

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

400 Barclay Avenue Forest Hills, PA 15221
412-271-7173 www.christlutheranfh.org

The Reverend Ronald Breight	Pastor
Douglas Skalka	Organist
Vincent Mroz	Vicar
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. Services are streamed on our Facebook page.

+++++

The Holy Trinity

June 15, 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

Crown Him

Ruth Elaine Schram

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

Alleluia! Let praises ring!
To God the Father let us bring
Our songs of adoration.
To Him through everlasting days
Be worship, honor, pow'r, and praise,
Whose hand sustains creation. Singing, ringing:
Holy, holy, God is Holy; Spread the story
Of our God, the Lord of glory.

Alleluia! Let praises ring!
Unto the Lamb of God we sing,
In whom we are elected.
He bought His church with His own blood,
He cleansed her in that blessed flood,
And as His bride selected. Holy, holy
Is our union And communion. His befriending
Gives us joy and peace unending.

Alleluia! Let praises ring!
Unto the Holy Ghost we sing
For our regeneration.
The saving faith in us He wrought
And us unto the Bridegroom brought,
Made us His chosen nation. Glory! Glory!
Joy eternal, Bliss supernal; There is manna
And an endless, glad hosanna.

Alleluia! Let praises ring!
Unto our triune God we sing;
Blest be His name forever!
With angel hosts let us adore
And sing His praises evermore
For all His grace and favor!
Singing, ringing: Holy, holy, God is holy;
Spread the story Of our God, the Lord of glory!

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.**

CONFESSION¹

P: Let us pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, You have brought us together into Your presence to offer You our prayers and praise, hear Your holy word, and partake of the blessed sacrament of Holy Communion. Prepare our hearts and minds to worship You and receive Your gifts by giving us the spirit of repentance. Help us to approach the mercy seat of Christ and sincerely confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by Your infinite goodness and mercy.

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)**

(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: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart; I have not loved my neighbors as myself. I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (†) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

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 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 OF PRAISE

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**

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Proverbs 8:1–4, 22–31

L: The first reading for The Holy Trinity is from chapter eight of Proverbs.

Wisdom brings blessings

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY

Psalm 8

L: O Lord, our Lord,
How majestic is Your name in all the earth!

C: **O Lord, our Lord,
How majestic is Your name in all the earth!**

L: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!
You have set Your glory above the heavens.
Out of the mouth of babes and infants, You have established strength

because of Your foes,
To still the enemy and the avenger.

**L: O Lord, our Lord,
How majestic is Your name in all the earth!**

L: When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars which You have set in place,
What is man that You are mindful of him,
And the Son of Man that You care for him?
Yet You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
And crowned him with glory and honor.
You have given him dominion over the works of Your hands;
You have put all things under his feet,

**L: O Lord, our Lord,
How majestic is Your name in all the earth!**

L: All sheep and oxen,
And also the beasts of the field,
The birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
Whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

**C: O Lord, our Lord,
How majestic is Your name in all the earth!**

**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

Acts 2:14a, 22–36

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

Peter's Pentecost sermon affirms all the Lord's work

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:48–59

P: The Holy Gospel is according to St. John, chapter eight.

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

Jesus claims He is from eternity.

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE ATHANASIAN CREED

Left side: Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith.

Right side: Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally.

Left side: And the catholic faith is this,

Right side: that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance.

Left side: For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another.

Right side: But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.

Left side: Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit:

Right side: the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated;

Left side: the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite;

Right side: the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.

Left side: And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal,

Right side: just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinites, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.

Left side: In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty;

Right side: and yet there are not three Almightyies, but one Almighty.

Left side: So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God;

Right side: and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.

Left side: So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;

Right side: and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.

Left side: Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.

Right side: The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone.

Left side: The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone.

Right side: The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding.

Left side: Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

Right side: And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another;

Left side: but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped.

Right side: Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.

Left side: But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.

Right side: He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age:

Left side: perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh;

Right side: equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.

Left side: Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ:

Right side: one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God;

Left side: one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.

Right side: For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ,

Left side: who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead,

Right side: ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Left side: At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.

Right side: And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.

All: This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Holy Holy Holy

Hymnal p. 507

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, Holy, Holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

SERMON

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

Prelude on "Nicaea"

Nigel Williams

OFFERING PRAYER *(please rise and sing)*

What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

**I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will take the cup of salvation
and will call on the name of the Lord.**

**I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

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. 160

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: *(sung)* **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

C: *(sung)* **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

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

SANCTUS

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 repentant 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

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

C: *(sung)* Amen.

AGNUS DEI

**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 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

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

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

Hymnal p. 821

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! His the scepter, His the throne.

Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood.

"Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by His blood."

Alleluia! Not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now;

Alleluia! He is near us; Faith believes, nor questions how.

Though the cloud from sight received Him When the forty days were o'er,

Shall our hearts forget His promise: "I am with you evermore"?

Alleluia! Bread of heaven, Here on earth our food, our stay;

Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to You from day to day:

Intercessor, Friend of sinners, Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea,

Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal, Lord omnipotent we own;

Alleluia! Born of Mary, Earth Your footstool, heav'n Your throne.

As within the veil You entered, Robed in Flesh, our great High Priest,

Here on earth both Priest and victim In the eucharistic feast.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; His the scepter, His the throne;

Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion Thunder like a mighty flood;

"Jesus out of ev'ry nation Has redeemed us by His blood."

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices

Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices

To praise my God with thousand tongues!

My heart, which in the Lord rejoices,

Would then proclaim in grateful songs

To all, wherever I might be,

What great things God hath done for me.

Dear Father, endless praise I render

For soul and body, strangely joined;
I praise Thee Guardian kind and tender,
For all the noble joys I find
So richly spread on every side
And freely for my use supplied.

I praise Thee, Savior, whose compassion
Hath brought Thee down to ransom me;
Thy pitying heart sought my salvation,
Though keenest woes were heaped on Thee,
Brought me from bondage full release,
Made me Thine own and gave me peace.

Glory and praise, still onward reaching,
Be Thine, O Spirit of all grace,
Whose holy power and faithful teaching
Give me among Thy saints a place!
Whate'er of good by me is done
Is of Thy grace and light alone.

Shall I not, then, be filled with gladness?
Shall I not praise Thee evermore
And triumph over fear and sadness,
E'en when my cup of woe runs o'er?
Though heaven and earth shall pass away,
Thy loving'kindness stands for aye.

VOLUNTARY

Reflections on "DIVINUM MYSTERIUM"

Iteke Prins

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

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: *(sung)* **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 on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and (†) give you peace.

C: *(sung)* **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Hymnal p. 940

**Holy God, we praise Thy name;
Lord of all, we bow before Thee.
All on earth Thy scepter claim,
All in heaven above adore Thee.
Infinite Thy vast domain,
Everlasting is Thy reign.**

**Hark! the glad celestial hymn
Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim,
In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord!**

Lo, the apostles' holy train

Join Thy sacred name to hallow;
Prophets swell the glad refrain,
And the white-robed martyrs follow,
And from morn to set of sun
Through the Church the song goes on.

Holy Father, holy Son,
Holy Spirit, three we name Thee;
Though in essence only one,
Undivided God we claim Thee
And, adoring, bend the knee
While we own the mystery.

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

Ritornello on "Come, Thou Almighty King"

John S. Dixon

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.