

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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Church Secretary: Carrie Shriver Perini
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Pastor Emeritus: Irvin Stapf
Pastor: Vacant
Vicar: Chris Clarke
Liturgist: Bob Petersen



The Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 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:*

Christ Arose

P&P #173

*Low in the grave He lay—Jesus my Saviour!
Waiting the coming day—Jesus my Lord! (Chorus)*

*Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

*Vainly they watch His bed—Jesus my Saviour!
Vainly they seal the dead—Jesus my Lord! (Chorus)*

*Death cannot keep his prey—Jesus my Saviour!
He tore the bars away—Jesus my Lord! (Chorus)*

*****Psalm: Psalm 148 (read responsively)**

Liturgist: ¹ Praise the Lord.

People: Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise him in the heights above.

Liturgist: ² Praise him, all his angels,

People: praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Liturgist: ³ Praise him, sun and moon,

People: praise him, all you shining stars.

Liturgist: ⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens

People: and you waters above the skies.

Liturgist: ⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord,

People: for he commanded and they were created.

Liturgist: ⁶ He set them in place for ever and ever;

People: he gave a decree that will never pass away.

Liturgist: ⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,

People: you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

Liturgist: ⁸ lightening and hail, snow and clouds,

People: stormy winds that do his bidding,

Liturgist: ⁹ you mountains and all hills,

People: fruit trees and all cedars,

Liturgist: ¹⁰ wild animals and all cattle,

People: small creatures and flying birds,

Liturgist: ¹¹ kings of the earth and all nations,

People: you princes and all rulers on earth,

Liturgist: ¹² young men and maidens,

People: old men and children.

Liturgist: ¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;

People: his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

Liturgist: ¹⁴ He has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his saints, of Israel, the people close to his heart.

People: Praise the Lord.

*****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: God, who, by the humiliation of thy Son, didst raise up the fallen world: Grant unto thy faithful ones perpetual gladness, and those whom thou hast delivered from the danger of everlasting death, do thou make partakers of eternal joys; through the same, 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 5:29-42

²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

³³ When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴ But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵ And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶ For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷ After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸ So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹ but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, ⁴⁰ and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 1:3-9

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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

Liturgist:: Lift up your hearts and hear the Holy Gospel as it is recorded in the twentieth chapter of Saint John beginning with the nineteenth verse.

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

Gospel Lesson: John 20:19-31

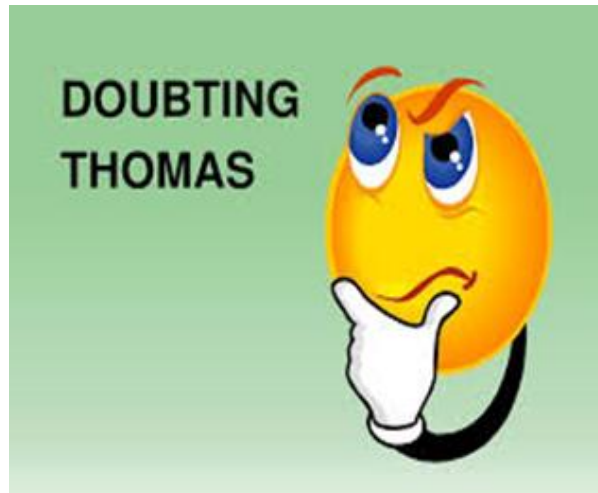
¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Liturgist: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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



Pulpit Hymn:

Alleluia! Jesus Lives!

Hymnal #100

*Alleluia! Jesus lives! Won the battle glorious!
From the gloomy vault of death He hath come victorious,
Leading to their heavenly home Countless multitudes to come.*

*Alleluia! Oh my soul, Life eternal waits for thee;
Saved by him, the Living One, Where he is, thou too shalt be,
Safe within the promised land, With the Lord at God's right hand.*

*Alleluia! heavenly choirs Joyfully their voices raise!
Let us mortals here below Blend with theirs our songs of praise.
Glory to the eternal Son! Glory to the Risen One!*

Sermon:

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

Joe Flesch



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:**

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

*Christ is risen! Alleluia! Risen our victorious head!
Sing his praises! Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead!
Gratefully our hearts adore him As his light once more appears;
Bowing down in joy before him, Rising up from griefs and tears. (Chorus)*

***Christ is risen! Alleluia! Risen our victorious head!
Sing him praises! Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead!***

*Christ is risen! Alleluia! All the sadness Of our Lenten fast is o'er;
Through the open gates of gladness He returns to life once more;
Death and hell before him bending See him rise, the victor now,
Angels on his steps attending, Glory round his wounded brow. (Chorus)*

*Christ is risen! Alleluia! All the sorrow That last evening round him lay
Now has found a glorious morrow In the rising of today.
See the grave its first-fruits giving, Springing up from holy ground;
He was dead, but now is living; He was lost, but he is found. (Chorus)*

*Christ is risen! Hence-forth never Death or hell shall us enthrall;
Be we Christ's, in him forever We have triumphed over all.
See the grave its first-fruits giving, Springing up from holy ground;
Hail the day of resurrection! Et us rise and keep the feast. (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, Ethan Stone, Wendy Ahern, Kris Johnson

For our Seminary Students: Chris Clarke, Kris Johnson

For a Region congregation: Pastor Nigel Brown, Hope Lutheran Church, Hampton, VA

For our missionary work: Care Net Frederick

For those being persecuted for their faith in Christ

For the congregations of our Germantown/Clarksburg/Damascus community: Iglesia Bautisia International 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: 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 rice and canned beans for Damascus HELP during the month of April. There is a collection bin in the Narthex.**