

**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**

THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (25TC)

**Church Secretary:** Carrie Shriver Perini  
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Email: [perinicarrie@gmail.com](mailto:perinicarrie@gmail.com)

**Pastor Emeritus:** Irvin Stapf  
**Pastor:** Vacant  
**Vicar:** Chris Clarke  
**Liturgist:** Bob Petersen



**Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**November 19, 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:**

***O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing***

***Hymn #428***

O for a thousand tongues to sing My dear Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad The honors of thy Name.

Jesus! the Name that charms our fears, That bids our sorrows cease,  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'Tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin, He sets the prisoner free;  
His Blood can make the foulest clean, His Blood availed for me.

He speaks, and, listening to his voice, New life the dead receive,  
The mournful broken hearts rejoice, The humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, Your loosened tongues employ;  
Ye blind, behold your Saviour come; And leap, ye lame, for joy.

Glory to God, and praise, and love Be ever, ever given  
By saints below and saints above, The Church in earth and heaven.

**\*\*\*Psalm: Psalm 90:1–12 (read responsively)**

**Liturgist:** Lord, you have been our dwelling place

**People: in all generations.**

**Liturgist:** Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world,

**People: from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

**Liturgist:** You return man to dust

**People: and say, “Return, O children of man!”**

**Liturgist:** For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past,

**People: or as a watch in the night.**

**Liturgist:** You sweep them away as with a flood;

**People: they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning:**

**Liturgist:** in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;

**People: in the evening it fades and withers.**

**Liturgist:** For we are brought to an end by your anger;

**People: by your wrath we are dismayed.**

**Liturgist:** You have set our iniquities before you,

**People: our secret sins in the light of your presence.**

**Liturgist:** For all our days pass away under your wrath;

**People: we bring our years to an end like a sigh.**

**Liturgist:** The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty;

**People: yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.**

**Liturgist:** Who considers the power of your anger,

**People: and your wrath according to the fear of you?**

**Liturgist:** So teach us to number our days

**People: that we may get a heart of wisdom.**

**\*\*\*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:** Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; 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:*

**Old Testament Lesson: Zephaniah 1:7-16**

<sup>7</sup> Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near, Because the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, He has consecrated His guests.

<sup>8</sup> “Then it will come about on the day of the LORD’S sacrifice That I will punish the princes, the king’s sons, And all who clothe themselves with foreign garments.

<sup>9</sup> And on that day I will punish all who leap on the *temple* threshold, Who fill the house of their lord with violence and deceit.

<sup>10</sup> And on that day,” declares the LORD, “There will be the sound of a cry from the Fish Gate, Wailing from the Second Quarter, And a loud crash from the hills.

<sup>11</sup> Wail, you inhabitants of the Mortar, Because all the people of Canaan will be destroyed; All who weigh out silver will be eliminated.

<sup>12</sup> And it will come about at that time That I will search Jerusalem with lamps, And I will punish the people Who are stagnant in spirit, Who say in their hearts, ‘The LORD will not do good nor harm!’

<sup>13</sup> Their wealth will become plunder, And their houses desolate; Yes, they will build houses but not inhabit *them*, And plant vineyards but not drink their wine.”

<sup>14</sup> The great day of the LORD is near, Near and coming very quickly; Listen, the day of the LORD! In it the warrior cries out bitterly.

<sup>15</sup> That day is a day of anger, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness,

<sup>16</sup> A day of trumpet and battle cry Against the fortified cities And the high corner towers.

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Epistle Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> Now as to the periods and times, brothers *and sisters*, you have no need of *anything* to be written to you. <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord is coming just like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction will come upon them like labor pains upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup> But you, brothers *and sisters*, are not in darkness, so that the day would overtake you like a thief; <sup>5</sup> for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; <sup>6</sup> so then, let’s not sleep as others do, but let’s be alert and sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk, get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But since we are of *the* day, let’s be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup> For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you also are doing.

**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 eleventh chapter of Saint Matthew beginning with the twelfth verse.

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

**Gospel Lesson: Matthew 25:14-30**

<sup>14</sup>“For *it is* just like a man *about* to go on a journey, *who* called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. <sup>15</sup>To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents immediately went and did business with them, and earned five more *talents*. <sup>17</sup>In the same way the one who *had received* the two *talents* earned two more. <sup>18</sup>But he who received the one *talent* went away and dug *a hole in the ground*, and hid his master’s money.

<sup>19</sup>“Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have earned five more talents.’ <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter the joy of your master.’

<sup>22</sup>“Also the one who *had received* the two talents came up and said, ‘Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have earned two more talents.’ <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter the joy of your master.’

<sup>24</sup>“Now the one who had received the one talent also came up and said, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter *seed*. <sup>25</sup>And I was afraid, so I went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you *still* have what is yours.’

<sup>26</sup>“But his master answered and said to him, ‘You worthless, lazy slave! Did you know that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter *seed*? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my *money* back with interest. <sup>28</sup>Therefore: take the talent away from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.’

<sup>29</sup>“For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. <sup>30</sup>And throw the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

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

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

*Children’s Sermon:*

***It’s JUST a Frisbee, BUT...***

*Jeane Flesch*



*Pulpit Hymn:*

*Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray*

Rise, my soul, to watch and pray, From your sleep awaken;  
Be not by the evil day Unawares o'er taken.  
Satan's prey oft are they Who secure are sleeping And no watch are keeping.

Watch against the world that frowns Darkly to dismay you;  
Watch when it your wishes crowns, Smiling to betray you.  
Watch and see, you are free From false friends who charm you While they seek to harm you.

Watch against yourself, my soul, Lest with grace you trifle;  
Let not self your thoughts control Nor God's mercy stifle.  
Pride and sin lurk within, All your hopes to shatter; Heed not when they flatter.

But while watching, also pray To the Lord unceasing.  
God alone can make you free, Strength and faith increasing,  
So that still mind and will Heartfelt praises tender And true service render.

*Sermon:*

*Use Your God-Given Talent*

*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 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. 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 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, 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.



Thy life was given for me, Thy Blood, O Lord, was shed  
That I might ransomed be, And quickened from the dead.  
Thy life was given for me, What have I given for thee?

Long years were spent for me In weariness and woe,  
That through eternity Thy glory I might know.  
Long years were spent for me, Have I spent one for thee?

And thou hast brought to me Down from thy home above  
Salvation full and free, Thy pardon and thy love.  
Great gifts thou broughtest me, What have I brought to thee?

O let my life be given, My years for thee be spent;  
World-fetters all be riven, And joy with suffering blent,  
Thou gav'st thyself for me, I give myself to thee.

\*\*\**The Postlude*

**Prayers and Praises:**

For our church leaders:

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

Sheila Perini	Robin Nicholson	Hope Johnston	Sharon Phelps
Jimmy Beall	Dorothy Foster	Becky Stapf	Matt Ruppert
Rebecca Robinson	Bill Trall	Harvey Jester	Justin Serene
Fred Carlson	Bob Petersen	Meryl Benenati	Bruce Gladhill
Paul Shriver	Norita Shipley	Eddie Neighbors	Family of Sheila Perini
Bob Clarke	David Clarke	James Grenier	(Rodney Perini)
The Rev. Robert Wallace	Helen Gibson	Chris and Bob Bingaman	

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: Pastor Nigel Brown, Hope Lutheran Church, Hampton, FL

For our missionary work: Faith Connections

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: Shelby Evans, Maddie Day, Joseph Flesch, Jude Stapf, Paul Stapf

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Men's Bible Study: Tuesday at 1:30 PM at Church
- Women's Bible Study: Wednesday at 10 AM at Carolyn's house
- Adult and Children's Sunday School: 9:30 AM Sunday's
- 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.
- Thank you for participating in Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child!!
- We will be putting up Christmas decorations at church on Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Come enjoy Christmas music and fellowship, as we put up decorations celebrating the life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- Church Council will meet after church today.
- We will be having a Christmas Party on Saturday, January 6, 2024 from 5-7 PM.

**SERMON NOTES: Use your God-Given Talent!**