

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
John Crawford	Worship Assistant
Rick Kern	Lector

Missionaries: The Rev. Dr. Jonathan and Deaconess Cheryl Naumann

Sunday bulletins, news, puzzles, and sermons are available on our website listed above.
Video recordings of our weekly services can be viewed on our You Tube channel, *Christ Lutheran Forest Hills Pa*. Services are live-streamed on our Facebook page.

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The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 5, 2021

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

Stewart Landon

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN (*please rise and sing*)

O Christ, Our True and Only Light

Hymnal p. 839

**O Christ, our true and only Light,
Enlighten those who sit in night;**

Let those afar now hear Your voice,
And in Your fold with us rejoice.
Fill with the radiance of Your grace
The souls now lost in error's maze;
Enlighten those whose inmost minds
Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.

O gently call those gone astray
That they may find the saving way!
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed
In You find peace and heav'nly rest.
Shine on the darkened and the cold;
Recall the wand'ers to Your fold.
Unite all those who walk apart;
Confirm the weak and doubting heart.

That they with us may evermore
Such grace with wondering thanks adore,
And endless praise to You be given
By all Your Church in earth and heaven.

Text and music: 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: 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. 524 sts. 1-4

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

**How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, and drives away our fear.**

**It makes the wounded spirit whole and calms a heart's unrest;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul and to the weary rest.**

**Dear name! The rock on which I build, my shield and hiding place;
My never failing treasury filled with boundless stores of grace.**

**O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend, my Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord my life, my way, my end, accept the praise I bring.**

Text and music: Public Domain

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

O Lord, let Your merciful ears be open to the prayers of Your humble servants and grant that what they ask may be in accord with Your gracious will; 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

Isaiah 35:4–7a

L: The first reading is from Isaiah chapter thirty-five.

God will come and restore all things.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 146

**A: I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

L: Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

Put not your trust in princes,

In a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

When his breath departs he returns to the earth;

On that very day his plans perish.

**A: I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

L: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

Whose hope is in the Lord his God,
Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,
Who keeps faith forever;
Who executes justice for the oppressed,
Who gives food to the hungry.

**A: I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

**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

James 2:1–10, 14–18

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

What good is a dead faith?

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 7:(24–30) 31–37

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus heals a deaf man in the Decapolis.

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

Praise the Almighty

Hymnal p. 797

Praise the Almighty, my soul, adore Him!
Yes, I will laud Him until death;
With songs and anthems I come before Him
As long as He allows me breath.
From Him my life and all things came;
Bless, O my soul, His holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Trust not in rulers; they are but mortal;
Earthborn they are and soon decay.
Vain are their counsels at life's last portal,
When the dark grave engulfs its prey.
Since mortals can no help afford,
Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed, oh, blessed are they forever
Whose help is from the Lord Most High,
Whom from salvation can nothing sever,
And who in hope to Christ draw nigh.
To all who trust in Him, our Lord;
Will aid and counsel now afford.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Penitent sinners, for mercy crying,
Pardon and peace from Him obtain;
Ever the wants of the poor supplying,
Their faithful God He will remain.

**He helps His children in distress,
The widows and the fatherless.
Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Praise, all you people, the name so holy
Of Him who does such wondrous things!
All that has being, to praise Him solely,
With happy heart its amen sings.
Children of God, with angel host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Alleluia, alleluia!**

Text and music: Public domain

SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

Meditation on "Chereponi"

Richard Blake

OFFERING SONG

We Praise You, O God

Hymnal p. 785 sts 1-3

**We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy Name, glad praises we sing.
We worship You, God of our fathers, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o'er take us, You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.**

**With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!**

Text and music: Public domain

INSTALLATION OF VICAR VINCENT MROZ

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.

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!**

Text and music: Public domain

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

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

Hymnal p. 637

**Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;
Offered was He for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and Himself the priest.
He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
To all believers life eternal yields;
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.
Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow
As in this feast of love You bless us now.**

Text and music: Public domain

The Lamb

Hymnal p 547

**The lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!
*Refrain: Worthy is the lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!*
The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. *Refrain*
The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will On our behalf the law to fill. *Refrain*
He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness. *Refrain*
He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. *Refrain.***

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VOLUNTARY

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Raymond H. Haan

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

Jesus Shall Reign

Hymnal p. 832

**Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

**To Him shall endless prayer be made,
And endless praises crown His head;
His Name like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.**

**People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His Name.**

**Blessings abound wherever He reigns;
The pris'ners leap, unloose their chains;
The weary find eternal rest,
And all who suffer want are blest.**

**Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
Honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen!**

Text and music: Public Domain

POSTLUDE

Praise the Almighty

Jeffrey Blersch

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. 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.

