

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating 91 Years in Forest Hills

400 Barclay Avenue Forest Hills, PA 15221
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The Reverend Ronald Bright	Pastor
Vincent Mroz	Vicar
Douglas Skalka	Organist
John Crawford	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 live-streamed on our Facebook page listed above.

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The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 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

Lyrical Prelude

James Conely

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN *(please rise and sing)*

Blessed Jesus at Your Word

Hymnal p. 904

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word We are gathered all to hear You.

Let our hearts and souls be stirred Now to seek and love and fear You,
By Your teachings, sweet and holy, Drawn from earth to love You solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till Your Spirit breaks our night With the beams of truth unclouded.

You alone to God can win us; You must work all good within us.

Gracious Savior, good and kind, Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind; Help us by Your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry Your Church now raises; Hear and bless our prayers and praises.

Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord, Praise to You and adoration!

Grant that we may trust Your Word, Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander, Till we sing Your praises yonder.

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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: Our Help is in the name of the Lord.

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

(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: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we confess unto You that we are sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. We therefore flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end, that by Your grace, we may receive the crown of eternal life in Your Kingdom of Glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness?

C: Yes, so I believe.

P: Let it be done for you as you believe.

As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (†) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

Hymnal p. 656 sts. 1,4

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

**A mighty fortress is our God, a trusty Shield and Weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need that hath us now o'ertaken.**

**The old evil foe now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.**

**The Word they still shall let remain nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain with His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone, our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.**

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

O Lord, grant us the Spirit to hear Your Word and know the one thing needful that by Your Word and Spirit we may live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING

Colossians 1:21–2

L: The first reading for the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost is from Colossians chapter one.

The mystery—that the Gentiles are included in God’s promises—is cause for rejoicing among the Colossian Christians.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing

Hymnal p. 737

**Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing, A cheerful trust maintain;
For God, the source of ev’rything, Your portion shall remain.**

**He is your treasure, He your joy, Your life and light and Lord,
Your counselor when doubts annoy, Your shield and great reward.**

**Why spend the day in blank despair, In restless thought the night?
On your Creator cast your care; He makes your burdens light.**

**Did not His love and truth and pow’r Guard ev’ry childhood day?
And did He not in threat’ning hour Turn dreaded ills away?**

**He only will with patience chide, His rod falls gently down;
And all your sins He casts aside In ocean depths to drown.**

**His wisdom never plans in vain Nor falters nor mistakes.
All that His counsels may ordain A blessed ending makes.
Upon your lips, then, lay your hand, And trust His guiding love;
Then like a rock your peace shall stand Here and in heav'n above.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 10:38–42

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

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Martha learns that her sister Mary has chosen to listen to Jesus; she has chosen well.

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED²

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 OF THE DAY

One Thing's Needful

Hymnal p. 536

**One thing's needful; Lord, this treasure Teach me highly to regard.
All else, though it first give pleasure, Is a yoke that presses hard!
Beneath it the heart is still fretting and striving,
No true, lasting happiness ever deriving.**

This one thing is needful; all others are vain —
 I count all but loss that I Christ may obtain!
 How were Mary's thoughts devoted Her eternal joy to find
 As intent each word she noted, At her Savior's feet reclined!
 How kindled her heart, how devout was its feeling,
 While hearing the lessons that Christ was revealing!
 All earthly concerns she forgot for her Lord
 And found her contentment in hearing His word.
 Wisdom's highest, noblest treasure, Jesus, is revealed in You.
 Let me find in You my pleasure, And my wayward will subdue,
 Humility there and simplicity reigning,
 In paths of true wisdom my steps ever training.
 If I learn from Jesus this knowledge divine,
 The blessing of heavenly wisdom is mine.
 Nothing have I, Christ, to offer, You alone, my highest good.
 Nothing have I, Lord, to proffer But Your crimson colored blood.
 Your death on the cross has death wholly defeated and thereby my
 righteousness fully completed;
 Salvation's white rainments I there did obtain,
 And in them in glory with You I shall reign.
 Therefore You alone, my Savior, Shall be all in all to me;
 Search my heart and my behavior, Root out all hypocrisy.
 Through all my life's pilgrimage, guard and uphold me,
 In loving forgiveness, O Jesus, enfold me.
 This one thing is needful; all others are vain —
 I count all but loss that I Christ may obtain!

SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

Iteke Prins

OFFERING SONG

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

Hymnal p. 806

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son. *(Repeat)*

And now let the weak say "I am strong,"
Let the poor say "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us. *(Repeat)*

Give thanks, give thanks.

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INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

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

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

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

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

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS

Hymnal p. 208

**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!**

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

PAX DOMINI

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

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Hymnal p. 434 sts. 1,3

Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,

**Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!**

**Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Thy peace be with us O Jesus! O Jesus!**

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 to aid those using the handrail. 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

Jesus Comes Today with Healing

Hymnal p. 620

**Jesus comes today with healing, Knocking at my door, appealing,
Off'ring pardon grace, and peace. He Himself makes preparation,
And I hear His invitation: "Come and taste the blessed feast."**

**Christ Himself, the priest presiding Yet in bread and wine abiding
In this holy sacrament, Gives the bread of life, once broken,
And the cup, the precious token Of His sacred covenant.**

**Under bread and wine, though lowly, I receive the Savior holy, Blood
and body, giv'n for me, Very Lamb of God from heaven, Who to bitter
death was given, Hung upon the cursed tree.**

**God descends with heav'nly power, Gives Himself to me this hour
In this ordinary sign. On my tongue His pledge receiving,
I accept His grace, believing That I taste His love divine.**

**Let me praise God's boundless favor, Whose own feast of love I savor,
Bidden by His gracious call. Wedding garments He provides me,
With a robe of white He hides me, Fits me for the royal hall.
Now have I found consolation Comfort in my tribulation,
Balm to heal the troubled soul. God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
Cleanses me from sin and error, Makes my wounded spirit whole.**

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Arise and Shine in Splendor

Hymnal p. 396

**Arise and shine in splendor; let night to day surrender.
Your light is drawing near. Above, the day is beaming,
In matchless beauty gleaming; The glory of the Lord is here.**

**See earth in darkness lying, The heathen nations dying
In hopeless gloom and night. To You the Lord of heaven—
Your life, Your hope has given Great glory, honor, and delight.**

**The world's remotest races, Upon whose weary faces
The sun looks from the sky, Shall run with zeal untiring,
With joy Your light desiring That breaks upon them from on high.**

**Lift up your eyes in wonder—See, nations gather yonder
From sin to be set free. The world has heard Your story;
Her sons come to Your glory; Her daughters haste Your light to see.**

**Your heart will leap for gladness When from the realms of sadness
They come from near and far. Your eyes will wake from slumber
As people without number Rejoice to see the Morning Star.**

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VOLUNTARY

Lord, Whose Love In Humble Service

William Allen Pasch

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

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: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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 His peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Lift High the Cross

Hymnal p. 837

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

**Come Christians follow where our captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ the Son of God. *Refrain:***

**Led on their way by this triumphant sign
The host of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. *Refrain:***

**All new born soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. *Refrain:***

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. *Refrain:***

**Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. *Refrain:***

**So shall our song of triumph ever be.
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain:**

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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

Recessional

James Conely

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.

