

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

Facebook: Christ Lutheran Church AALC

Email: clcedargrove@outlook.com

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



The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 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:*

How Great Thou Art

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r through-out the universe displayed; (Chorus)*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art! (X2)*

*When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; (Chorus)*

*But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin; (Chorus)*

*When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" (Chorus)*

*****Psalm: Psalm 66:8-20 (read responsively)**

Liturgist: ⁸ Praise our God, O peoples,

People: let the sound of his praise be heard;

Liturgist: ⁹ he has preserved our lives

People: and kept our feet from slipping.

Liturgist: ¹⁰ For you, O God, tested us;

People: you refined us like silver.

Liturgist: ¹¹ You brought us into prison

People: and laid burdens on our backs.

Liturgist: ¹² You let men ride over our heads;

People: we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance.

Liturgist: ¹³ I will come to your temple with burnt offerings

People: and fulfill my vows to you—

Liturgist: ¹⁴ vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke

People: when I was in trouble.

Liturgist: ¹⁵ I will sacrifice fat animals to you and an offering of rams;

People: I will offer bulls and goats.

Liturgist: ¹⁶ Come and listen, all you who fear God;

People: let me tell you what he has done for me.

Liturgist: ¹⁷ I cried out to him with my mouth;

People: his praise was on my tongue.

Liturgist: ¹⁸ I had cherished sin in my heart,

People: the Lord would not have listened;

Liturgist: ¹⁹ but God has surely listened

People: and heard my voice in prayer.

Liturgist: ²⁰ Praise be to God,

People: who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!

*****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 and most merciful God, our heavenly Father, of whose compassion there is no end; who art long-suffering, gracious, and plenteous in goodness and truth; forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin: We have sinned and done perversely, we have sinned and grievously offended thee; against thee, thee only, have we sinned and done evil in thy sight; but we beseech thee, O Lord, remember not against us former iniquities; let thy tender mercies speedily prevent us, for we are brought very low; help us, O God of our salvation, and purge away our sins, for the glory of thy holy Name, and for the sake of thy dear Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour, who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

The Scripture Lessons:

First Reading: Acts 17:16-31

¹⁶Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbling wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸for

“‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “‘For we are indeed his offspring.’”

²⁹Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

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 fourteenth chapter of Saint John beginning with the first verse.

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

Gospel Lesson: John 14:15-21

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

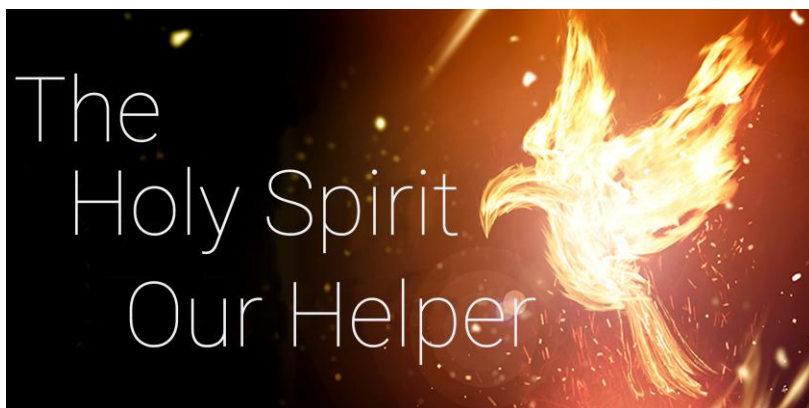
¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

Liturgist: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

Children's Sermon:

Vicar Chris Clarke



*Jesus, Saviour, pilot me Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll, Hiding rock and treacherous shoal;
Chart and compass come from thee, Jesus, Saviour, pilot me.*

*As a mother stills her child, Thou canst hush the ocean wild;
Boisterous waves obey thy will When thou sayest to them, 'Be still.'
Wondrous Sovereign of the sea, Jesus, Saviour, pilot me.*

*When at last I near the shore, And the fearful breakers roar
'Twi'x't me and the peaceful rest, Then, while leaning on thy breast,
May I hear thee say to me, 'Fear not, I will pilot 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:**

Because He Lives

God sent His Son They called Him Jesus; He came to love, heal and forgive.

He bled and died to buy my pardon; An empty grave is there to prove my Saviour lives. (Chorus)

Because He lives I can face tomorrow; Because He lives, all fear is gone.

Because I know He holds the future; and life is worth the living just because He lives.

How sweet to hold our newborn baby, and feel the pride and joy he gives;

But greater still the calm assurance: This child can face uncertain days because Christ lives. (Chorus)

And then one day I'll cross that river; I'll fight life's final war with pain.

And then as death gives way to vict'ry, I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns. (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	Norita Shipley	Debbie Stapf	Carrie Perini
Ben Flynn	Meryl Benenati	Rodney Perini (hip)	Mary Neighly
Rev. Joe Christina	Carolyn Shriver	The family of Bob Petersen	

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: Peace Lutheran Church, Defiance, OH

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: Clarksburg 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: Cancelled this week.**
- **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 are collecting peanut butter (medium jars) and jelly for Damascus HELP during the month of May. There is a collection bin in the Narthex.**
- **We are asking members if they would like to make a donation to support the purchase of a used handicapped van for Debbie Stapf. Her Parkinson's Disease has progressed, and she can no longer travel in a conventional vehicle. Should you choose to make a donation, please write a check to Christ Lutheran – Please note on MEMO line "for Debbie Stapf". We will mail her a check (from the Church) the week of May 17th. Your donation will be noted on your annual statement. Thank you!**
- **Please review the Church Directory and provide any changes to Jeane by May 17th.**
- **We wish all Mothers a very Blessed Mother's Day!**

