

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



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 1, 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**

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

People: Amen.

Vicar: 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.)

Vicar: 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

Vicar: 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:**

God of Our Fathers

Hymn #521

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
Our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past,
In this free land by thee our lot is cast;
Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;
Thy word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
Be thy strong arm our ever sure defence;
Thy true religion in our hearts increase,
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh thy people on their toilsome way,
Lead us from night to never-ending day;
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

****Psalm:* **Psalm 119:129-136 (read responsively)**

Liturgist: Your statutes are wonderful;

People: therefore I obey them.

Liturgist: The unfolding of your words gives light;

People: it gives understanding to the simple.

Liturgist: I open my mouth and pant,

People: longing for your commands.

Liturgist: Turn to me and have mercy on me,

People: as you always do to those who love your name.

Liturgist: Direct my footsteps according to your word;

People: let no sin rule over me.

Liturgist: Redeem me from the oppression of men,

People: that I may obey your precepts.

Liturgist: Make your face shine upon your servant

People: and teach me your decrees.

Liturgist: Streams of tears flow from my eyes,

People: for your law is not obeyed.

****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 Spirit, 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: Keep, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy Church with thy perpetual mercy; and, because the frailty of man without thee cannot but fall, keep us ever by thy help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Scripture Lessons:

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

¹ Now, Israel, hear the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ² Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.

⁶ Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.” ⁷ What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? ⁸ And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

⁹ Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

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

Vicar: Lift up your hearts and hear the Holy Gospel as it is recorded in the seventh chapter of Saint Mark, beginning with the fourteenth verse.

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

Gospel Lesson: Mark 7:14-23

¹⁴ Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. ¹⁵ Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.” ^[16]

¹⁷ After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. ¹⁸ “Are you so dull?” he asked. “Don’t you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? ¹⁹ For it doesn’t go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body.” (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.)



²⁰ He went on: “What comes out of a person is what defiles them. ²¹ For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³ All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

Vicar: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

Children’s Sermon:

Healthy Heart

Jeane Flesch



Pulpit Hymn:

Lord Jesus Christ be Present Now

Hymn #188

Lord Jesus Christ, be present now, And let thy Holy Spirit bow
All hearts in love and fear today, To hear the truth and keep thy way.

Our voices tune to sing thy praise, Our hearts in true devotion raise,
Our faith increase, and grant us light That we may know thy Name aright.

Then shall we join the hosts that cry, Thrice-holy is the Lord Most High!
And dwell with God in that blest place Where we shall see him face to face.

Glory to God, the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One;
To thee, O blessed Trinity, Be praise throughout eternity!

Sermon:

Joe Flesch



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 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)***

Vicar: 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:***

Vicar: 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:**

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long As I walk, let me walk close to thee. (*Chorus*)

*Just a closer walk with thee, Grant it, Jesus, is my plea.
Daily walking close to thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

Through this world of toil and snares, If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, not but thee. (*Chorus*)

When my feeble life is o'er, Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er To thy kingdom shore, to thy shore. (*Chorus*)

*****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	Norita Shipley
Eddie Neighbors	Kris Johnson	Marty Beall	Brian Stitely
Diamond Castillo	Scott Caille	Cam Swanson	Debbie Stapf
Bob Pickett	Jane Simcox	Lora Bingaman	Sue Clarke
Judy Butler	Linda Cortez	Kristy O'Neal	Joan Stanley
Linda Kepple	Helen Gibson	Paul Beall	Harold Beall
Mary Beth Cyr	Chris German	Danny Beall	Family of Daniel Shoemaker

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 Dan Dapelo, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Napoleon, OH

For our missionary work: Pastor Scott Yount

For those being persecuted for their faith in Christ

For the congregations of our Germantown/Clarksburg/Damascus community: Damascus Road Community Church

For the congregations of the American Association of Lutheran Churches

For our college students: Maddie Day, Joseph Flesch, Jude Stapf, Paul Stapf

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Men's Bible Study: Tuesday: 1:30 PM at church.**
- **Women's Bible Study: Wednesday: 10 AM at Carolyn's.**
- **Adult and Children's Sunday School: Will resume next week, September 8th.**
- **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, Bruce, for opening up your home and pool for our Annual Church Picnic. Thank you to everyone who brought food to share. A great time was had by all!**