

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)**

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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



Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 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*

Presenter: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Presenter: 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.)

Presenter: 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

Presenter: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, He gives the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God.

****Opening Hymn:*

Hark! The Glad Sound!

Hymn #6

Hark, the glad sound! the Saviour comes, The Saviour promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne, And every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release In Satan's bondage held;
The gates of brass before him burst, The iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim;
And heaven's eternal arches ring With thy beloved Name.

****Psalm: Psalm 111 (read responsively)*

Liturgist: Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,

People: in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Liturgist: Great are the works of the Lord,

People: studied by all who delight in them.

Liturgist: Full of splendor and majesty is his work,

People: and his righteousness endures forever.

Liturgist: He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;

People: the Lord is gracious and merciful.

Liturgist: He provides food for those who fear him;

People: he remembers his covenant forever.

Liturgist: He has shown his people the power of his works,

People: in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

Liturgist: The works of his hands are faithful and just;

People: all his precepts are trustworthy;

Liturgist: they are established forever and ever,

People: to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

Liturgist: He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.

People: Holy and awesome is his name!

Liturgist: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.

People: His praise endures forever!

****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: Almighty God, who knowest us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all the dangers, and carry us through all temptations; 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: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

¹⁵ “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen; to him you shall listen. ¹⁶ *This is* in accordance with everything that you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Do not let me hear the voice of the LORD my God again, and do not let me see this great fire anymore, or I will die!’ ¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, ‘They have spoken well. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them everything that I command him. ¹⁹ And it shall come about that whoever does not listen to My words which he speaks in My name, I Myself will require *it* of him. ²⁰ But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name, *a word* which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹ Now concerning food sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes *one* conceited, but love edifies *people*. ² If anyone thinks that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know; ³ but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.

⁴ Therefore, concerning the eating of food sacrificed to idols, we know that an idol is nothing at all in the world, and that there is no God but one. ⁵ For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, ⁶ yet for us there is *only* one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we *exist* for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we *exist* through Him.

⁷ However, not all people have this knowledge; but some, being accustomed to the idol until now, eat *food* as if it were sacrificed to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸ Now food will not bring us close to God; we are neither the worse if we do not eat, nor the better if we do eat. ⁹ But take care that this freedom of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if someone sees you, the one who has knowledge, dining in an idol’s temple, will his conscience, if he is weak, not be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols? ¹¹ For through your knowledge the one who is weak is ruined, the brother *or sister* for whose sake Christ died. ¹² And so, by sinning against the brothers *and sisters* and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food causes my brother to sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to sin.

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 first chapter of Saint Mark, beginning with the twenty-first verse.

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

Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:21-28

²¹ They went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath *Jesus* entered the synagogue and *began* to teach. ²² And they were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, ²⁴ saying, “What business do you have with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are: the Holy One of God!” ²⁵ And Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet, and come out of him!”

²⁶ After throwing him into convulsions and crying out with a loud voice, the unclean spirit came out of him. ²⁷ And they were all amazed, so they debated among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him.” ²⁸ Immediately the news about Him spread everywhere into all the surrounding region of Galilee.

Presenter: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

Children’s Sermon:

Jeane Flesch



Pulpit Hymn:

I Need Thee Every Hour

Hymn #479

I need thee every hour, Most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like thine Can peace afford. (*Refrain*)

*I need thee, O I need thee, Every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Saviour, I come to thee.*

I need thee every hour, Stay thou nearby;
Temptations lose their power When thou art nigh. (*Refrain*)

I need thee every hour, In joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide, Or life is vain. (*Refrain*)

I need thee every hour, Teach me thy will;
And thy rich promises In me fulfill. (*Refrain*)

I need thee every hour, Most Holy One,
O make me thine indeed, Thou blessed Son. (*Refrain*)



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 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:***

Presenter: 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:

My Faith Looks up to Thee

Hymn #375

My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Saviour divine! Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away, O let me from this day Be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire; As thou hast died for me,
O may my love to thee, Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread, And griefs around me spread,
Be thou my guide; Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away, Nor let me ever stray From thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll; Blest Saviour, then, in love
Fear and distrust remove; O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul.

*****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

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	Paul Shriver
Norita Shipley	Eddie Neighbors	Helen Gibson	Kris Johnson
Carrie Perini	Rodney Perini	Marty Beall	Remi Stapf

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 Joe Christina, Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Fayetteville, NC

For our missionary work: CareNet Pregnancy Center of Frederick

For those being persecuted for their faith in Christ

For the congregations of our Germantown/Clarksburg/Damascus community: Neelsville Presbyterian 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's-1:30 PM at Church**
- **Women's Bible Study: Wednesday's-10 AM at Carolyn's**
- **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. 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 to those who have turned in their write-ups for IOOW. They are due no later than Wednesday!!! Please get them to Joe ASAP.**
- **Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after church on Sunday, February 11th. Jeane will make Sloppy Joe's and Hot Dogs. Please bring a side dish. (FYI - The Superbowl doesn't start until 6:30 PM)**
- **Thank you for getting your reports turned in for the Annual Congregational Meeting!!**