

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating 93 Years in Forest Hills

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The Reverend Ronald Breight	Pastor
Douglas Skalka	Organist
Timothy Breight	Worship Assistant
Lois Frerking	Lector
Nate Patsko	Acolyte

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 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26th, 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

Poem: Reminiscence

James Conely

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN *(please rise and sing)*

Thy Word Is a Lamp

Refrain: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path. *Repeat.*

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
Still You're there right beside me.
And nothing will I fear as long as You are near.
Please be near me to the end. *Refrain*

I will not forget Your love for me, and yet
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side;
And I will love You to the end. *Refrain*

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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. 819 sts. 1,2,5

**Sing praise to God, the highest good, The author of creation,
The God of love who understood Our need for His salvation.**

**With healing balm our souls He fills And ev'ry faithless murmur stills:
To God all praise and glory!**

**What God's almighty pow'r has made, In mercy He is keeping.
By morning glow or evening shade His eye is never sleeping.**

**Within the kingdom of His might All things are just and good and right:
To God all praise and glory!**

All who confess Christ's holy name, Give God the praise and glory.

**Let all who know His pow'r proclaim Aloud the wondrous story.
Cast ev'ry idol from its throne, For God is God, and He alone:
To God all praise and glory!**

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; 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

Deuteronomy 7:6–9

L: The first reading is from Deuteronomy, chapter seven.

In His steadfast love, God keeps His promises.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY

Hymnal p. 754, sts. 1,2,4

Entrust your days and burdens To God's most loving hand;

He cares for you while ruling The sky, the sea, the land.

**For He who guides the tempests Along their thund'rous ways Will find
for you a pathway And guide you all your days.**

Rely on God your Savior And find your life secure.

Make His work your foundation That your work may endure.

No anxious thought, no worry, No self tormenting care

Can win your Father's favor; His heart is moved by prayer.

Leave all to His direction; His wisdom rules for you

In ways to rouse your wonder At all His love can do.

Soon He, His promise keeping, With wonderworking pow'rs

Will banish from your spirit What gave you troubled hours.

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SECOND READING

Romans 8:28–39

L: The second reading is from chapter eight of Romans.

All things work together for those who love God.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:44–52

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

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

Three parables about the reign of God.

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

Hymnal p. 743

**Jesus, priceless treasure, Fount of purest pleasure
Truest friend to me, Ah, how long in anguish
Shall my spirit languish, Yearning, Lord, for Thee?
Thou art mine, O Lamb divine! I will suffer naught
To hide Thee; Naught I ask beside Thee.**

In Thine arms I rest me; Foes who would molest me
Cannot reach me here. Though the earth be shaking,
Ev'ry heart be quaking, Jesus calms my fear.
Lightnings flash and thunders crash; Yet, though sin
And hell assail me, Jesus will not fail me.

Satan, I defy thee; Death, I now decry thee;
Fear, I bid thee cease. World, thou shall not harm me
Nor thy threats alarm me While I sing of peace.
God's great pow'r Guards ev'ry hour; Earth and all
Its depths adore Him, Silent bow before Him.

Hence, all earthly treasure! Jesus is my pleasure,
Jesus is my choice. Hence, all empty glory!
Naught to me thy story Told with tempting voice.
Pain or loss, Or shame or cross, Shall not from
my Savior move me Since He deigns to love me.

Evil world I leave thee; Thou canst not deceive me,
Thine appeal is vain. Sin that once did blind me,
Get thee far behind me, come not forth again.
Past thy hour, O pride and pow'r; Sinful life,
Thy bonds I sever, Leave thee now forever.

Hence, all fears and sadness! For the Lord of gladness,
Jesus, enters in. Those who love the Father,
Though the alarms may gather, Still have peace within.
Yea, whate'er I here must bear, Thou art still my
Purest pleasure, Jesus, priceless treasure!

SERMON³

INSTALATION OF OFFICERS

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

It Is Well with My Soul

Robert Powell

OFFERING SONG

Hymnal p. 785, sts. 1,3

**We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy Name, glad praises we sing.**

**With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!**

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.

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.

P: Almighty God, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts that He may rule and direct us according to Your will, strengthen us in all our temptations, afflictions and sorrows, defend us from all error, and lead us into all truth that we might continue steadfast in faith, may increase in all good works and in the end join You in Your everlasting kingdom of glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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

Hymnal p. 525

**Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own.**

**Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.**

**Crown Him the virgin's Son, The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won Which now His brow adorn:**

**Fruit of the mystic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows, The Babe of Bethlehem.**

**Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.**

**No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes At mysteries so bright.**

**Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.**

**His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.**

**Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the King to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.**

**Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.**

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

A Jovial March

David Lasky

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.

