

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating 91 Years in Forest Hills

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Vincent Mroz

Vicar

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Organist

John Crawford

Worship Assistant

Gloria Stern

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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Maundy Thursday

April 17, 2025

TO OUR GUESTS

A special welcome to our visitors! – Please fill out a Welcome Card (located in the card holders in pews) and give to Pastor after the service and receive a special welcome gift. Children's bulletins and activity bags are available at the church entrance. A mother's room and restroom are located at the left rear of the church.

AS WE GATHER

Tonight's service is the first part of the Triduum (from the Latin for "three days") liturgies. There will be no benediction tonight, since the Triduum is not properly finished until the conclusion of worship on Easter Sunday. Tonight the Holy Triduum begins with Jesus, His disciples, the institution of the New Testament with its meal, the Lord's Supper, and its related commandment that we love one another.

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

Variations on HAMBURG

Theodore W. Ripper

OPENING HYMN

"'Twas on That Dark, That Doleful Night"

**'Twas on that dark, that doleful night
When pow'rs of Earth and Hell arose
Against the Son of God's delight
And friends betrayed Him to His foes.**

**Before the mournful scene began,
He took the bread and blessed and brake.
What love thro' all His actions ran!
What wondrous words of grace He spake!**

**"This Is My body, broke for sin;
Receive and eat the living food";
Then took the cup and blessed the wine:
"Tis the new cov'nant in My blood."**

**"Do this," He said, "till time shall end,
In mem'ry of your dying Friend.**

Meet at My table and record
The love of your departed Lord."

Jesus, Thy feast we celebrate;
We show Thy death, we sing Thy name,
Till Thou return and we shall eat
The marriage supper of the Lamb.

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the (†) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 116:12-19

P: I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving

C: and call on the name of the Lord.

P: What shall I render to the Lord

C: for all His benefits to me?

P: I will lift up the cup of salvation

C: and call on the name of the Lord.

P: I will pay my vows to the Lord

C: in the presence of all His people.

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.

P: I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving

C: and call on the name of the Lord.

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

O Lord, in the Sacrament of the Altar You have left us a living remembrance of Your passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood, that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Exodus 24:3-11

L: The first reading for Maundy Thursday is from chapter twenty-four of Exodus.

Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do." And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words."

Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel. There was under His feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. And He did not lay His hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

L: Christ entered once for all into the holy places, by means of His own blood.

C: thus securing our eternal redemption.

L: Therefore He is the mediator of a new covenant,

C: so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

L: He sent redemption to His people.

C: He has commanded His covenant forever.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

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

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Jesus, Greatest at the Table

**Jesus, greatest at the table, the almighty Son of Man,
Laid aside His outer clothing, Poured some water in a pan;
As the twelve lay, hushed in silence, He the servant's task began.
Marvel how their Lord and teacher Gently taught them not to vie
As He humbly knelt before them, Dusty feet to wash and dry.**

**By His tender touch expressing True compassion from on high.
Jesus took the role of servant When upon that gruesome span,
For all human sin He suffered As a vile and loathsome man;
On the cross poured out like water To fulfill the Father's plan
Can we fathom such deep mercy? Do we see what God has done?
Who can grasp this great reversal: Love that gives His only Son?
Christ, the sinless for the sinners, For the many dies the One.**

**Jesus gave to His disciples A commandment that was new:
"Show My love to one another, Do as I have done for you:
All the world will know you love Me As you love each other too."**

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HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 14:12-26

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, His disciples said to Him, "Where will You have us go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?" And He sent two of His disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, Where is My guest room, where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?' And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as He had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

And when it was evening, He came with the twelve. And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me, one who is eating with Me." They began to be sorrowful and to say to Him one after another, "Is it I?" He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with Me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of Him, but woe to

that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

And as they were eating, He took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is My body." And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And He said to them, "This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED¹

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

When You Woke That Thursday Morning

Hymnal p. 445

**When You woke that Thursday morning, Savior, teacher, faithful friend.
Thoughts of self and safety scorning. Knowing how the day would end;
Lamb of God, foretold for ages, Now at last the hour had come
When but One could pay sin's wages: You assumed their dreadful sum.**

Never so alone and lonely, Longing with tormented heart

To be with Your dear ones only For a quiet hour apart:

Sinless Lamb and fallen creature, One last paschal meal to eat.

One last lesson as their teacher, Washing Your disciples' feet.

**What was there that You could give them That would never be outspent,
What great gift that would outlive them, What last will and testament?**

"Show Me and the world you love Me, Know Me as the Lamb of God:

Do this in remembrance of Me, Eat this body drink this blood."

One in faith, in love united, All one body, You the head,

When we meet, by You invited, You are with us, as You said.

One with You and one another In a unity sublime,

See in us Your sister, brother, One in every place and time.

One day all the Church will capture That bright vision glorious,

And Your saints will know the rapture That Your heart desired for us.

When the longed-for peace and union Of the Greatest and the least

Meet in joyous, blest communion in Your never-ending feast.

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SERMON²

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

Meditation on “Father, Forgive Them”

Robert Lau

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ and for all people as they have need.

As the people of old pledged to keep faithfully all that the Lord had spoken, we pray the guidance and blessing of God upon us, that we may daily rejoice in His mercy, walk obediently in His Word and show forth in our lives what we receive with our lips this day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: As our Lord began the days of His suffering by gathering His disciples together to institute the Holy Supper of His presence, so we pray to enter into the contemplation of the cross strengthened and supported by this Holy Communion in His body and blood. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: As we are heirs of a rich and faithful legacy, we pray that we may confess boldly, teach rightly and pass on faithfully the truth of God’s Word and the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: As our Lord has promised to hear and answer the prayers of His people, we pray in the name of Jesus and for the sake of His holy, innocent suffering and death, that the Lord would grant us all things according to His fatherly wisdom and mercy in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION³

In this Lenten Season we have heard our Lord’s call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil – all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were committed

at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of His Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of His love for us in Jesus, our Savior.

Within the community of His Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the words of absolution we receive forgiveness as from God Himself. This absolution we should not doubt, but firmly believe that thereby our sins are forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant.

It is, however, in the Holy Communion that the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in His love. Remembering our Lord's last supper with His disciples, we eat the bread and share the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of Himself and participate in that new covenant which makes us one in Him. The Supper is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Father of mercies and God of all consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for You alone. Give us the power of Your Holy Spirit that we may attend to Your Word, confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer.

C: Amen.

(Silence for self-examination)

P: Let us then confess our sins unto God our Father.

C: O Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You and for which I justly deserve Your punishment. But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for Your

boundless mercy. For the sake of the suffering and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious to me, a poor sinful being; forgive my sins, give me Your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for us and, for His sake, forgives us all our sins. Through His Holy Spirit He cleanses us and gives us power to proclaim the mighty deeds of God who called us out of darkness into the splendor of His light. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the (†) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION⁴

PREFACE

Hymnal p. 160

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary.....

SANCTUS (*sung*)

**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!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life....

THE 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: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI*(sung)*

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

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

Communion will be offered using the “continuous” method. Approach the front using the main isle. Take both your wafer and individual communion cup from the trays in the front. Place the individual cup and liner in the receptacle at the end of the front pew. Return to your pew using the side isle, if possible. Please observe the 6-foot spacing between communicants. You need not have your mask on when you come up for communion.

CHOIR

Come Ye Disconsolate

Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish,
come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel.
Here bring your wounded hearts, Here tell your anguish;
Earth has no sorrow that heav'n cannot heal.
Joy of the desolate, Light of the straying,
Hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure;
He speaks the comforter, tenderly saying,
“Earth has no sorrow that Heav'n cannot cure.”
Here see the bread of life,
see waters flowing forth from the throne of God,
pure from above; Come to the feast of love,
Come, ever knowing earth has no sorrow but Heav'n can remove.
Earth has no sorrow that heav'n cannot heal.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord

Hymnal p. 634

**The death of Jesus Christ, our Lord,
We celebrate with one accord;
It is our comfort in distress.
Our heart's sweet joy and happiness.
He blotted out with His own blood**

The judgment that against us stood;
For us He full atonement made,
And all our debt He fully paid.

That this forever true shall be
He gives a solemn guarantee:
In this His holy Supper here
We taste his blood so sweet, so near.

His Word proclaims and we believe
That in this Supper we receive
His very body as He said,
His very blood for sinners shed.

We dare not ask how this can be,
But simply hold the mystery
And trust this word where life begins:
"Given and shed for all your sins."

They who this word do not believe
This food unworthily receive
Salvation here will never find
May we this warning keep in mind.

But blest is each believing guest
Who in these promises finds rest;
For Jesus shall in love remain
Who all who here His grace obtain.

Help us sincerely to believe
That we may worthily receive
Your Supper and in You find rest
Amen! They who believe are blest.

VOLUNTARY

Ah, Holy Jesus

Don Freudenburg

**O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.
All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.**

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: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN Go to Dark Gethsemane

Hymnal p. 436

**Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see, Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away; Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.
Follow to the judgment hall, View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.
Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.**

**“It is finished!” hear Him cry; Learn from Jesus Christ to die.
Early hasten to the tomb Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom. Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris’n! He meets our eyes, Savior, teach us so to rise.**

The altar area is stripped during the last hymn, symbolizing how Jesus was abandoned by His disciples and betrayed by His people. Please leave the church in silence and return tomorrow at 7:00 pm. for Tenebrae, (a service of shadows), the second service of the Triduum.

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

Where You There?

Esther Megargel

¹*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.*

²Martin 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

³*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.*

⁴If you are not a communing member of Christ Lutheran, you must speak with the pastor before receiving communion. 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.

