

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating 93 Years in Forest Hills

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

The Reverend Ronald Breight	Pastor
Douglas Skalka	Organist
John Crawford	Worship Assistant
Gloria Stern	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 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30th, 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

Hymn Tune and Variations

Douglas E. Wagner

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN *(please rise and sing)*

**There is a Redeemer Jesus, God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.**

***Refrain:* Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit till the work on earth is done.**

**Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Hope for sinners slain. *Refrain***

**When I stand in glory, I will see His face;
There I'll serve my King forever in that holy place. *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: Let us pray.

Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; 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

Jeremiah 15:15-21

L: The first reading is from Jeremiah, chapter fifteen.

I am with you to save you and deliver you.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY *based on Psalm 26*

Hymnal p. 651

**I love Your kingdom, Lord, The place of Your abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved With His own precious blood.**

**Beyond my highest joy I prize its heav'nly ways,
Its sweet communion, solemn vows, Its hymns of love and praise.**

**I love Your Church, O God, Your saints in ev'ry land,
Dear as the apple of Your eye And graven on Your hand.**

**For them my tears shall fall; For them my prayers ascend;
For them my cares and toils be giv'n Till toils and cares shall end.**

**Sure as Your truth shall last, To Zion shall be giv'n
The brightest glories earth can yield And brighter bliss of heav'n.**

SECOND READING

Romans 12:9-21

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

Overcome evil with good.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-28

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

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

We find our lives by losing them in Christ.

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.

The Son of God goes forth to war A kingly crown to gain.
His blood-red banner streams afar; Who follows in His train?
Who best can drink His cup of woe, Triumphant over pain,
Who patient bears his cross below
He follows in His train.

The martyr first, whose eagle eye
Could pierce beyond the grave,
Who saw his master in the sky And call on Him to save.
Like Him, with pardon on His tongue In midst of mortal pain,
He prayed for those who did the wrong
Who follows in his train?

A glorious band, the chosen few, On whom the Spirit came,
Twelve valiant saints their hope they knew
And mocked the cross and flame.
They met the tyrant's brandished steel, the lion's gory mane;
They bowed their necks their death to feel
Who follows in their train?

A noble army, men and boys, The matron and the maid,
Around the Savior's throne rejoice, In robes of light arrayed.
They climbed the steep ascent of heav'n
Through peril, toil, and pain.
O God, to us may grace be giv'n
To follow in the train!

SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

Peaceful Procession

Richard A. Williamson

**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.**

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 unto the Lord.**

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

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

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS

Hymnal p. 208

**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!**

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you in all ways.

C: **Amen.**

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!

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!

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 to aid those using the handrail. 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

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."

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

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.**

VOLUNTARY

Prelude on "Down Ampney"

Elizabeth Krouse

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 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. 527

**O Savior, precious Savior, Whom yet unseen we love;
O Name of might and favor, All other names above,
We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our holy Lord and King.**

**O Bringer of salvation, Who wondrously hast wrought
 Thyself the revelation Of love beyond our thought,
 We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
 We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our gracious Lord and King.
 In Thee all fullness dwelleth, All grace and pow'r divine;
 The glory that excelleth, O Son of God, is Thine.
 We worship Thee, we bless Thee, To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
 We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our glorious Lord and King.
 O grant the consummation Of this our song above
 In endless adoration And everlasting love;
 Then shall we praise and bless Thee Where perfect praises ring,
 And evermore confess Thee, Our Savior and our King!**

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

Processional on "Down to the River to Pray"

Martin Ellis

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.

