

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

Email: clcedargrove@outlook.com

Church Phone: 301 972-5529

Church Secretary: Carrie Shriver Perini
Mobile phone: 240 397-3498
Email: perinicarrie@gmail.com

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



Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2024

Please stand, as you are able, where marked

The Order of Public Confession & the Holy Eucharist

Prelude

***Opening Hymn

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Hymn #503

When I survey the wondrous Cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his Blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

****The Versicles: (responses are spoken)*

Liturgist: Make haste, O God to deliver me.

People: **Make haste to help me, O Lord.**

Liturgist: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

People: **And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Liturgist: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

People: **As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.**

****The Psalm: Psalm 51 (read responsively)*

Liturgist: Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness;

People: **According to the multitude of Your tender mercies.**

Liturgist: Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.

People: **For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me.**

Liturgist: Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight---

People: That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.

Liturgist: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

People: Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

Liturgist: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

People: Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice.

Liturgist: Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities.

People: Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Liturgist: Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

People: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

Liturgist: Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.

People: Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation,

Liturgist: And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.

People: O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

Liturgist: For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering.

People: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise.

Liturgist: Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem.

People: Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness,

Liturgist: With burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

People: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever. Amen.

The Old Testament Lessons: Joel 2:12-19

Now, therefore, says the Lord, Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning. So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the Lord your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm. Who knows if He will turn and relent, And leave a blessing behind Him—A grain offering and a drink offering For the Lord your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly; Gather the people, Sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders, Gather the children and the nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, And the bride from her dressing room. Let the priests, who minister to the Lord, Weep between the porch and the altar; Let them say, “Spare Your people, O Lord, And do not give Your heritage to reproach, That the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’

Then the Lord will be zealous for His land, And pity His people. The Lord will answer and say to His people, “Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil, And you will be satisfied by them; I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations.”

New Testament Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

******The Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21***

Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly. And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.....

Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourself treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pulpit Hymn:

Alas! and did my Saviour Bleed

Hymn #486

Alas! and did my Saviour bleed, And did my Sovereign die?
Would he devote that sacred Head For sinners such as I?

Was it for sin that I had done He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown, And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide, And shut his glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker, died For man, the creature's sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face, While his dear Cross appears;
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt mine eyes to tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay The debt of love I owe.
Here, Lord, I give myself away; 'Tis all that I can do.



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.

*A time for personal examination and the **Imposition of Ashes***

****The Exhortation (page 250 in red Service Book and Hymnal)*

****The Examination of Conscience (page 251 in red SB&H)*

****The Confession (page 251 in red SB&H)*

The Ashes:

Vicar Chris Clarke

Each penitent is invited to come forward for the Laying on of Hands to receive the Absolution, the declaration of God's forgiveness through the blood of Jesus Christ. The Vicar will make the sign of the cross on the forehead using ashes from the Palm Sunday palms.

The Absolution:

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 declare unto you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Collect for Peace:

People: O God, from whom all holy desires, and all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour, who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Blessing:

Vicar: The Lord will give strength to His people.

People: The Lord will bless His people with peace.

Vicar: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Assurance of Forgiveness in Christ's Sacrifice

******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 Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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:*

Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas Grace that taught my heart to fear, And Grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that Grace appear The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come.

'Tis Grace hath brought me safe thus far And Grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me. His Word my hope secures.

He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

****The Postlude*

SERMON NOTES: God's Canvas