

# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Reverend Ronald Bright

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Vicar

Douglas Skalka

Organist

John Crawford

Worship Assistant

Lois Frerking

Lector

Ryder Giovanetti

Acolyte

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 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 16, 2025

### 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

Prelude on "Welcome Voice"

Evelyn R. Larter

#### RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

**OPENING HYMN** (*please rise and sing*)

**Come unto Me, Ye Weary**

Hymnal p. 684

**“Come unto Me, ye weary, And I will give you rest.”**

**O blessed voice of Jesus, Which comes to hearts oppressed!**

**It tells of benediction, Of pardon, grace, and peace,  
Of joy that hath no ending, Of love that cannot cease.**

**“Come unto Me, ye wand’ers, And I will give you light.”**

**O loving voice of Jesus, Which comes to cheer the night!**

**Our hearts were filled with sadness, And we had lost our way;  
But Thou hast brought us gladness And songs at break of day.**

**“Come unto Me, ye fainting, And I will give you life.”**

**O cheering voice of Jesus, Which comes to aid our strife!**

**The foe is stern and eager, The fight is fierce and long;  
But Thou hast made us mighty And stronger than the strong.**

**“And whosoever cometh, I will not cast him out.”**

**O patient love of Jesus, Which drives away our doubt,**

**Which, though we be unworthy Of love so great and free,  
Invites us very sinners To come, dear Lord, to Thee!**

**CONGREGATION 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.**

**CONFESSION<sup>1</sup>**

**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: Merciful God, we humbly implore You to cast the bright beams of Your light upon Your church that we, being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, may walk in the light of Your truth and finally attain to the light 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 Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; 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

Jeremiah 17:5–8

L: The first reading for the sixth Sunday after the Epiphany is from chapter seventeen of Jeremiah.

*Everyone who trusts the Lord is blessed.*

*Following the reading...*

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALMODY

### Psalm 1

L: But his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
And on His law he meditates day and night.

**C: But his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
And on His law he meditates day and night.**

L: Blessèd is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
Nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its  
season, and its leaf does not wither.  
In all that he does, he prospers.

**C: But his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
And on His law he meditates day and night.**

L: The wicked are not so,  
But are like chaff that the wind drives away.  
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;  
For the Lord knows the ways of the righteous,  
But the way of the wicked will perish.

**C: But his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
And on His law he meditates day and night.**

**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

1 Corinthians 15:12–20

L: The second reading is from chapter fifteen of 1 Corinthians.

*Paul teaches about the resurrection of the dead.*

*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.

Welcome with meekness the implanted word  
that has the power to save your souls.

*James 1.21*

**C: (sung) Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia**

**HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 6:17–26

P: The Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke, chapter six.

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

*Jesus preaches on the mountainside by the Sea of Galilee.*

*Following the reading...*

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: (sung) Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

**THE NICENE CREED<sup>2</sup>**

**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

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

Hymnal p. 394

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,  
Manifested by the star To the sages from afar,  
Branch of royal David's stem In Thy birth at Bethlehem:  
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
And at Cana wedding guest In Thy Godhead manifest;  
Manifest in pow'r divine, Changing water into wine;  
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

Manifest in making whole Palsied limbs and fainting soul;  
Manifest in valiant fight, Quelling all the devil's might;  
Manifest in gracious will, Ever bringing good from ill;  
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

Sun and moon shall darkened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;  
Christ will then like lightning shine, All will see His glorious sign;  
All will then the trumpet hear, All will see the Judge appear;  
Thou by all wilt be confessed, God in man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Present in Thy holy Word--  
Grace to imitate Thee now And be pure, as pure art Thou;  
That we might become like Thee At Thy great epiphany  
And may praise Thee, ever blest, God in man made manifest.

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## SERMON<sup>3</sup>

## OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

## VOLUNTARY

Contemplation on "Christ ist erstanden"

Karen Beaumont

## 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.**

## 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 saying:

## **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.**

## **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.

## 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

**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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## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

**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

Consecration

Donald Lee Moore

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.

Send Your Holy Spirit upon Your people, O Lord, that we who have heard Your Word may keep it in holy hearts and that we who have participated in the communion of Your Son's body and blood may be sanctified and preserved with all Your saints and come to eternal blessedness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C:** *(sung)* **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**

**Almighty Father, Bless the Word**

Hymnal p. 923

**Almighty Father, bless the Word  
Which through Your grace we now have heard.  
Oh, may the precious seed take root,  
Spring up, and bear abundant fruit!**

**We praise You for the means of grace  
As homeward now our steps we trace.  
Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here  
May all at last in heav'n appear.**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

## **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**

Joyous Communion

Anthony Giamanco

<sup>1</sup>*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.

<sup>2</sup>*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.

<sup>3</sup>Martin 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