

# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Celebrating 93 Years in Forest Hills**

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Pastor

Douglas Skalka

Organist

John Crawford

Worship Assistant

Zak D'Alessandro

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 listed above.

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## The Day of Pentecost

May 24, 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 "Veni, Creator, Spiritus"

Raymond H. Haas

### RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

O Holy Spirit, enter in, And in our hearts Your work begin,  
 Your dwelling place now make us; Sun of the soul, O Light divine,  
 Around and in us brightly shine, To joy and gladness wake us.  
 That we may be Truly living,  
 To You giving Prayer unceasing, And in love be still increasing.

Give to Your Word impressive pow'r, That in our hearts from this good hour  
 As fire it may be glowing, That in true Christian unity  
 We faithful witnesses may be, Your glory ever showing  
 Hear us, cheer us By Your teaching; Let our preaching  
 And our labor Praise You, Lord, and serve our neighbor.

O mighty Rock, O Source of life, Let Your dear Word, in doubt and strife,  
 In us be strongly burning That we be faithful unto death  
 And live in love and holy faith, From You true wisdom learning.  
 Your grace and peace On us shower; By Your power  
 Christ confessing, Let us see our Savior's blessing.

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## 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.

### CONFESSION<sup>1</sup>

**P:** Let us pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, You have brought us together into Your presence to set forth Your praise, to hear Your Holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. 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.**

## 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: O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant to us the same Spirit so that we may joyfully receive the message of Christ, who has come for us all; 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**

Numbers 11:24–30

L: The first reading for Pentecost is from chapter eleven of Numbers.

*The Lord's Spirit rests on the elders of Israel, and they proclaim His message.*

*Following the reading...*

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALMODY**

**Psalm 25**

L: To You, O Lord,  
I lift up my soul.

**C: To You, O Lord,  
I lift up my soul.**

L: O my God, in You I trust; let me not be put to shame;  
let not my enemies exult over me.

Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame;  
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**C: To You, O Lord,  
I lift up my soul.**

L: Make me to know Your ways, O Lord;  
teach me Your paths.

Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my  
salvation;

for You I wait all the day long.

**C: To You, O Lord,  
I lift up my soul.**

**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 2:1–21

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

*The Holy Spirit fills the disciples on Pentecost.*

*Following the reading...*

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*please rise and sing*)

Hymnal p. 156

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**

John 7:37–39

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

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

*Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to those who believe.*

*Following the reading...*

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**THE NICENE CREED**

**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

O Day Full of Grace

Hymnal p. 503

O day full of grace that now we see  
Appearing on earth's horizon,  
Bring light from our God that we may be  
Replete in His joy this season.  
God, shine for us now in this dark place;  
Your name on our hearts emblazon.  
O day full of grace, O blessed time,  
Our Lord on the earth arriving;  
Then came to the world that light sublime,  
Great joy for us all retrieving;  
For Jesus all mortals did embrace,  
All darkness and shame removing.  
For Christ bore our sins, and not His own,  
When He on the cross was hanging;  
And then He arose and moved the stone  
That we, unto Him belonging,  
Might join with angelic hosts to raise  
Our voices in endless singing.  
God came to us then at Pentecost,  
His Spirit new life revealing,  
That we might no more from Him be lost,

**All darkness for us dispelling,  
His flame will the mark of sin efface  
And bring to us all His healing.  
When we on that final journey go  
That Christ is for us preparing,  
We'll gather in song, our hearts aglow,  
All joy of the heavens sharing,  
And walk in the light of God's own place,  
With angels His name adoring.**

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

## **OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS**

### **VOLUNTARY**

Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers

Alfred V. Fedak

### **OFFERING SONG***(please rise and sing)*

Hymnal p.192

**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."

**Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning**

Hymnal p. 400

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;  
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;  
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all.

Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion  
Fragrance of Edom and off'rings divine,  
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure.  
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;  
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

## 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

**Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

Hymnal p. 686

**Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory  
Fills my heart with joy and love,  
Teach me ever to adore Thee;  
May I still Thy goodness prove.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
Hither by Thy help I've come;  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wand'ring from the fold of God;**

**He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.**

**Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be;  
Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee;  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.**

**Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;  
Clothed then in the bloodwashed linen, How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!  
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; Take my ransom'd soul away;  
Send Thine angels soon to carry Me to realms of endless day.**

**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**

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

Robert Lind

<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.*