

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

400 Barclay Avenue Forest Hills, PA 15221
412-271-7173 www.christlutheranfh.org
Facebook: [ChristLutheranChurchfh](https://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchfh)

The Reverend Ronald Breight

Pastor

Douglas Skalka

Organist

Cal Eggers & Rich Mueller

Worship Assistant

Gloria Stern

Lector

Nate Patsko

Acolyte

Missionaries: The Rev. Vincent Mroz; 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.

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 1, 2026

+++++

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

Prelude on "Dundee"

Barbara B. Masters

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN *(please rise and sing)*

Son of God, Eternal Savior

Hymnal p. 842

**Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race,
You our Head, who, throned in glory,
For Your own will ever plead: Fill us with Your love and pity,
Heal our wrongs, and help our need.**

**As You, Lord, have lived for others, So may we for others live.
Freely have Your gifts been granted; Freely may Your servants give.
Yours the gold and Yours the silver, Yours the wealth of land and sea;
We but stewards of Your bounty Held in solemn trust will be.**

**Come, O Christ, and reign among us, King of love and Prince of Peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion, Bid its cruel discords cease.
By Your patient years of toiling, By Your silent hours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure, Stem our selfish greed of gain.**

**Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race:
By Your praying, by Your willing That Your people should be one,
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition: Here on earth Your will be done.**

Text and music: Public Domain. Setting: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014542

CONGREGATION 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: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made Heaven and Earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(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: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (†) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

KYRIE

Hymnal p. 186

P: Merciful God, we humbly implore You to cast the bright beams of Your light upon Your church that we, being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, may walk in the light of Your truth and finally attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**A: (sung) Lord, have mercy upon us;
Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

P: Glory be to God on high,

C: and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee,
we worship Thee, we glorify Thee,
we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* And with thy spirit.

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; 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.

FIRST READING

Micah 6:1–8

L: The first reading for the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany is from chapter six of Micah.

The Lord indicts Israel, reminds them of His care, and asks for justice and kindness.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 15

L: O Lord, who shall sojourn in Your tent?

Who shall dwell on Your holy hill?

C: O Lord, who shall sojourn in Your tent?

Who shall dwell on Your holy hill?

L: He who walks blamelessly and does what is right

And speaks truth in his heart;

Who does not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor,

Nor takes up a reproach against his friend;

C: O Lord, who shall sojourn in Your tent?

Who shall dwell on Your holy hill?

L: In whose eyes a vile person is despised, but who honors those who fear the Lord;

Who swears to his own hurt and does not change;

Who does not put out his money at interest and does not take a bribe against the innocent.

He who does these things shall never be moved.

C: O Lord, who shall sojourn in Your tent?

Who shall dwell on Your holy hill?

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

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

L: The second reading is from chapter one of 1 Corinthians.

Paul contrasts God's folly in sending His Son with worldly wisdom.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(please rise)*

Hymnal p. 190

P: Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord.

No one comes to the Father except through Me.

cf John 14.6

C: *(sung)* **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1–12

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

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

Jesus begins teaching His famous Sermon on the Mount.

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* **Praise be to Thee, 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

Blest Are They

Hymnal p. 982

Blest are they, the poor in spirit;
Theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow;
They shall be consoled.

Refrain: Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you.
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.

Blest are they, the lowly ones;
They shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst;
They shall have their fill. *Refrain:*

Blest are they who show mercy;
Mercy shall be theirs.

Blest are they, the pure of heart;
They shall see God! *Refrain:*

Blest are they who seek peace;
They are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith;
The glory of God is theirs. *Refrain:*

Blest are you who suffer hate,
All because of Me.
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom;
Shine for all to see. *Refrain:*

Text and Tune: 1985 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission. Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014542

SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

Dearest Jesus, We Are Here

Jim Vyhanek

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Amen.**

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. 194

P: The Lord be with you.

C: (sung) And with thy spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: (sung) We lift them up unto the Lord.

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

C: (sung) It is meet and right so to do.

PROPER PREFACE

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

SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He,
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

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

From 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

Renew Me, O Eternal Light

Hymnal p. 704

**Renew me, O eternal Light,
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace
That issues from Your holy face.**

**Remove the pow'r of sin from me
And cleanse all my impurity
That I may have the strength and will
Temptations of the flesh to still.**

**Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey Your Word.
Let what You will be my desire,
and with new life my soul inspire.**

**Grant that I only You may love
and seek those things which are above
Till I behold You face to face,
O Light eternal, through Your grace.**

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:*

Text: ©Concordia Publishing House Used by permission. Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014542. Music: Public domain

VOLUNTARY

Blest Are They

Henry V. Gerike

NUNC DIMITTIS

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace
according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast prepared

before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles
and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

THANKSGIVING

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C: (*sung*) **and His mercy endureth forever.**

COLLECT

P: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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: The Lord be with you.

C: (*sung*) **And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: (*sung*) **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 lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

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

CLOSING HYMN

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

Hymnal p. 851

Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given Blessings countless as the sand
To the unthankful and the evil With Your own unsparing hand.

Grant our hearts, dear Lord, to give You gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

Wondrous honor You have given To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence, "You have done it all to Me."
Can it be, O gracious Master, That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?

Lord of glory, You have brought us With Your life blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on You;
But, oh, best of all Your graces, With Your love our love renew.

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

Fantasy on "In Babilone"

Richard A. Williamson

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.