

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating 91 Years in Forest Hills

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Vincent Mroz	Vicar
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Lois Frerking	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. 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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Good Friday Tenebrae

April 18, 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. A mother's room and restroom are located at the left rear of the church. If you do not have a regular place to share in the blessing of God, we'd like you to know that there is a special place here for you.

This service is the second part of the Triduum (from the Latin for "three days") liturgies. There is no invocation today, for today we continue the worship begun yesterday. Nor will there be a benediction, for the Triduum concludes on Sunday with Easter. Today's liturgy is an order of Tenebrae (Latin for "darkness"); in it lights are dimmed and candles extinguished as our Lord nears His death. It ends with the strepitus, a loud sound signifying the closing of the book---in Christ's decisive moment our sins have been paid for with His innocent death.

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

Five Meditations on "Passion Chorale"

David P. Dahl

CHOIR

Love Beyond Degree

Alas! And did my Savior bleed, and did my Sov'reign die!
Would He devote that sacred head for sinners such as I! Was it for sins
that I have done He suffered on the tree? Amazing pity! Grace
unknown! And love, love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide, and shut its glories in, When
Christ, the Great Redeemer died for human creatures' sin. Christ died
for our sin! But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away; 'Tis all that I can do. Christ laid down
His life for me, what lov, love beyond degree.

HYMN

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

Hymnal p. 440

**Jesus, I will ponder now On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish**

Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death That I may not perish.
Make me see Your great distress, Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness And Your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,
How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned you.

Yet, O Lord, not thus alone Make me see Your passion,
But its cause to me make known And its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin Wrought Your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been Of Your crucifixion.

Grant that I Your passion view With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to You By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son Suffered without measure?

If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,
Let Your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won By Your holy passion.
If for me He slays His Son, God must have compassion!

Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You, Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above Sing Your praise forever.

Isaiah 53

Jesus, the Suffering Servant

A: Who hath believed our report?

C: And to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

A: For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant,

C: and as a root out of dry ground.

A: He hath no form nor comeliness,

C: and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should
desire Him.

A: He is despised and rejected of men,

C: a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.

A: And we hid as it were our faces from Him;

C: He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

A: Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;

C: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

A: But He was wounded for our transgressions;

C: He was bruised for our iniquities.

A: The chastisement of our peace was upon Him,

C: and with His stripes we are healed.

A: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way;

C: and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

A: He was oppressed, and He was afflicted,

C: yet He opened not His mouth;

A: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter;

C: and as a sheep before its shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth.

A: For He was cut off out of the land of the living;

C: for the transgression of My people was He stricken.

A: And He made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death,

C: because He had done no violence, neither was any deceit in His mouth.

A: Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him;

C: He hath put Him to grief.

A: When thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin,

C: He shall see His seed,

A: He shall prolong His days,

C: and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.

A: As a result of the anguish of His soul,

C: He shall see it and be satisfied.

A: By His knowledge shall My righteous Servant justify many,

C: for He shall bear their iniquities.

A: Therefore will I divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong,

C: because He hath poured out His soul unto death.

A: And He was numbered with the transgressors;

C: and He bore the sin of many, for the transgressors He made intercession.

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, You carried our sins in Your own body on the tree so that we might have life. May we and all who remember this day find new life in You now and in the world to come, where You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Hosea 6:1-6

L: The first reading for Good Friday is from chapter six of Hosea.

In this reading we are told that even in the midst of death, there is the promise of life and renewal.

"Come, let us return to the Lord.

He has torn us to pieces

but He will heal us;

He has injured us

but He will bind up our wounds.

After two days He will revive us;

on the third day He will restore us,
that we may live in His presence.

Let us acknowledge the Lord;
let us press on to acknowledge Him.
As surely as the sun rises,
He will appear;
He will come to us like the winter rains,
like the spring rains that water the earth."

"What can I do with you, Ephraim?
What can I do with you, Judah?
Your love is like the morning mist,
like the early dew that disappears.

Therefore I cut you in pieces with my prophets,
I killed you with the words of my mouth;
my judgments flashed like lightning upon you.

For I desire mercy, not sacrifice,
and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

Following the reading...

A: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

Lord Jesus, We Give Thanks to Thee

**Lord Jesus, we give thanks to Thee
That Thou hast died to set us free;
Made righteous thro' Thy precious blood,
We now are reconciled to God.**

**By virtue of Thy wounds we pray,
True God and Man, be Thou our Stay,
Our Comfort when we yield our breath,
Our Rescue from eternal death.**

Defend us, Lord, from sin and shame;
Help us by Thy almighty name
To bear our crosses patiently,
Consoled by Thy great agony
And thus the full assurance gain
That Thou to us wilt true remain
And not forsake us in our strife
Until we enter into life.

EPISTLE

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

L: The second reading for Good Friday is from chapter four of Hebrews.

In this reading our great High Priest, Jesus, offered Himself as the all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins.

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

During the days of Jesus' life on earth, He offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverent submission. Although He was a son, He learned obedience from what He suffered and, once made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him.

Following the reading...

A: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

A: We confess our saving faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

THE APOSTLES' CREED¹

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

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

Hymnal p. 450

O sacred Head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded With thorns, Thine only crown.

O sacred Head, what glory, What bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.

How pale Thou art with anguish, With sore abuse and scorn!
How doth Thy face now languish That once was bright as morn!
Grim death, with cruel rigor, Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor, Thy strength, in this sad strife.

What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered Was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression, But Thine the deadly pain.

Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor, And grant to me Thy grace.

My Shepherd, now receive me; My Guardian, own me Thine.
Great blessings Thou didst give me, O Source of gifts divine.

Thy lips have often fed me With words of truth and love;
Thy Spirit oft hath led me To heav'nly joys above.

What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?

O make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never, Outlive my love for Thee.

My Savior, be Thou near me When death is at my door;
Then let Thy presence cheer me, Forsake me nevermore!
When soul and body languish, O leave me not alone,
But take away mine anguish By virtue of Thine own!

Be Thou my consolation, My shield, when I must die;
Remind me of Thy passion When my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee, Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee. Who dieth thus dies well.

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MESSAGE

BIDDING PRAYER

A: Let us pray for the whole Christian Church, that our Lord God would defend her against all the assaults and temptations of the adversary and keep her perpetually on the true foundation, Jesus Christ:

P: Almighty and everlasting God, since You have revealed Your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ and in the Word of His truth, keep, we ask You, in safety the works of Your mercy so that Your Church, spread throughout all the nations, may be defended against the adversary and may serve You in true faith and persevere in the confession of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for all the ministers of the Word, for all vocations in the church, and for all the people of God:

P: Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified, receive the supplications and prayers which we offer before You for all Your servants in Your holy Church that every member of the same may truly serve You according to Your calling; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for our catechumens, that our Lord God would open their hearts and the door of His mercy that, having received the remission of all their sins by the washing of regeneration, they may be mindful of their baptism and evermore be found in Christ Jesus, our Lord:

P: Almighty God and Father, because You always grant growth to Your Church, increase the faith and understanding of our catechumens that, rejoicing in their new birth by the water of Holy Baptism, they may forever continue in the family of those whom You adopt as Your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for all in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty:

P: O merciful Father in heaven, because You hold in Your hand all the might of man and because You have ordained, for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well, all the powers that exist in all the nations of the world, we humbly pray You graciously to regard Your servants, especially Joseph Biden, our President; the Congress and Courts of the United States; Josh Shapiro our Governor; and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws; and all who have authority over us; that all who receive the sword as Your ministers may bear it according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray our Lord God Almighty that He would deliver the world from all error, take away disease, ward off famine, set free those in bondage, grant health to the sick, and a safe journey to all who travel:

P: Almighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak, may the prayers of those who in any

tribulation or distress cry to You graciously come before You, so that in all their necessities they may rejoice in Your manifold help and comfort; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for all who are outside the Church, that our Lord God would be pleased to deliver them from their error, call them to faith in the true and living God and His only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and gather them into His family, the Church:

P: Almighty and everlasting God, because You seek not the death but the life of all, hear our prayers for all who have no right knowledge of You, free them from their error, and for the glory of Your name bring them into the fellowship of Your holy Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for peace, that we may come to the knowledge of God's holy Word and walk before Him as is fitting for Christians:

P: Almighty and everlasting God, King of Glory, and Lord of Heaven and Earth, by whose Spirit all things are governed, by whose providence all things are ordered, the God of peace and the author of all concord, grant us, we implore You, Your heavenly peace and concord that we may serve You in true fear, to the praise and glory of Your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for our enemies, that God would remember them in mercy and graciously grant them such things as are both needful for them and profitable for their salvation:

P: O almighty, everlasting God, through Your only Son, our blessed Lord, You have commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. We therefore earnestly implore You that by Your gracious visitation all our enemies may be led to true repentance and may have the same

love and be of one accord and one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Christian Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Let us pray for the fruits of the earth, that God would send down His blessing upon them and graciously dispose our hearts to enjoy them according to His own good will:

P: O Lord, Father Almighty, by Your Word You created and You continue to bless and uphold all things. We pray You so to reveal to us Your Word, our Lord Jesus Christ that, through His dwelling in our hearts, we may by Your grace be made ready to receive Your blessing on all the fruits of the earth and whatsoever pertains to our bodily need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

A: Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask, saying:

C: 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.

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

Were You There

Mark A. Radice

THE SEVEN WORDS OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS

I. LOVE'S FORGIVENESS

A: Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." (Matthew 18:21-22)

P: Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with Him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified Him, along with the criminals, one on His right, the other on His left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23: 32-34)

(The first candle is extinguished.)

HYMN

**Jesus, in Thy dying woes
Even while Thy life-blood flows,
Craving pardon for Thy foes:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**Savior, for our pardon sue
When our sins Thy pangs renew,
For we know not what we do:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**Oh, may we who mercy need
Be like Thee in heart and deed
When with wrong our spirits bleed:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

(A time of meditation)

II. LOVE'S REWARD

A: (Jesus said,) "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on His left. Then the King will say to those on His right: 'Come, you who are

blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.' I tell you the truth, Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me." (Matthew 25:31-34,40)

P: One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at Jesus: "Aren't You the Christ? Save Yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him, "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in paradise." (Luke 23:39-43)

(The second candle is extinguished.)

HYMN

**Jesus, pitying the sighs
Of the thief who near Thee dies,
Promising him Paradise:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**May we in our guilt and shame
Still Thy love and mercy claim,
Calling humbly on Thy name:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**May our hearts to Thee incline,
Looking from our cross to Thine,
Cheer our souls with hope divine:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

(A time of meditation)

III. LOVE'S CONCERN

A: While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, His mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to Him. Someone told Him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to

You.” He replied to him, “Who is My mother, and who are My brothers?” Pointing to His disciples, He said, “Here are My mother and My brothers. For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.” (Matthew 12:46-50)

P: Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother's sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Dear woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. (John 19:25-27)

(The third candle is extinguished.)

HYMN

**Jesus, loving to the end
Her whose heart Thy sorrows rend,
And Thy dearest human friend:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**May we in Thy sorrows share,
For Thy sake all peril dare,
And enjoy Thy tender care:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**May we all Thy loved ones be,
All one holy family,
Loving for the love of Thee:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

(A time of meditation)

IV. LOVE'S PRESENCE

A: Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All

authority in Heaven and on Earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:16-20).

P: At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which means, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?” (Mark 15:33-34)

(The fourth candle is extinguished.)

HYMN

**Jesus, whelmed in fears unknown,
With our evil left alone,
While no light from Heaven is shown:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**When we vainly seem to pray
And our hope seems far away,
In the darkness be our Stay:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**Though no Father seem to hear,
Though no light our spirits cheer,
May we know that God is near:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

(A time of meditation)

V. LOVE'S NEED

A: On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.

Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within Him.” (John 7:37-38)

P: Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I thirst.” A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. (John 19:28-29)

(The fifth candle is extinguished.)

HYMN

**Jesus, in Thy thirst and pain,
While Thy wounds Thy life-blood drain,
Thirsting more our love to gain:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**Thirst for us in mercy still,
Satisfy Thy loving will:
All Thy holy work fulfill.
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**May we thirst Thy love to know;
Lead us in our sin and woe
Where the healing waters flow:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

(A time of meditation)

VI. LOVE'S COMPLETION

A: Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, “We are going up to Jerusalem and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock Him, insult Him, spit on Him, flog Him and kill Him. On the third day He will rise again.” The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what He was talking about. (Luke 18:31-34)

P: When He had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." (John 19:30)

(The sixth candle is extinguished.)

HYMN

**Jesus, all our ransom paid,
All Thy Father's will obeyed,
By Thy sufferings perfect made:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**Save us in our soul's distress,
Be our Help to cheer and bless
While we grow in holiness:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**Brighten all our heavenward way
With an ever holier ray
Till we pass to perfect day:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

(A time of meditation)

VII. LOVE'S INVITATION

A: At the time Jesus said, "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:25, 28-30)

P: It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice," Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." When He said this, He breathed His last. (Luke 23:44-46)

(The seventh candle is extinguished.)

HYMN

**Jesus, all Thy labor vast,
All Thy woe and conflict past,
Yielding up Thy soul at last:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**When the death shades round us lower,
Guard us from the Tempter's power,
Keep us in that trial hour:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

**May Thy life and death supply
Grace to live and grace to die,
Grace to reach the home on high:
Hear us, holy Jesus.**

Tolling of the Bell 33 times.

The Strepitus is heard.

Psalm 116:7-9

A: Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the Lord has been good to you.
For You, O Lord, have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from
tears, my feet from stumbling. That I may walk before the Lord in
the land of the living.

We offer our final prayers in silence and depart in darkness.

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.

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

Christ Lutheran Church is a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Syno

