

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating 93 Years in Forest Hills

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The Reverend Ronald Bright	Pastor
Douglas Skalka	Organist
Timothy Bright	Worship Assistant
Tammy Donaldson	Lector
Madeline Stoner	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 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23rd, 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

For the Beauty of the Earth

Angela Kraft Cross

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

O worship the King, all glorious above.
O gratefully sing His Pow'r and His love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and gifted with praise.

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

This earth, with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, Thy pow'r hath founded of old,
Established it fast by a changeless decree,
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail.
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end.
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

O measureless Might, Ineffable Love,
While angels delight to hymn Thee above,
Thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
With true adoration shall sing to Thy praise.

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. 790 sts. 1,5

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen Sound from His people again;
Gladly forever adore Him!**

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 51:1-6

L: The first reading is from Isaiah, chapter fifty one.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY

Psalm 138

L: I give You thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing Your praise;

C: **I give You thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing Your praise;**

L: I bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your name
for Your steadfast love and your faithfulness,
for You have exalted above all things Your name and Your Word.

On the day I called, You answered me;
my strength of soul You increased.

**C: I give You thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing Your praise;**

L: All the kings of the earth shall give You thanks, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of Your mouth,
and they shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
for great is the glory of the Lord.

**C: I give You thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing Your praise;**

L: For though the Lord is high, He regards the lowly,
but the haughty He knows from afar.
Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You preserve my life;
You stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and
Your right hand delivers me.

**C: I give You thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing Your praise;**

L: The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me;
Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the
work of Your hands.

**C: I give You thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing Your praise;**

**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

Romans 11:33-12:8

L: The second reading is from chapter eleven and twelve of Romans.

Do not be conformed; be transformed.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

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

Peter gives an example of faith.

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. 645

Built on the Rock the Church shall stand

Even when steeples are falling,

Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land;

Bells are still chiming and calling,

Calling the young and old to rest.

But above all the souls distressed,

Longing for rest everlasting.

Surely in temples made with hands

God, the Most High is not dwelling;

High above earth His temple stands,

All earthly temples excelling.

Yet He who dwells in heav'n above
Chooses to live with us in love,
Making our bodies His temple.

We are God's house of living stones,
Built for His own habitation.

He through baptismal grace us owns
Heirs of His wondrous salvation.

Were we but two His name to tell,
Yet He would deign with us to dwell
With all His grace and His favor.

Here stands the font before our eyes,
Telling how God has received us.
The altar recalls Christ's sacrifice
And what His Supper here gives us.

Here sound the Scriptures that
proclaim Christ yesterday, today, the same,
And evermore, our Redeemer.

Grant then, O God, Your will be done,
That, when the church bells are ringing,
Many in saving faith may come
Where Christ His message is bringing:
"I know My own; My own know Me.
You, not the world, My face shall see.
My peace I leave you. Amen."

SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

In Thee is Gladness

Jon D. Vicker

Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days. Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my silver and my gold. Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.

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. 912

Christ is our cornerstone, On Him alone we build;

With His true saints alone The courts of heav'n are filled.

On His great love Our hopes we place Of present grace And joys above.

Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we implore,

**And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us evermore Until that day When
all the blest To endless rest Are called away.**

(Please rise) **Oh, then, with hymns of praise**

These hallowed courts shall ring;

**Our voices we will raise The Three in One to sing And thus proclaim In
joyful song, Both loud and long, That glorious name.**

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

Bicinium on "Father, We Praise Thee"

John Barr

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.

