shall last, To Zion shall be giv’n
The brightest glories earth can yield And brighter bliss of heav’n.**

SECOND READING

Romans 12:9–21

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

“Overcome evil with good.”

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21–28

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

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

We find our lives by losing them in Christ.

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

The Son of God Goes Forth to War

Hymnal p. 661

**The Son of God goes forth to war
A kingly crown to gain.
His blood-red banner streams afar;
Who follows in His train?
Who best can drink His cup of woe,
Triumphant over pain,
Who patient bears his cross below
He follows in His train.**

The martyr first, whose eagle eye

Could pierce beyond the grave,
Who saw his master in the sky And call on Him to save.
Like Him, with pardon on His tongue In midst of mortal pain,
He prayed for those who did the wrong
Who follows in his train?

A glorious band, the chosen few, On whom the Spirit came,
Twelve valiant saints their hope they knew
And mocked the cross and flame.
They met the tyrant's brandished steel, the lion's gory mane;
They bowed their necks their death to feel
Who follows in their train?

A noble army, men and boys, The matron and the maid,
Around the Savior's throne rejoice, In robes of light arrayed.
They climbed the steep ascent of heav'n
Through peril, toil, and pain.
O God, to us may grace be giv'n
To follow in the train!

SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

For the Beauty of the Earth

Robert Lau

OFFERING SONG

Take My Life and Let it Be

Hymnal p. 783 sts. 1,4 &6

Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days. Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my silver and my gold. Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.

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

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS

Hymnal p. 208

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;

Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.

**Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

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

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Hymnal p. 434 sts. 1,3

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!**

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Thy peace be with us O Jesus! O Jesus!**

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

Lamb of God

Hymnal p. 550

**Your only Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod, And to become the Lamb of God. Refrain:**

Refrain: **O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God! O wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

**Your Gift of love they crucified, They laughed and scorned Him as He died;
The humble King they named a fraud, And sacrificed the Lamb of God.**

Refrain:

**I was so lost, I should have died, But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God. Refrain:**

Text and tune: ©1985 Straightway Music .Used by permission. Lutheran Service Book Hymn License#100014542

Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face

Hymnal p.631

**Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen;
Here grasp with firmer hand th'eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon Thee lean.**

**Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
Here drink with Thee the royal wine of heav'n;
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,
Here taste a fresh the calm of sin forgiv'n
This is the hour of banquet and of song;
This is the heav'nly table spread for me;**

**Here let me feast and, feasting, still prolong
The brief bright hour of fellowship with Thee.**

**I have no help but Thine; nor do I need
Anther arm but Thine to lean upon.**

**It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;
My strength is in Thy might, Thy might alone.**

**Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness;
Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood;**

**Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace;
Thy blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord my God**

**Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;
The bread and wine remove, but Thou art here;
Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.**

**Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,**

The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

Text and tune: Public domain. Setting© 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014542.
Music: Public Domain

VOLUNTARY

Break Thou the Bread of Life

James Michael Stevens

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

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: 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

O Savior, Precious Savior

Hymnal p. 527

O Savior, precious Savior, Whom yet unseen we love;

O Name of might and favor, All other names above,

We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;

We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our holy Lord and King.

O Bringer of salvation, Who wondrously hast wrought

Thyself the revelation Of love beyond our thought,

We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;

We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our gracious Lord and King.

In Thee all fullness dwelleth, All grace and pow'r divine;

The glory that excelleth, O Son of God, is Thine.

We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;

We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our glorious Lord and King.

O grant the consummation Of this our song above

In endless adoration And everlasting love;

Then shall we praise and bless Thee Where perfect praises ring,

And evermore confess Thee, Our Savior and our King!

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

Toccata Animato

Lani Smith

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. 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.

