



# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Celebrating 91 Years in Forest Hills**

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The Reverend Ronald Breight	Pastor
Vincent Mroz	Vicar
Douglas Skalka	Organist
Cal Eggers	Worship Assistant
Gloria Stern	Lector
Conner Schriver	Acolyte

Missionaries: 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 Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

### 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

Fanfare and Processional

Kenneth T. Kosche

### RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN (*please rise and sing*)

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Hymnal p. 807

When morning gilds the skies, My heart, awaking, cries,  
“May Jesus Christ be praised!” When evening shadows fall,  
This rings my curfew call: “May Jesus Christ be praised!”

When mirth for music longs, This is my song of songs:  
“May Jesus Christ be praised!” God’s holy house of prayer  
Hath none that can compare With “Jesus Christ be praised!”

No lovelier antiphon In all high heav’n is known  
Than “Jesus Christ be praised!” There to th’eternal Word  
Th’eternal psalm is heard: “May Jesus Christ be praised!”

Ye nations of mankind, In this your concord find:  
“May Jesus Christ be praised!” Let all the earth around  
Ring joyous with the sound: “May Jesus Christ be praised!”

Sing, suns and stars of space, Sing, ye that see His face,  
Sing, “Jesus Christ be praised!” God’s whole creation o’er,  
Both now and evermore Shall Jesus Christ be praised!

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.**

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, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; 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**

Acts 8:26–40

L: The first reading for the Fifth Sunday of Easter is from chapter eight of Acts.

*Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.*

*Following the reading...*

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALMODY**

**PSALM 150**

L: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord!

**C: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord!**

L: Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary;  
Praise Him in His mighty heavens!  
Praise Him for His mighty deeds;  
Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!

**C: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord!**

L: Praise Him with trumpet sounds;  
Praise Him with lute and harp!  
Praise Him with tambourine and dance;  
Praise Him with strings and pipe!

**C: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord!**

Praise Him with sounding cymbals;  
Praise Him with loud clashing cymbals!  
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

**C: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!**

**Praise the Lord!**

**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**

1 John 4:1–11

L: The second reading is from chapter four of 1 John.

*John teaches us about error and truth.*

*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 15:1–8

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

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

*Jesus is the vine. We are His branches.*

*Following the reading...*

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**THE APOSTLES' CREED<sup>2</sup>**

**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

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen

Hymnal p. 474

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! Trumpets resounding in glorious light! Splendor,  
the Lamb, Heavens forever! Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

*Refrain:* Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Walking the way, Christ in the center Telling the story to open our eyes;

Breaking our bread, Giving us glory:

Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise. *Refrain:*

Jesus the vine, We are the branches; Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;

Heaven to earth, Christ to the people,

Gift of the future now flowing to me. *Refrain:*

Weeping, be gone; Sorrow, be silent: Death put asunder, and Easter is  
bright. Cherubim sing: "O grave, be open!"

Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light. *Refrain:*

City of God, Easter forever, Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb, River of  
life, Saints and archangels,

Sing with creation to God the I AM! *Refrain:*

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## SERMON<sup>3</sup>

## OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

## VOLUNTARY

Melody

A. F. Schultz



**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.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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 GENERAL THANKSGIVING**

P: Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we Your unworthy servants give  
You humble thanks for all Your goodness and loving-kindness to us and  
to all whom You have made. We bless You for our creation,  
preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for Your  
immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus  
Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray,  
give us such an awareness of Your mercies, that with truly thankful  
hearts we may show forth Your praise, not only with our lips, but in our  
lives, by giving up ourselves to Your service, and by walking before You

in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages.

**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 on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with His favor and (+) give you His peace.

**C: (sung) Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

**Lift High the Cross**

Hymnal p.837

***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

God Himself Is With Us

Robert J. Powell

<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.*