

**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](http://christlutheranofgermantown.org)**

**Facebook: Christ Lutheran Church AALC**

**Email: [clcedargrove@outlook.com](mailto:clcedargrove@outlook.com)**

**Church Phone: 301 972-5529**

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



**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 24, 2023**

*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:**

***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 throughout the universe displayed;

*Chorus*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee, How great thou art! How great thou art!*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee, How great thou art! How great thou art!*

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 27:1-9 (read responsively)**

**Liturgist:** The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

**People: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

**Liturgist:** When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh,

**People: my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.**

**Liturgist:** Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;

**People: though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.**

**Liturgist:** One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:

**People: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.**

**Liturgist:** For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

**People: he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.**

**Liturgist:** And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

**People: I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

**Liturgist:** Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;

**People: be gracious to me and answer me!**

**Liturgist:** You have said, "Seek my face."

**People: My heart says to you, "Your face, Lord, do I seek."**

**Liturgist:** Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger,

**People: O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!**

**\*\*\*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)**

**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 Ghost, 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:** Lord, we pray thee, that thy grace may always go before and follow after us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*The Scripture Lessons:*

**First Lesson: Isaiah 55:6-9**

<sup>6</sup> Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. <sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the Lord, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup> “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord. <sup>9</sup> “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.

**Liturgist:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Second Lesson: Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30**

<sup>12</sup> Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, <sup>13</sup> so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, <sup>14</sup> and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.

<sup>19</sup> for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, <sup>20</sup> according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

<sup>21</sup> For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup> But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. <sup>23</sup> But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; <sup>24</sup> yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. <sup>25</sup> Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup> so that your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again.

<sup>27</sup> Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; <sup>28</sup> in no way alarmed by your opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God. <sup>29</sup> For to you it has been granted for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, <sup>30</sup> experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

**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 twentieth chapter of Saint Matthew beginning with the first verse.

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

**Gospel Lesson: Matthew 20:1-16**

<sup>1</sup> “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> When he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the market place; <sup>4</sup> and to those he said, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.’ And so they went. <sup>5</sup> Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did the same thing. <sup>6</sup> And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day long?’ <sup>7</sup> They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’

<sup>8</sup> “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last group to the first.’ <sup>9</sup> When those hired about the eleventh hour came, each one received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> When those hired first came, they thought that they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> When they received it, they grumbled at the landowner, <sup>12</sup> saying, ‘These last men have worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the scorching heat of the day.’ <sup>13</sup> But he answered and said to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? <sup>14</sup> Take what is yours and go, but I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. <sup>15</sup> Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what is my own? Or is your eye envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup> So the last shall be first, and the first last.”

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

*Children’s Sermon:*

*Jeane Flesch*



*Pulpit Hymn:*

*Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying*

*Hymn #59*

Hark! the voice of Jesus crying, ‘Who will go and work today?  
Fields are white and harvest waiting, Who will bear the sheaves away?’  
Loud and long the Master calleth, Rich reward he offers free;  
Who will answer, gladly saying, ‘Here am I; send me, send me?’

If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus, You can say he died for all.  
If you cannot rouse the wicked With the judgment’s dread alarms,  
You can lead the little children To the Saviour’s waiting arms.

Let none hear you idly saying, ‘There is nothing I can do,’  
While the souls of men are dying, And the Master calls for you:  
Take the task he gives you gladly, Let his work your pleasure be;  
Answer quickly when he calleth, ‘Here am I, send me, send me.’



***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 Ghost, 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 Ghost; 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. Blessed 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, forever and ever. 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 Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forever and ever. 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, 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.

**\*\*\*Closing Hymn:**

***On our Way Rejoicing***

***Hymn #195***

On our way rejoicing Gladly let us go;  
Conquered hath our Leader, Vanquished is the foe.  
Christ without, our safety; Christ within, our joy;  
Who, is we be faithful, Can our hope destroy?  
On our way rejoicing As we forward move,  
Hearken to our praises, O thou God of love!

If with honest hearted Love for God and man,  
Day by day you find us Doing what we can,  
Thou who giv'st the seedtime Wilt give large increase,  
Crown the head with blessings, Fill the heart with peace.  
On our way rejoicing As we forward move,  
Hearken to our praises, O thou God of love!

Unto God the Father Joyful songs we sing,  
Unto God the Saviour Thankful hearts we bring,  
Unto God the Spirit Bow we and adore,  
On our way rejoicing Now and evermore.  
On our way rejoicing As we forward move,  
Hearken to our praises, O thou God of love!

**\*\*\*The Postlude**



## ***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

Sheila Perini	Robin Nicholson	Hope Johnston	Sharon Phelps
Janet and Harry Libby	Lee Ballard	Jimmy Beall	Dorothy Foster
Tammy Pulley	Rebecca Robinson	Bill Trall	Harvey Jester
Fred Carlson	Bob Petersen	Meryl Benenati	Bruce Gladhill
Paul Shriver	Kamden Swanson	Norita Shipley	Eddie Neighbors
Bob Clarke	David Clarke	James Grenier	Bob Bingaman

The Rev. Robert Wallace

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, Cameron Swanson, Kris Johnson

For a Region congregation: Pastor Thomas Jahr, Federal Prison Supervising Chaplain, Atlanta, GA

For our missionary work: Faith House

For those being persecuted for their faith in Christ

For the congregations of our Germantown/Clarksburg/Damascus community: Difference Makers 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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Men's Bible Study: TBA**
- **Women's Bible Study: Wednesday at 10 AM at Carolyn's house.**
- **Adult and Children's Sunday School 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: [christlutheranofgermantown.org](http://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.**
- **It is that time of year again! We will be collecting shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child. Shoeboxes, brochures, bookmarks and labels are available in the Narthex. Don't forget to include a \$10 check inside each shoebox.**

## **SERMON NOTES: It's Never too Late with Jesus**