

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating 93 Years in Forest Hills

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The Reverend Ronald Breight	Pastor
Douglas Skalka	Organist
Rich Mueller	Worship Assistant
Lois Frerking	Lector
Julia 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 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6th, 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

Meditation on "Crimond"

John S. Dixon

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

Open our eyes, Lord,
We want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him
and say that we love Him.
Open our ears, Lord
Help us listen.
Open our eyes, Lord,
We want to see Jesus.
Open our eyes, Lord,
We want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him
and say that we love Him.
Open our ears, Lord
Help us listen.
Open our eyes, Lord,
We want to see Jesus.

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. 794

The Lord, my God, be praised, My light, my Life from heaven;
My Maker, who to me has soul and body given;
My Father, who will shield and keep me day by day
And make each moment yield new blessings on my way.

The Lord, my God, be praised, My Trust, my life from heaven,
The Father's own dear Son, Whose life for me was given,
Who for my sin atoned with His most precious blood
And gives to me by faith the highest heav'nly good.

The Lord, my God, be praised, My Hope, my Life from heaven,
The Spirit, whom the Son in love to me has given.
His grace revives my heart and gives my spirit pow'r,
Help, comfort, and support in sorrow's gloomy hour.

The Lord, my God, be praised, My God, the ever living,
To whom the heav'nly host their laud and praise are giving.
The Lord, my God, be praised in whose great name I boast,
God Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; 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

Ezekiel 33:7-9

L: The first reading for the fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost is from chapter thirty-three of Ezekiel.

Ezekiel warns the wicked.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY

Psalm 32:1-7

L: Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

C: **Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.**

L: Blessèd is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away

through my groaning all day long.

For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and You forgave
the iniquity of my sin.

**C: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.**

L: Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time
when You may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach Him.
You are a Hiding Place for me; You preserve me from trouble;
You surround me with shouts of deliverance,

**C: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.**

**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 13:1–10

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

Paul reflects on the source of all authority.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:1–20

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Dealing with responding to sin in our relationships.

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. 549

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' Name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all!

Crown Him, ye martyrs of our God, Who from His altar call;
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod And crown Him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all!

Hail Him, ye heirs of David's line, Whom David Lord did call,
The God incarnate, man divine, And crown Him Lord of all,
The God incarnate, man divine, And crown Him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can n'er forget the wormwood and the gall,
Go, spread your trophies at His feet and crown him Lord of all.
Go, spread your trophies at His feet and crown him Lord of all.

Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe, On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all!
To Him all majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all!

**Oh, that with all the sacred throng we at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song and crown Him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song and crown Him Lord of all.**

SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

Pavane in F major

Robert Lau

OFFERING SONG

Hymnal p. 786, sts. 1, 3

Lord of all good, our gifts we bring You now;

Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill.

Tokens of love and pledges they shall be

That our whole life is offered to Your will.

Father, whose bounty all creation shows;

Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live;

Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows:

To You with grateful hearts ourselves we give.

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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.

AGNUS DEI

Hymnal p. 434, sts. 1, 3

**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. 631

**Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen;
Here grasp with firmer hand th'eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon Thee lean.**

Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
Here drink with Thee the royal wine of heav'n;
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,
Here taste a fresh the calm of sin forgiv'n.

This is the hour of banquet and of song;
This is the heav'nly table spread for me;
Here let me feast and, feasting, still prolong
The brief bright hour of fellowship with Thee.

I have no help but Thine; nor do I need
Anther arm but Thine to lean upon.

It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;
My strength is in Thy might, Thy might alone.

Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness;
Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood;
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace;
Thy blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord my God.

Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;
The bread and wine remove, but Thou art here;
Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.

Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Hymnal p. 510

A multitude comes from the east and the west
To sit at the feast of salvation
With Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the blest,
Obeying the Lord's invitation. Have mercy upon us, O Jesus!

O God, let us hear when our Shepherd shall call
In accents persuasive and tender,
That while there is time we make haste, one and all,
And find Him, our mighty defender. Have mercy upon us, O Jesus.
All trials shall be like a dream that is past,
Forgotten all trouble and mourning.
All questions and doubts have been answered at last,
When rises the light of that morning. Have mercy upon us, O Jesus.
The heavens shall ring with an anthem more grand
Than ever on earth was recorded.
The blest of the Lord shall receive at His hand
The crown to the victors awarded. Have mercy upon us, O Jesus.

VOLUNTARY

Lord Jesus Christ, the Children's Friend

David Maxwell

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.**

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

Come Christians follow where our captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ the Son of God. ***Refrain:***

Led on their way by this triumphant sign
The host of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. ***Refrain:***

All new born soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. ***Refrain:***

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. ***Refrain:***

Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. ***Refrain:***

So shall our song of triumph ever be.
Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain:*

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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

Galliard in A minor

Robert Lau

¹The 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.

²It 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.

