

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating 92 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
Tatia O'Connor	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 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 17, 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

The Dew of the Dawn

Bernard Wayne Sanders

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN *(please rise and sing)*

Amazing Grace

Hymnal p. 744

Amazing grace how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven's joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Hymnal p. 794

The Lord, My God, Be Praised

**The Lord, my God, be praised, My light, my Life from heaven;
My Maker, who to me has soul and body given;
My Father, who will shield and keep me day by day
And make each moment yield new blessings on my way.**

**The Lord, my God, be praised, My Trust, my life from heaven,
The Father's own dear Son, Whose life for me was given,
Who for my sin atoned with His most precious blood
And gives to me by faith the highest heav'nly good.**

**The Lord, my God, be praised, My Hope, my Life from heaven,
The Spirit, whom the Son in love to me has given.
His grace revives my heart and gives my spirit pow'r,
Help, comfort, and support in sorrow's gloomy hour.**

**The Lord, my God, be praised, My God, the ever living,
To whom the heav'nly host their laud and praise are giving.**

**The Lord, my God, be praised in whose great name I boast,
God Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.**

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Merciful Lord, cleanse and defend Your church by the sacrifice of Christ. United with Him in Holy Baptism, give us grace to receive with thanksgiving the fruits of His redeeming work and daily follow in His way; through the same 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

Hebrews 11:17–31; 12:1–3

L: The first reading for the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost is from Hebrews chapter eleven.

Running the Christian race

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY

Psalm 119

L: My soul longs for Your salvation;
I hope in Your word.

C: **My soul longs for Your salvation;
I hope in Your word.**

L: My eyes long for Your promise:
I ask, “When will You comfort me?”

For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke,
yet I have not forgotten Your statutes.

**C: My soul longs for Your salvation;
I hope in Your word.**

L: How long must Your servant endure?
When will You judge those who persecute me?
The insolent have dug pitfalls for me;
they do not live according to Your law.

**C: My soul longs for Your salvation;
I hope in Your word.**

L: All Your commandments are sure;
they persecute me with falsehood; help me!
They have almost made an end of me on earth,
but I have not forsaken Your precepts.
In Your steadfast love give me life,
that I may keep the testimonies of Your mouth.

**C: My soul longs for Your salvation;
I hope in Your word.**

**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.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 12: 49–53

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus speaks of His purpose of being on earth.

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

All Depends on Our Possessing

Hymnal p. 732

All depends on our possessing God's abundant grace and blessing,
Through all earthly wealth depart.

They who trust with faith unshaken
By their God are not forsaken And will keep a dauntless heart.

He who to this day has fed me And to many joys has led me
Is and ever shall be mine. He who ever gently schools me,
He who daily guides and rules me Will remain my help divine.

Many spend their lives in fretting Over trifles and in getting
Things that have no solid ground. I shall strive to win a treasure
That will bring me lasting pleasure And that now is seldom found.

When with sorrow I am stricken, Hope anew my heart will quicken;
All my longing shall be stilled. To His loving kindness tender
Soul and body I surrender, For on God alone I build.

Well He knows what best to grant me;
All the longing hopes that haunt me,
Joy and sorrow, have their day. I shall doubt His wisdom never;
As God wills, so be it ever; I commit to Him my way.

If my days on earth He lengthen, God my weary soul will strengthen;
All my trust in Him I place. Earthly wealth is not abiding,
Like a stream away is gliding; Safe I anchor in His grace.

SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

Epilogue on "Brethren We Have Met Together"

John Barr

OFFERING SONG

Lord of All Good

Hymnal p. 786 st. 1,3

Lord of all good, our gifts we bring You now;

Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill.

Tokens of love and pledges they shall be

That our whole life is offered to Your will.

Father, whose bounty all creation shows;

Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live;

Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows:

To You with grateful hearts ourselves we give.

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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.

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 HYMNS

Holy Spirit, Light Divine

Hymnal p. 496

**Holy Spirit, light divine, Shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the shades of night away, Turn the darkness into day.**

**Let me see my Savior's face, Let me all His beauties trace;
Show those glorious truths to me Which are only known to Thee.**

Holy Spirit, pow'r divine, Cleanse this guilty heart of mine;
In Thy mercy pity me, From sin's bondage set me free.

Holy Spirit, joy divine, Cheer this saddened heart of mine;
Yield a sacred, settled peace. Let it grow and still increase.

Holy Spirit, all divine, Dwell within this heart of mine;
Cast down ev'ry idol throne, Reign supreme, and reign alone.

Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior

Hymnal p. 619

Thy body, giv'n for me, O Savior,
Thy blood which Thou for me didst shed,
These are my life and strength forever,
By them my hungry soul is fed.

Refrain: Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!

With Thee, Lord, I am now united;
I live in Thee and Thou in me.
No sorrow fills my soul, delighted
It finds its only joy in Thee. *Refrain:*

Who can condemn me now?
For surely The Lord is nigh, who justifies.
No hell I fear, and thus securely
With Jesus I to heaven rise. *Refrain:*

Though death may threaten with disaster,
It cannot rob me of my cheer;
For He who is of death the master
With aid and comfort e'er is near, *Refrain:*

My heart has now become Thy dwelling,
O blessed, holy Trinity.

With angels I, Thy praises telling,
Shall live in joy eternally. *Refrain:*

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VOLUNTARY

Meditation on "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Anthony Giamanco

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

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

Hymnal p. 524

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear!

It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, and drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole and calms a heart's unrest;

"Tis manna to the hungry soul and to the weary rest.

Dear name! The rock on which I build, my shield and hiding place;

My never failing treasury filled with boundless stores of grace.

O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend, my Prophet, Priest, and King,

My Lord my life, my way, my end, accept the praise I bring.

How weak the efforts of my heart. How cold my warmest thought!

**But when I see Thee as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.
Till then I would Thy love proclaim with ev'ry fleeting breath;
And may the music of Thy name refresh my soul in death!**

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

Trumpet Voluntary in D

Robert Lind

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

