

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating 91 Years in Forest Hills

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christlutheranfh.org

The Reverend Ronald Breight

Pastor

Vincent Mroz

Vicar

Douglas Skalka

Organist

Richard Mueller

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 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Good Shepherd Sunday

April 21, 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

Brother James Air

Choir

The Lord's my Shepherd I'll not want, He makes me down to lie.

In Pastures green; He leadeth me the quiet waters by.
He leadeth me, He leadeth me, the quiet waters by.
My soul He doth restore again;

And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
Ee'n for His own Name's sake.
Within the paths of righteousness,
Ee'n for His own Name's sake.

Yea, though I pass through shadows death,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me; and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.
Thy rod and staff they comfort still
They comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnishd
In presence of my foes;
My head with oil thou dost anoint,
And my cup overflows.
My head thou dost with oil anoint,

And my cup overflows.
Goodness and mercy all my days
Will surely follow me;
And in my father's heart always
My dwelling place shall be.

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing

Hymnal p. 475

**Good Christian friends rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Praise we in song of victory.
That love, that life which cannot die,
And sing with hearts up-lifted high:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
And sing today with one accord
The life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

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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: Let us pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, You have brought us together into Your presence to offer You our prayers and praise, hear Your holy word, and partake of the blessed sacrament of Holy Communion. 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.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

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.

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.

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that when we hear the voice of our Shepherd we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same 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 4:1–12

L: The first reading for the Fourth Sunday of Easter is from chapter four of Acts.

Peter and John are brought before the Jerusalem Council.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

Hymnal p. 710

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.

**He makes me down to lie
in pastures green; He leadeth me
the quiet waters by.**

**My soul He doth restore again;
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for His own Name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for Thou art with me; and Thy rod
and staff me comfort still.**

**My table Thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head Thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.**

**Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me;
and in God's house forevermore
my dwelling place shall be.**

SECOND READING

1 John 3:16–24

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

Followers of Christ are called to love in deed and in truth.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE (*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 10:11–18

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

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

Jesus prays for and about His disciples.

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I

acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Hymnal p. 709

The King of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His
and He is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow,
My ransomed soul He leadeth
And, where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid
And home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever!

SERMON

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

Voluntary on "Christ lag in Todesbanden"

David Lasky

VERSE (please rise and sing)

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.

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.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: *(sung)* **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

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

C: *(sung)* Amen.

AGNUS DEI

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

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. 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

Awake, My Heart with Gladness

Hymnal p. 467

Awake, my heart, with gladness, See what today is done;
Now, after gloom and sadness, Comes forth the glorious sun.
My Savior there was laid Where our bed must be made
When to the realms of light Our spirit wings its flight.

The foe in triumph shouted When Christ lay in the tomb;
But lo, he now is routed, His boast is turned to gloom.

For Christ again is free; In glorious victory
He who is strong to save Has triumphed o'er the grave.

This is a sight that gladdens What peace it doth impart!
Now nothing ever saddens The joy within my heart.

No gloom shall ever shake, No foe shall ever take
The hope which God's own Son in love for me has won.

Now hell, its prince, the devil, Of all their pow'r are shorn;
Now I am safe from evil, And sin I laugh to scorn.

Grim death with all its might Cannot my soul affright;
It is a pow'rless form, Howe'er it rave and storm.

The world against me rages, Its fury I disdain;
Though bitter war it wages, Its work is all in vain.
My heart from care is free, No trouble troubles me.
Misfortune now is play, And night is bright as day.

Now I will cling forever To Christ, my Savior true;
My Lord will leave me never, Whate'er He passes through.
He rends death's iron chain; He breaks through sin and pain;
He shatters hell's grim thrall; I follow him through all.

He brings me to the portal That leads to bliss untold,
Whereon this rhyme immortal Is found in script of gold:
"Who there My cross has shared Finds here a crown prepared;
Who there with me has died Shall here be glorified."

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The Lord Bless You and Keep You

arr. Peter C. Lutkin

Choir

The Lord bless you and keep you:

The Lord make His face to shine upon you,

To shine upon you and be gracious, and be gracious unto you

The Lord bless you and keep you:

The Lord make His face to shine upon you,

To shine upon you and be gracious, and be gracious unto you

The Lord lift up the light Of His countenance upon you,

The Lord lift up the light Of His countenance upon you,

And give you peace, And give you peace, And give you peace,

And give you peace Amen Amen Amen Amen Amen.

VOLUNTARY

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Robert Lau

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ry-one what He has done.

Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.

**He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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: *(sung)* **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 favor and (†) give you peace.

C: (*sung*) **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Hymnal p. 711

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; Much we need Your tender care.

In Your pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Your fold prepare.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.

**We are Yours; in love befriend us, Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray.**

Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus Hear us children when we pray.

**You have promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.**

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You.

Early let us seek Your favor, Early let us do Your will

Blessed Lord and only Savior, With Your love our spirits fill.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.

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

Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us

Marianne Kim

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.