

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
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Pastor Emeritus: Irvin Stapf
Pastor: Abraham McNally
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Pianist: Meryl Benenati
Worship Team:
Bass Guitar: Bruce Gladhill
Dobro, Banjo, Autoharp, Mandolin, Keyboard,
Trumpet & Guitar: Art Delagrange
Pianist: Meryl Benenati
Soloist: Rebekah Stapf

Fifth Sunday in Easter

May 2, 2021

*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:*

Let the Whole Creation Cry

Hymn #414

Let the whole creation cry, 'Glory to the Lord on high!'
Heaven and earth, awake and sing, 'God is good and therefore King!'
Praise him, all ye hosts above, Ever bright and fair in love;
Sun and moon, uplift your voice, Night and stars, in God rejoice!

Warriors fighting for the Lord, Prophets burning with his word,
Those to whom the arts belong, Add their voices to the song.
Kings of knowledge and of law, To the glorious circle draw;
All who work and all who wait, Sing, 'The Lord is good and great!'

Men and women, young and old, Raise the anthem manifold,
And let children's happy hearts In this worship bear their parts;
From the north to southern pole Let the mighty chorus roll:
'Holy, holy, holy One, Glory be to God alone!'

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

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

People: praise him in his mighty heavens!

Pastor: Praise him for his mighty deeds;

People: praise him according to his excellent greatness!

Pastor: Praise him with trumpet sound;

People: praise him with lute and harp!

Pastor: Praise him with tambourine and dance;

People: praise him with strings and pipe!

Pastor: Praise him with sounding cymbals;

People: praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

Pastor: 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 Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

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

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: 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 Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*****Collect:**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Heavenly Father, as your Son, Jesus, came down from heaven and testified to the truth, help us to always test the spirits against your word so that we might reject the spirit of error and live in the glorious truth of our Blessed Lord. In Jesus' name we pray, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

The Scripture Lessons:

First Lesson: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, “Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert *road*.) ²⁷ So he got up 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 the prophet Isaiah. 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 AS A SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER;
AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT,
SO HE DOES NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH.

³³ “IN HUMILIATION HIS JUDGMENT WAS TAKEN AWAY;
WHO WILL RELATE HIS GENERATION?
FOR HIS LIFE IS REMOVED 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?” ³⁷ [And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”] ³⁸ And he ordered the chariot to 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.

Pastor: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson: 1 John 4:1-11

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, of which you have heard that it 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; he who knows God listens to us; he 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 us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might 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.

Pastor: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

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

Pastor: 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. ²Every 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. ³You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. ⁷If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My 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



Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult Of our life's wild, restless sea,
Day by day his clear voice soundeth, Saying, 'Christian follow me!'

As of old Saint Andrew heard it By the Galilean lake,
Turned each home and toil and kindred, Leaving all for his dear sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship Of the vain world's golden store;
From each idol that would keep us, Saying, 'Christian, love me more.'

In our joys and in our sorrows, Days of toil and hours of ease,
Still he calls, in cares and pleasures, 'Christian, love me more than these.'

Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Saviour, make us hear thy call,
Give our hearts to thine obedience, Serve and love thee best of all.

Sermon:

Pastor McNally

The Antichrist



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.

***** *The Nicene Creed:***

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*****The General Prayer: (after each petition)**

Pastor: 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: But chiefly we are bound to praise thee for the glorious Resurrection of thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: for he is the very Paschal Lamb, which was offered for us, and hath taken away the sin of the world; who by his death destroyed death, and by his rising to life again hath restored to us everlasting life. 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, world without end. 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

*****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 Ghost; 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 Ghost, one God, world without end.

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.

*****Closing Hymn:**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Hymn #520

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty, Hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more, Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer, Strong deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield, Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction, Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, Songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee, I will ever give to thee.

*****The Postlude**

Prayers and Praises:

For our church leaders:

Presiding Pastor: Rev Dr. Curtis Leins
Assistant Presiding Pastor: Rev Cary Larson
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

Joyce Ballard	Mark & Terri Ballard	Casey Day & family	Glenn Shriver
Robin Nicholson	Donald Burdette	Laura Nichols	Michael D'Amico
Dianne Wentzell	Hope Johnston	Nancy Gregory	Sidney Neighbors
Ken Ford	Tammy Stimmell	Herb Pinkerton	Tim Birdseye
Lee Ballard	Samantha Shriver	Lt. Victor Monaghan	Jimmy Beall
Mike Perry	Dorothy Foster	Elizabeth Ondulich	Ruth Bates
Rebecca Robinson	Bill Trall	John Veis	Clyde Gibson
Art Delagrange	Sheila Perini	Ralph Mullinix	Karen Gray
Amy Routzahn	Ashlynn Routzahn	Saralyn Laughlin	Will Stapf
Burk Hill	Roland Gonano	Joyce Gonano	Jane Simcox
Frank Benenati	Mabel Eckenrod	Family of Bruce Grimm	
Pat Anderson			

For the President and the leaders of our nation

For those in the armed Services: Grace Gorevin, Zach Gorevin, Christopher Clarke, Terry O'Brien,
Travis Hawk, Skyler Hawk, Bethany Hueter, Chaplain John Reutemann, Chaplain Len Brokenshire,
Cameron Donk, Ethan Stone, Rebecca Deppe

For our Seminary Students: Nigel Brown

For a Region congregation: Reverend Dan Dapelo, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Napoleon, OH

For our missionary work: Matunda Lutheran Church

For those being persecuted for their faith in Christ

For the congregations of our Germantown/Clarksburg/Damascus community: Iglesia La Casa De Dios

For the congregations of the American Association of Lutheran Churches

For our college students: Haven Flesch, Shelby Evans, Maddie Day

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The current occupancy restrictions for our church is 42 persons, so we will continue having one service at 10:30 AM on Sunday mornings. Masks and social distancing are still mandated.
- Due to the virus constraints the nursery will not be available at this time. Children are encouraged to stay with their parents throughout the service. Please bring any “busy” items you may need for the children from home.
- Men’s Bible Study: To be announced 😊
- Women’s Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10 AM
- Adult Sunday School: To be announced 😊
- You may continue to watch the Sunday services (10:30AM) 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.
- Church Council will meet on May 16th after church. Please turn in reports to the office by Tuesday, May 11th.

SERMON NOTES: The Antichrist