

# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

400 Barclay Avenue Forest Hills, PA 15221  
412-271-7173      www.christlutheranfhh.org  
Facebook: ChristLutheranChurchFH

The Reverend Ronald Breight	Pastor
Douglas Skalka	Organist
John Crawford	Worship Assistant
Gloria Stern	Lector
Ryder Giovanetti	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 listed above.

+++++

## The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 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

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Robert Lau

### RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN (*please rise and sing*)

**There is a Green Hill Far Away**

**There is a green hill far away, Outside a city wall,  
where the dear Lord was crucified, Who died to save us all.**

**We may not know, we cannot tell What pains He had to bear,  
But we believe it was for us He hung and suffered there.**

**He died that we might be forgiv'n, He died to make us good,  
That we might go at last to Heav'n Saved by His precious blood.**

**There was no other good enough To pay the price of sin,  
He only could unlock the gate Of heav'n and let us in.**

**Oh, dearly, dearly has He loved! And we will love Him too  
And trust in His redeeming blood And try His works to do.**

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.**

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.**

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, and call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father,

seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

*(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.)*

**C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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.**

## KYRIE

P: Heavenly Father, Your only begotten Son overcame Satan, sin, and death by His patience and suffering. Help us, we pray, to treasure in our hearts all that our Lord has borne for us that we would be inspired to patiently persevere in true faith unto life everlasting.

**C: *(sung)* Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

## COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

L: The first reading for the Fourth Sunday in Lent is from chapter forty-two of Isaiah.

*The Lord turns darkness into light.*

*Following the reading...*

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALMODY

### Psalm 142

L: I cry to You, O Lord;  
I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.”

**C: I cry to You, O Lord;**  
**I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.”**

L: With my voice I cry out to the Lord;  
with my voice I plead for mercy to the Lord.  
I pour out my complaint before Him;  
I tell my trouble before Him.

**C: I cry to You, O Lord;**  
**I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.”**

L: When my spirit faints within me, You know my way!  
In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.  
Look to the right and see: there is none who takes notice of me;  
no refuge remains to me; no one cares for my soul.

**C: I cry to You, O Lord;**  
**I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.”**

L: I cry to You, O Lord;  
I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.”  
Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low!  
Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me!  
Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!

The righteous will surround me, for You will deal bountifully with me.

**C: I cry to You, O Lord;**

**I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."**

**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**

Ephesians 5:8–14

L: The second reading is from chapter five of Ephesians.

*Walking as children of the light.*

*Following the reading...*

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

John 9:1–41

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

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

*Jesus heals a man who had been born blind.*

*Following the reading...*

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **THE NICENE CREED<sup>2</sup>**

**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, Grant That Balm and Healing**

Hymnal p. 421

**Jesus, grant that balm and healing  
In Your holy wounds I find,  
Ev'ry hour that I am feeling  
Pains of body and of mind.  
Should some evil thought within  
Tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,  
Show the peril, and from sinning  
Keep me from its first beginning.  
Should some lust or sharp temptation  
Fascinate my sinful mind,  
Draw me to Your cross and passion,  
And new courage I shall find.  
Or should Satan press me hard,  
Let me then be on my guard,  
Saying, "Christ for me was wounded,"  
That the Tempter flee confounded.**

If the world my heart entices  
With the broad and easy road,  
With seductive, sinful vices,  
Let me weigh the awful load  
You were willing to endure.  
Help me flee all thoughts impure  
And to master each temptation,  
Calm in prayer and meditation.

Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me  
By Your wounds, Lord, is made whole;  
When I'm faint, Your cross revives me,  
Granting new life to my soul.  
Yes, Your comfort renders sweet  
Ev'ry bitter cup I meet;  
For Your all atoning passion  
Has procured my soul's salvation.

O my God, my Rock and Tower,  
Grant that in Your death I trust,  
Knowing Death has lost its power  
Since You crushed it in the dust.  
Savior, let Your agony  
Ever help and comfort me;  
When I die be my protection,  
Light and Life and Resurrection.

**SERMON<sup>3</sup>**

**OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS**

**CHOIR**

O Wondrous Cross! O Love Divine!

Richard Blake

**Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed**

**Alas! And did my Savior bleed, And did my sov'reign die?  
Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?**

**Thus might I hide my blushing face While His dear cross appears,  
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt mine eyes to tears.**

**But drops of grief can ne'er repay The debt of love I owe;  
Here, Lord, I give myself away: 'Tis all that I can do.**

**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. 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 to the Lord.**

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

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

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

**SANCTUS** (*sung*)

**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!**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

P: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life....

**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: **Amen.**

## AGNUS DEI (*sung*)

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

**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

**Lamb of God Pure and Holy**

Hymnal p. 434

**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! (*Repeat*)**

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!

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Lamb of God

Hymnal p. 550

Your only Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side  
To walk upon this guilty sod, And to become the Lamb of God.

*Refrain*

*Refrain:* O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,  
I love the holy Lamb of God! O wash me in His precious blood,  
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Your Gift of love they crucified,  
They laughed and scorned Him as He died;  
The humble King they named a fraud, And sacrificed the Lamb of God.

*Refrain:*

I was so lost, I should have died, But You have brought me to Your side  
To be led by Your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God.

*Refrain:*

Text and tune: ©1985 Straightway Music. Used by permission. Lutheran Service Book Hymn License#100014542

## VOLUNTARY

When to Our World the Savior Came

Robert Lind

## NUNC DIMITTIS

Hymnal p. 211

O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,  
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.  
All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;

**For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.**

### **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:** 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: Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN**

**Lord Jesus Christ, My Life, My Light**

**Lord Jesus Christ, my Life, my Light,  
My Strength by day, my Trust by night,**

**On earth I'm but a passing guest  
And sorely with my sins opprest.**

**Oh, let Thy holy wounds for me  
Clefts in the rock forever be  
Where as a dove my soul can hide  
And safe from Satan's rage abide.**

**Lord, in Thy nail-prints let me read  
That Thou to save me has decreed  
And grant that in Thine opened side  
My troubled soul may ever hide.**

**And when the last Great Day shall come  
And Thou, our Judge, shalt speak the doom,  
Let me with joy behold the light  
And set me then upon Thy right.**

**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**

**I Trust, O Christ, in You Alone**

**Carl F. Schalk**

<sup>1</sup>*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.

<sup>2</sup>*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.

<sup>3</sup>Martin 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.*