

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: clcmd.org or christlutheranofgermantown.org

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



Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

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*

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: 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.)

Pastor: 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

Pastor: 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 declare unto you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God.

****Opening Hymn:*

What Wondrous Love Is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down Beneath God's righteous frown,

Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,

Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I am,

While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,

While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing his love for me,

And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on;

And through eternity I'll sing on.

*****Psalm: Psalm 130 (read responsively)**

Liturgist: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;

People: O Lord, hear my voice.

Liturgist: Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

People: If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

Liturgist: O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with you there is forgiveness;

Liturgist: therefore you are feared.

People: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

Liturgist: and in his word I put my hope.

People: My soul waits for the Lord

Liturgist: more than watchman wait for the morning.

People: more than watchman wait for the morning.

Liturgist: O Israel, put your hope in the Lord,

People: for with the Lord is unfailing love

Liturgist: and with him is full redemption.

People: He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

*****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: We beseech thee, Almighty God, mercifully to look upon thy people, that by thy great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore, both in body and soul; 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: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ² And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³ And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹ Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson: Romans 8:1-11

¹ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*****The Lenten Sentence: (sung)** *Christ hath humbled himself, and become obedient unto death: even the death of the Cross.*

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

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

Gospel Lesson: John 11:1-53

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent to him, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴ But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸ The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹ Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰ But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.” ¹¹ After saying these things, he said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.” ¹² The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.” ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶ So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

²⁸ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹ And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved^[e] in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴ And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”



³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, ⁴⁶ but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷ So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸ If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." ⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰ Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." ⁵¹ He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵² and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³ So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

Vicar: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

Children's Sermon:

Vicar Chris Clarke



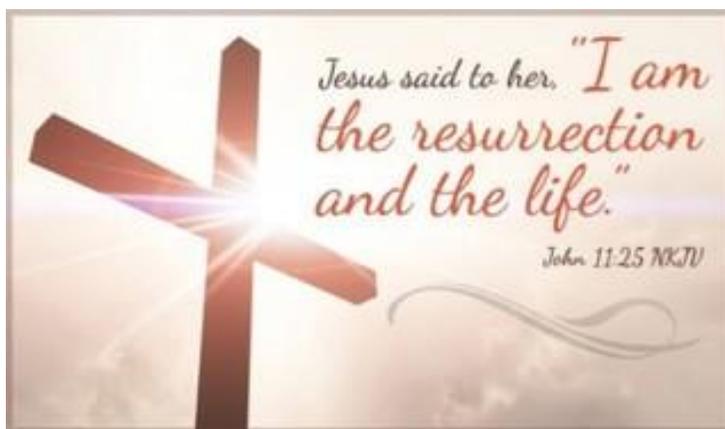
*Out of my bondage, sorrow and night, Jesus I come, Jesus I come;
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light, Jesus, I come to Thee;
Out of my sickness into Thy health, Out of my want and into Thy wealth;
Out of my sin and into Thyself, Jesus, I come to Thee.*

*Out of my shameful failure and loss, Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross, Jesus, I come to Thee;
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm, Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress to jubilant psalm, Jesus, I come to Thee.*

*Out of unrest and arrogant pride, Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;
Into Thy blessed will to abide, Jesus, I come to Thee;
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love, Out of despair into raptures above,
Upward for aye on wings like a dove, Jesus, I come to Thee.*

*Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;
Into the joy and light of Thy home, Jesus, I come to Thee;
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love, Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold, Jesus, I come to Thee.*

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:**

The Old Rugged Cross

P&P #12

*On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suf'ring and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain. (Chorus)*

***So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,...
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,...
And exchange it some day for a crown.***

*Oh, the old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary. (Chorus)*

*In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me. (Chorus)*

*To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share. (Chorus)*

*****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

Robin Nicholson	Hope Johnston	Dorothy Foster	Brian Gray
Rebecca Robinson	Bill Trall	Harvey Jester	Justin Serene
Fred Carlson	Bob Petersen	Norita Shipley	Debbie Stapf
Ben Flynn	Meryl Benenati	Rodney Perini	Mary Neighly
Ana Soulen	The Reverend Joe Christina		

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 Chuck Sandison, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Chesterfield, MI

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: First Baptist Church of Damascus

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: Monday – 11AM at Joe Flesch's home.**
- **Women's Bible Study: Wednesday – 10 AM at Church.**
- **Adult Sunday School and Children's Sunday School at 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: clcmd.org or 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 will be collecting canned fruits and vegetables for Damascus HELP during the month of March. There is a collection bin in the Narthex.**

WORD SEARCH



- MARY
- MARTHA
- LAZARUS
- JESUS
- BETHANY
- LIFE
- RESURRECTION
- WEPT
- LOVED
- GRAVE

