

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating 90 Years in Forest Hills

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The Reverend Ronald Breight	Pastor
Vincent Mroz	Vicar
Douglas Skalka	Organist
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Tammy Donaldson	Lector
Ryder Giovanetti	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 Third Sunday of Easter

April 14, 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

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

Anthony Giamanco

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN *(please rise and sing)*

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Hymnal p. 791

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, His praise forthtell;
Come ye before Him and rejoice.
Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid He did us make.
We are His folk, He doth us feed,
And for His sheep He doth us take.
O enter then His gates with praise;
Approach with joy His courts unto.
Praise, laud, and bless His name always,
For it is seemly so to do.
For why? The Lord our God is good:
His mercy is forever sure.
His truth at all times firmly stood
And shall from age to age endure.
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heav'n and earth adore,
From us and from the angel host
Be praise and glory evermore.

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: 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: Let us pray.

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING

Acts 3:11–21

L: The first reading for the Third Sunday of Easter is from chapter three of Acts.

Peter preaches in the heart of Jerusalem.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 4

L: You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.

**C: You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.**

L: Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

**C: You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.**

L: O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?
How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?
There are many who say, "Who will show us some good?"

Lift up the light of Your face upon us, O Lord!"

**C: You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.**

L: But know that the Lord has set apart the godly for Himself,
the Lord hears when I call to Him.

In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

**C: You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.**

**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 3:1–7

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

The Lord has made us His children.

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

Luke 24:36–49

P: The Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke, chapter twenty-four.

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

The disciples are witnesses to us of the risen Lord.

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* 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

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

Hymnal p. 464

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

The strife is o'er, the battle done;
Now is the victor's triumph won;
Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia!

The pow'rs of death have done their worst,
But Christ their legions hath dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

The three sad days have quickly sped,
He rises glorious from the dead.
All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!

He broke the agebound chains of hell;
The bars from heav'n's high portals fell.
Let hymns of praise His triumph tell. Alleluia!

Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee,
From death's dread sting Thy servants free
That we may live and sing to Thee. Alleluia! (*Refrain:*)

SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

Christ Is Alive

Edwin T. Childs

OFFERING SONG(*please rise and sing*)

Hymnal p.192

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

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Hymnal p. 461

**I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives my everliving head!
He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives exalted, throned above;
He lives to rule His Church in love.
He lives to bless me with His love;
He lives to plead for me above;
He lives my hungry soul to feed;
He lives to help in time of need.
He lives to grant me rich supply;**

He lives to guide me with His eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint;
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.

He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
He lives and loves me in the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

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

Voluntary on "Victory"

Robert Lind

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.