

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Reverend Ronald Breight	Pastor
Vincent Mroz	Vicar
Douglas Skalka	Organist
Richard Mueller	Worship Assistant
Gloria Stern	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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Easter Sunday

April 20, 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

Handbells	Jesus Christ Is Risen Today	Arr. Barbara Kinyon
Christ Is Alive		Lynn Trapp

RINGING OF THE BELLS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *(all rise and face the cross as it is brought forward)*

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Hymnal p. 465

**Now all the vault of heav'n resounds
In praise of love that still abounds:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Sing choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here:
"Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Eternal is the gift He brings,
Therefore our heart with rapture sings:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Now still He comes to give us life
And by His presence stills all strife.
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love:
Set heart and will on things above
That we conquer through Your triumph:
Grant grace sufficient for life's day
That by our lives we truly say:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Adoring praises now we bring
And with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father and our Lord,
To Spirit blest, most holy God,
All the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

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.**

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 118)

P: Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed, alleluia!**

P: This is the day the Lord has made!

C: **We will rejoice, and be glad in it!**

P: The Lord is our strength and our song; He has become our salvation!

C: **You are our God, and we will praise You;**

You are our God, and we will exalt You.

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!

C: **His mercy endures forever!**

P: Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed, alleluia!**

HYMN

Hymnal p. 461

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

**I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives my everliving head!
He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives exalted, throned above;
He lives to rule His Church in love.
He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;**

He lives all blessings to impart.
He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.
He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of us all let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

HYMN

Hymnal p. 155

This is the Feast

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor,
blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain*

**Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all Creation:**

**Blessing, honor, glory and might be to God and
the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain***

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. *Refrain*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 10: 34-43

L: The first reading for Easter Sunday is from chapter ten of Acts.

There is life in Jesus.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

Hymnal p. 477

**Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heav'n and voices raise:
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the cross a victim For the world's salvation bled
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Now is risen from the dead.**

Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat:

**See the ancient pow'rs of evil In confusion and retreat;
Once He died, and once was buried: Now He lives forevermore,
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer, Whom we worship and adore.**

(Please rise) **Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high:**

Alleluia to the Savior Who has gained the victory;

Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity!

Alleluia, alleluia To the triune Majesty!

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(Please be seated)

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:1-4

L: The second reading is from chapter three of Colossians.

Set your minds on things above.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR Alleluia! Rejoice

There was joy, there was joy, there was joy that day! There was joy in that morning when the stone was rolled away, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Rejoice! There was joy in that morning, in the morning of that day; There was joy on Easter morning when the stone was rolled away. There is joy in our mornings, there is new light for our days; there is joy in all our mornings, and our days are filled with praise! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Rejoice! Alleluia! Rejoice! Rejoice!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(please rise and sing)*

Hymnal p. 157

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 28:1-10

P: The Holy Gospel is according to St. Matthew, chapter 28.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus is risen from the dead.

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED²

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

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Hymnal p. 457

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

Who did once upon the cross Alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!

Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!

**Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!
But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!
Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!
Praise Him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

SERMON²

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

Scatter the Darkness, Break the Gloom

Steven Went

Toccata arr. Michael Helman.

. . Handbells

OFFERING SONG *(please rise and sing)*

Good Christian Friends Rejoice and Sing

Hymnal p. 475

**Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**The Lord of life is ris'n this day;
Bring flow'rs of song to strew His way;
Let all the world rejoice and say:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

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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.

C: Amen.

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

Hymnal p. 160

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary ...evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS (*sung*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentance joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as he bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You, alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE 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

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take and eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

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

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI (*sung*)

...

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Prayer before communing: Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation 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

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

Hymnal p. 633

**At the Lamb's high feast we sing,
Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide
Flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!**

**Praise we Him, whose love divine
Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast,
Christ the Victim, Christ the Priest. Alleluia!**

Where the Paschal blood is poured,
Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
Paschal victim, paschal bread;
With sincerity and love
Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell's fierce powers beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight,
You have brought us life and light; Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall,
Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened Paradise,
And in Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!

(Please rise) Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

VOLUNTARY

I Know that My Redeemer Lives

Kenneth T. Rosche

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *(sung)*

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ry-one what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
With shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

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.

BENEDICTION

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 peace.

C: Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

He's Risen, He's Risen

Hymnal p. 480

**He's risen, He's risen, Christ Jesus, the Lord;
He opened death's prison, th'incarnate, true Word.
Break forth, hosts of heaven, in jubilant song
And earth, sea, and mountain their praises prolong.**

**The foe was triumphant when on Calvary
The Lord of creation was nailed to the tree.
In Satan's domain did the hosts shout and jeer,
For Jesus was slain, whom the evil ones fear.**

**But short was their triumph; the Savior arose,
And death, hell, and Satan He vanquished, His foes.
The conquering Lord lifts His banner on high;
He lives, yes, He lives, and will nevermore die.**

**O, where is your sting, death? We fear you no more;
Christ rose, and now open is fair Eden's door.
For all our transgressions His blood does atone;**

**Redeemed and forgiven, we now are His own.
Then sing your hosannas and raise your glad voice;
Proclaim the blest tidings that all may rejoice.
Laud, honor, and praise to the Lamb that was slain:
With Father and Spirit He ever shall reign.**

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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

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Esther Megargel

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

Christ Lutheran Church is a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.