

Christ Lutheran Church

23425 Davis Mill Road
Germantown, Maryland 20876

A Congregation of the American Association of Lutheran Churches



Our Mission Statement

We strive to be worthy witnesses to the world.

**At Christ Lutheran, we strive to lead lives worthy of our calling as witnesses to the Good News of Jesus Christ in God's world.
(Ephesians 4:1)**

Web Site: christlutheranofgermantown.org

Facebook: Christ Lutheran Church AALC

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Church Secretary: Carrie Shriver Perini
Mobile phone: 240 397-3498
Email: perinicarrie@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus: Irvin Stapf
Pastor: Vacant
Vicar: Chris Clarke
Liturgist: Bob Petersen



Third Sunday of Easter

May 4, 2025

During the music before the service let us join in a time of prayer and meditation as we prepare our hearts for worship.

*Please stand as you are able where marked****

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude

*****The Confession and Absolution**

Vicar: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Vicar: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(A time of silent reflection and self-examination.)

Vicar: Most merciful God.

People: We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen

Vicar: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, He gives the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God

*****Opening Hymn:**

Good Christian Men, Rejoice and Sing

Hymn #109

Good Christian men, rejoice and sing!

Now is the triumph of our King!

To all the world glad news we bring;

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord of Life is risen for aye;

Bring flowers of song to strew his way;

Let all mankind rejoice and say:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory

That love, that life which cannot die,

And sing with hearts uplifted high:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thy Name we bless, O risen Lord,

And sing today with one accord

The life laid down, the life restored:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

****Psalm: Psalm 30 (read responsively)*

Liturgist: ¹ I will exalt you, O Lord,

People: for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me.

Liturgist: ² O Lord my God, I called to you for help

People: and you healed me.

Liturgist: ³ O Lord, you brought me up from the grave;

People: you spared me from going down into the pit.

Liturgist: ⁴ Sing to the Lord, you saints of his;

People: praise his holy name.

Liturgist: ⁵ For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime;

People: weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

Liturgist: ⁶ When I felt secure, I said,

People: “I will never be shaken.”

Liturgist: ⁷ O Lord, when you favored me, you made my mountain stand firm;

People: but when you hid your face, I was dismayed.

Liturgist: ⁸ To you, O Lord, I called;

People: to the Lord I cried for mercy:

Liturgist: ⁹ “What gain is there in my destruction, in my going down into the pit?

People: Will the dust praise you? Will it proclaim your faithfulness?

Liturgist: ¹⁰ Hear, O Lord, and be merciful to me;

People: O Lord, be my help.”

Liturgist: ¹¹ You turned my wailing into dancing;

People: you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

Liturgist: ¹² that my heart may sing to you and not be silent.

People: O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.

****The Gloria Patri: (sung)* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

****The Kyrie: (responses are sung)*

Liturgist: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Liturgist: Christ, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Liturgist: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Liturgist: Glory be to God on high!

****Gloria in Excelsis: (sung)* And on earth peace, goodwill toward men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*****Collect:**

Liturgist: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Liturgist: Let us pray.

People: Almighty God, who showest to them that be in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness: Grant unto all them that are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion that they may eschew those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

The Scripture Lessons:

First Reading: Acts 9:1-22

¹ Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

⁵ "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶ "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

⁷ The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

¹⁰ In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

¹¹ The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

¹³ "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. ²⁰ At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. ²¹ All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" ²² Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson: Revelation 5:8-14

⁸ And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

¹¹ Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹² In a loud voice they were saying:

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

¹⁴ The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

The Alleluia: (sung) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Vicar: Lift up your hearts and hear the Holy Gospel as it is recorded in the twenty-first chapter of Saint John, beginning with the first verse.

*****People (sung)** Glory be to thee, O Lord

Gospel Lesson: John 21:1-14

¹ Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: ² Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³ "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. ⁵ He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No," they answered.

⁶ He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸ The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. ⁹ When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Vicar: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

*****People: (sung)** Praise be to thee, O Christ



Pulpit Hymn:

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Hymn #493

There's a wideness in God's mercy, Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in his justice, Which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows Are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings Have such kindly judgment given.

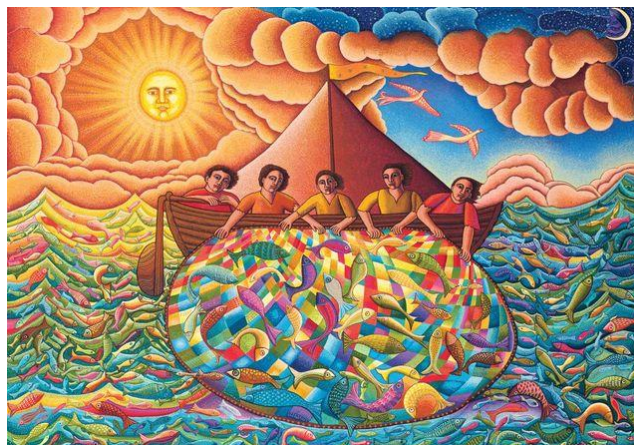
There is welcome for the sinner, And more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Saviour; There is healing in his Blood.
There is grace enough for thousands Of new worlds as great as this;
There is room for fresh creations In that upper home of bliss.

For the love of God is broader Than the measures of man's mind,
And the heart of the Eternal Is most wonderfully kind.
There is plentiful redemption In the Blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members In the sorrows of the Head.

'Tis not all we owe to Jesus; It is something more than all;
Greater good because of evil, Larger mercy through the fall.
If our love were but more simple, We should take him at his word;
And our lives would be all sunshine In the sweetness of our Lord.

Sermon:

Vicar Chris Clarke



The Sermon Response: (sung) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right Spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation and uphold me with thy free spirit.

******Passing of the Peace***

******The Apostles' Creed:***

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, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick 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 General Prayer: (after each petition)***

Vicar: Lord in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

******The 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, For ever and ever. Amen.

******The Prayer Response: (sung)***

Hear our prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer, O Lord. Incline thine ear to us and grant us thy peace. Amen.

******The Benediction:***

Vicar: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: (sung) A-men, A-men, A----men.

******Closing Hymn:***

Just As I Am

Hymn #370

Just as I am, without one plea, But that thy Blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To thee, whose Blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in thee to find, O Lamb of God I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God I come, I come.

Just as I am; thy love unknown Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be thine, yea thine alone, O Lamb of God I come, I come.

******The Postlude***

Prayers and Praises:

For our church leaders:

Presiding Pastor: Rev. Dr. Carey G. Larson
Assistant Presiding Pastor: Rev. Roger Twito
AALC Administrator: Rev. Dean Stoner
Secretary Pastor: Rev. Joe Marsh
Home Mission Developer: Rev. Joe Christina
National Office Manager: Bonnie Ohlrich
Seminary President: Rev. Dr. Jordan Cooper
Seminary Administrator: Duane Kleven

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|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Robin Nicholson | Hope Johnston | Dorothy Foster | Matt Ruppalt |
| Rebecca Robinson | Bill Trall | Harvey Jester | Justin Serene |
| Fred Carlson | Bob Petersen | Norita Shipley | Sue Clarke |
| Cam Swanson | Debbie Stapf | Chris German | Danny Beall |
| Ben Flynn | Audrey Stapf | Pastor Irvin Stapf | Paul Beall |
| Nick Wrenn | Terri & Mike Taylor | Emily Desantolo | |

For those that have suffered loss, due to hurricanes, fires, and other natural disasters

For the President and the leaders of our nation

For those in the armed Services: Grace Gorevin, Zach Gorevin, Christopher Clarke,
Bethany Hueter, Cameron Donk, Ethan Stone, Wendy Ahern, Kris Johnson

For our Seminary Students: Chris Clarke, Kris Johnson

For a Region congregation: Pastor Raymond Lorthioir, Jr., Trinity Lutheran Church, West Hamsptead, NY

For our missionary work: Pastor Scott Yount

For those being persecuted for their faith in Christ

For the congregations of our Germantown/Clarksburg/Damascus community: Neelsville Presbyterian Church

For the congregations of the American Association of Lutheran Churches

For our college students: Maddie Day, Joseph Flesch, Jude Stapf, Paul Stapf

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Men's Bible Study: Tuesday: 1:30 PM at Joe's home.**
- **Women's Bible Study: Wednesday: 10 AM at Carolyn's home.**
- **Adult Sunday School: 9:30 AM**
- **Children's Sunday School: 9:30 AM**
- **You may continue to watch the Sunday services (10:30 AM) via Livestream on Facebook – Christ Lutheran Church AALC. The Bulletins for the services are on our website: christlutheranofgermantown.org. The video of every livestream is on our Facebook page. You can access the livestream by clicking the link at the bottom of the first page of our website or by visiting the Facebook page directly. Be sure to click on the 'videos' tab.**
- **We are collecting food items for Damascus HELP for one more week.** Please place all food and pantry goods by the water fountain. There is a list of items needed in the lobby.
- **Be kind!!!**