

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

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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
FIFTH
SUNDAY
OF
EASTER**

Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024

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 forgive you 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:**

Good Christian Men

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

*****Psalm: Psalm 150 (read responsively)**

Liturgist: Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary;

People: praise him in his mighty heavens!

Liturgist: Praise him for his mighty deeds;

People: praise him according to his excellent greatness!

Liturgist: Praise him with trumpet sound;

People: praise him with lute and harp!

Liturgist: Praise him with tambourine and dance;

People: praise him with strings and pipe!

Liturgist: Praise him with sounding cymbals;

People: praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

Liturgist: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

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: O God, from whom all good things do come: Grant to us thy humble servants, that by thy holy inspiration we may think those things that be right, and by thy merciful guiding may perform the same; through thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Scripture Lessons:

First Lesson: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Get ready and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert *road*.) ²⁷ So he got ready and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go up and join this chariot.” ³⁰ Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ And he said, “Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this:

“HE WAS LED LIKE A SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER;
AND LIKE A LAMB THAT IS SILENT BEFORE ITS SHEARER,
SO HE DOES NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH.

³³ IN HUMILIATION HIS JUSTICE WAS TAKEN AWAY;
WHO WILL DESCRIBE HIS GENERATION?
FOR HIS LIFE IS TAKEN AWAY FROM THE EARTH.”

³⁴ The eunuch answered Philip and said, “Please *tell me*, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself, or of someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. ³⁶ As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?” ³⁸ And he ordered that the chariot stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities, until he came to Caesarea.

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson: 1 John 4:1-21

¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ² By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; ³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming, and now it is already in the world. ⁴ You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are from the world, therefore they speak *as* from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶ We are from God. The one who knows God listens to us; the one who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

⁷ Beloved, let’s love one another; for love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ By this the love of God was revealed in us, that God has sent His only Son into the world so that we may live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God remains in us, and His love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we remain in Him and He in us, because He has given to us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world.

¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him. ¹⁷ By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, we also are in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love, because He first loved us. ²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," and yet he hates his brother *or sister*, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother *and sister* whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God must also love his brother *and sister*.

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

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

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

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

Gospel Lesson: John 15:1-8

¹ "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself but must remain in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you remain in Me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches; the one who remains in Me, and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not remain in Me, he is thrown away like a branch and dries up; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you remain in Me, and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and *so* prove to be My disciples.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

Children's Sermon:

Vicar Chris Clarke



Pulpit Hymn:

They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

We are on in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are on in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored. (*Chorus*)

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. (*Chorus*)

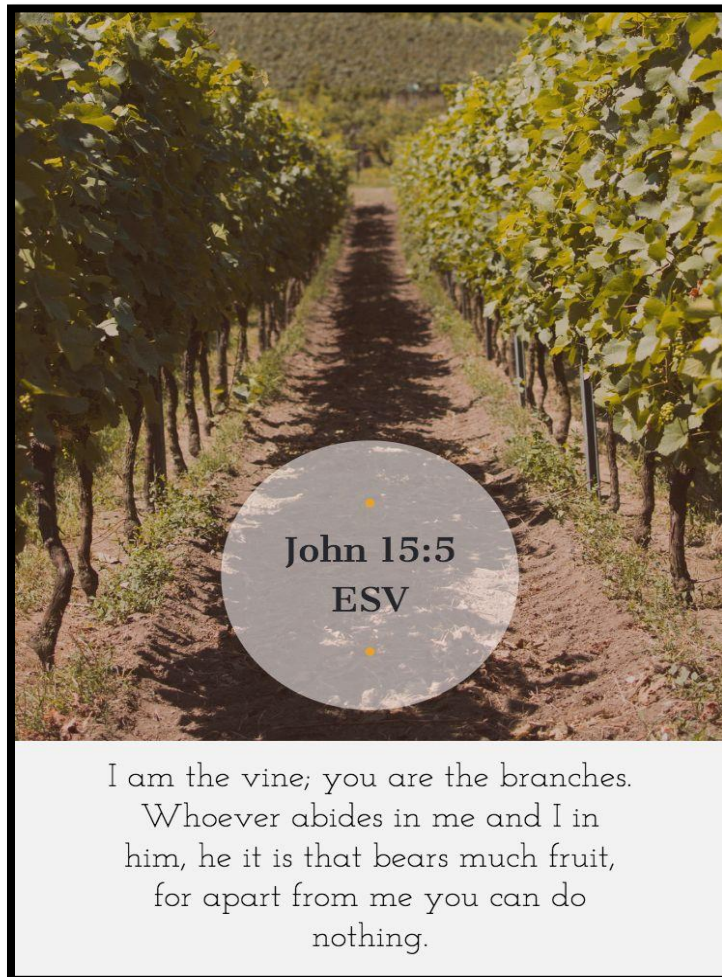
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We'll respect people's dignity and in love abide. (*Chorus*)

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one. (*Chorus*)

Sermon

Jesus is the Vine

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)***

Presenter: Lord in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

******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 Preface: (responses are sung)***

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

People: It is meet and right so to do.

******Proper Preface:***

Pastor: It is truly meet, right, and salutary, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God: And now do we praise thee, that thou didst send unto us thine only-begotten Son, and that in him, being found in fashion as a man, thou didst reveal the fullness of thy glory. Therefore with Angels, and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying:

******The Sanctus: (sung)***

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of thy glory; Hosanna in the highest. Blesséd is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

******The Consecration:***

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you; this do in remembrance of me."

After the same manner also, he took the cup, when he had supped and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; this do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."

*****The Eucharistic Prayer:**

Pastor: Remembering, therefore, his salutary precept, his life-giving Passion and Death, his glorious Resurrection and Ascension and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to thee, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought, but as we are able; and we beseech thee mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving, and with thy Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, thy servants, and these thine own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who partake thereof may be filled with heavenly benediction and grace, and, receiving the remission of sins, be sanctified in soul and body, and have our portion with all thy saints. And unto thee, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in thy holy Church, now and forever. Amen.

*****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 Agnus Dei: (sung)**

O Christ, thou Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, thou Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, thou Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace. Amen.

The Communion (If you are baptized, believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, have honestly confessed your sins, and believe that under the bread and wine Christ gives us his true body and blood, you are welcome to come to communion.)

*****Post Communion Blessing:**

Pastor: The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ and His precious Blood strengthen and preserve you unto eternal life.
People: *Nunc Dimittis* (Simeon's Prayer): (sung) Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou has prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. 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.

Pastor: O give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

People: (sung) And His mercy endureth forever.

*****Closing Prayer: (responses are sung)**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to thee, Almighty God, that thou hast refreshed us with this thy salutary gift; and we beseech thee, of thy mercy, to strengthen us through the same gift, in faith toward thee and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, thy dear Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The Peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Pastor: Bless we the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*****The Benediction:**

Pastor: 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) The threefold Amen

A-men, A-men, A----men.

Built on a rock the church doth stand, Even when steeples are falling;
Crumbled have spires in every land, Bells still are chiming and calling;
Calling the young and old to rest, Calling the souls of men distressed,
Longing for life everlasting.

Not in our temples made with hands God, the almighty is dwelling;
High in the heavens his temple stands, All earthly temples excelling;
Yet he who dwells in heaven above Deigns to abide with us in love,
Making our bodies his temple.

We are God's house of living stones, Built for his own habitation;
He fills our hearts, his humble thrones, Granting us life and salvation;
Were two or three to seek his face, He in their midst would show his grace,
Blessings upon them bestowing.

Yet in this house, an earthly frame, Jesus the children is blessing;
Hither we come to praise his Name, Faith in our Saviour confessing;
Jesus to us his Spirit sent, Making with us his covenant,
Granting his children the kingdom.

Through all the passing years, O Lord, Grant that, when church bells are ringing,
Many may come to hear God's word Where he this promise is bringing:
I know mine own, mine own know me, Ye, not the world, my face shall see;
My peace I leave with you, amen.

Prayers and Praises:

For our church leaders:

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

Robin Nicholson	Hope Johnston	Sharon Phelps	Chris and Bob Bingaman
Jimmy Beall	Dorothy Foster	Becky Stapf	Matt Ruppalt
Rebecca Robinson	Bill Trall	Harvey Jester	Justin Serene
Fred Carlson	Bob Petersen	Meryl Benenati	Norita Shipley
Eddie Neighbors	Kris Johnson	Carrie Perini	Marty Beall
Brian Stitely	The Rev. Fred Balke	Diamond Castillo	Scott Caille
Cam Swanson	Bob Clarke	Derek Clay	Bob Pickett

For the President and the leaders of our nation

For those in the armed Services: Grace Gorevin, Zach Gorevin, Christopher Clarke, Travis Hawk, Bethany Hueter, Chaplain John Reutemann, Chaplain Len Brokenshire, Cameron Donk, Ethan Stone, Rebecca Deppe, Wendy Ahern, Kris Johnson

For our Seminary Students: Chris Clarke, Kris Johnson

For a Region congregation: Reverend Dr. Jordan Cooper, Just & Sunner Publications/Weidner Institute

For our missionary work: Great Commission Families (Beall)

For those being persecuted for their faith in Christ

For the congregations of our Germantown/Clarksburg/Damascus community: Wesley Grove United Methodist Church

For the congregations of the American Association of Lutheran Churches

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

Pray for the families of those involved in the collapse of the Key Bridge.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Men's Bible Study: Tuesday: 1:30 PM at Church**
- **Women's Bible Study: Wednesday: 10 AM at Carolyn's**
- **Adult and Children's Sunday School: 9:30 Sunday mornings.**
- **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.**