

**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  
Mobile phone: 240 397-3498  
Email: [perinicarrie@gmail.com](mailto:perinicarrie@gmail.com)

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



**First Sunday After Christmas**  
**December 29, 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:**

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

*Hymn #426*

All hail the power of Jesus' Name! Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown him Lord of all. X2

Crown him, ye martyrs of your God Who from his altar call;  
Extol the Stem of Jesse's rod, And crown him Lord of all. X2

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race, Ye ransomed of the fall,  
Hail him who saves you by his grace, And crown him Lord of all. X2

Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget The wormwood and the gall,  
Go, spread your trophies at his feet, And crown him Lord of all. X2

Let every kindred, every tribe, On this terrestrial ball,  
To him all majesty ascribe, And crown him Lord of all. X2

O that with yonder sacred throng We at his feet may fall;  
We'll join the everlasting song And crown him Lord of all. X2

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

**Liturgist:** Praise the Lord.

**People:** I will extol the Lord with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

**Liturgist:** Great are the works of the Lord;

**People:** they are pondered by all who delight in them.

**Liturgist:** Glorious and majestic are his deeds,

**People:** and his righteousness endures forever.

**Liturgist:** He has caused his wonders to be remembered;

**People:** the Lord is gracious and compassionate.

**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:** giving them the lands of other nations.

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

**People:** all his precepts are trustworthy.

**Liturgist:** They are steadfast for ever and ever,

**People:** done in faithfulness and uprightness.

**Liturgist:** He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever-

**People:** holy and awesome is his name.

**Liturgist:** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding.

**People:** To him belongs eternal praise.

**\*\*\*The Gloria Patri: (sung)** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: 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:** Almighty and everlasting God, direct our actions according to thy good pleasure, that in the Name of thy beloved Son, we may be made to abound in good works; through the same 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: Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.”

<sup>3</sup>Then Moses said to the people, <sup>11</sup>“When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, <sup>12</sup>you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD's. <sup>13</sup>Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. <sup>14</sup>And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. <sup>15</sup>For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Epistle Lesson: Colossians 3:12-17**

<sup>12</sup>Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**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 second chapter of Saint Luke, beginning with the twenty-second verse.

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

**Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:22-40**

<sup>22</sup>And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”



<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup> "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup> (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

<sup>36</sup> And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup> and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

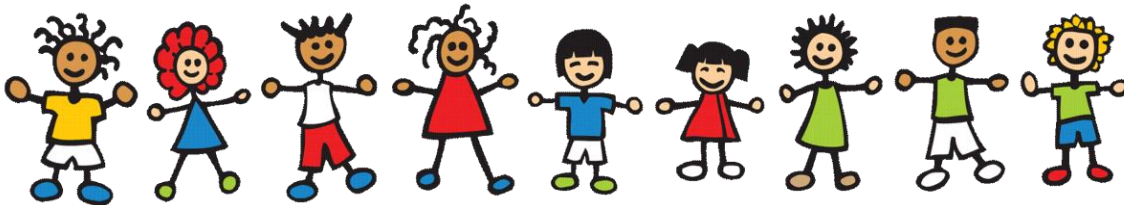
<sup>39</sup> And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

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

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

*Children's Sermon:*

*Vicar Chris Clarke*



*Pulpit Hymn:*

*The First Noel*

*Hymn #40*

The first Noel the angel did say Was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay;  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, On a cold winter's night that was so deep. (*Chorus*)

They looked up and saw a star Shining in the east beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night. (*Chorus*)

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.*

And by the light of that same star Three wise men came from country afar;  
To seek for a king was their intent, And to follow the star wherever it went. (*Chorus*)

This star drew nigh to the northwest, O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay Right over the place where Jesus lay. (*Chorus*)

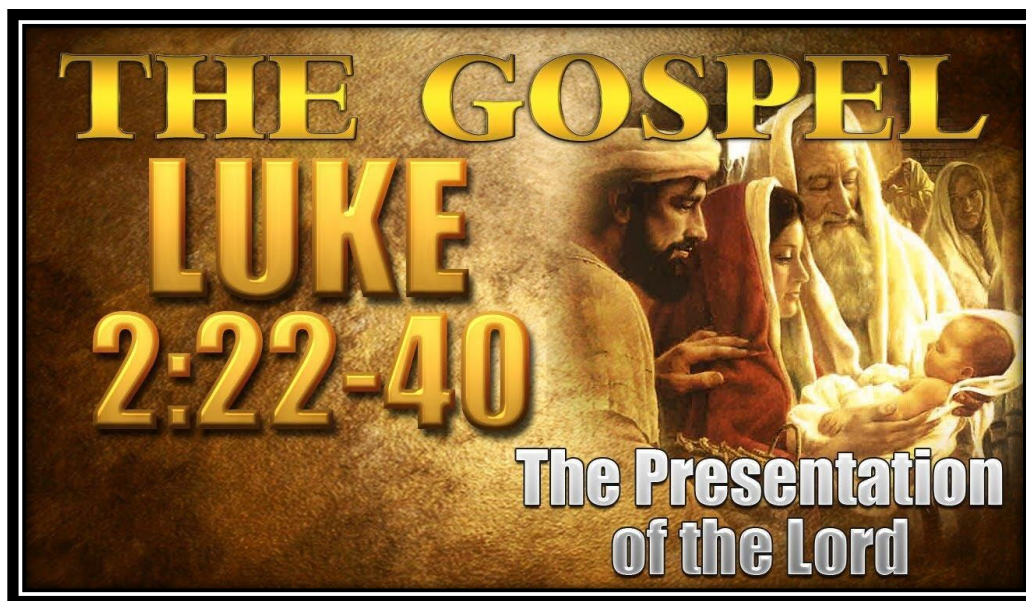


Then entered in those wise men three Full reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in his presence Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. (*Chorus*)

Then let us all with one accord Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
That hath made heaven and earth of naught, And with his Blood mankind hath bought. (*Chorus*)

*Sermon:*

*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 Spirit, 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 Spirit; 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)***

**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:*

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

*Hymn #23*

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
'Peace on the earth, good will to men, From heaven's all-gracious King'  
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds The blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife The world hath suffered long;  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not The love song which they bring:  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife, And hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way With painful steps and slow:  
Look now! for glad and golden hours Come swiftly on the wing;  
O rest beside the weary road, And hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on, By prophet-bards foretold,  
When, with the ever-circling years, Shall come the Age of Gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth Its heavenly splendors fling,  
And all the world give back the song Which now the angels sing.

\*\*\**The Postlude*

### ***Prayers and Praises:***

For our church leaders:

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

Robin Nicholson	Hope Johnston	Sharon Phelps	Chris and Bob Bingaman
Dorothy Foster	Matt Ruppalt	Helen Gibson	Kris Johnson
Rebecca Robinson	Bill Trall	Harvey Jester	Justin Serene
Fred Carlson	Bob Petersen	Norita Shipley	Brian Stitely
Cam Swanson	Debbie Stapf	Paul Beall	Marty Beall
Bob Pickett	Chris German	Danny Beall	Ben Flynn
Sue Clarke	Judy Butler	Joan Stanley	Family of Becky Garzone

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 Raymond Lorthioir, Jr., Trinity Lutheran Church, West Hampstead, NY

For our missionary work: Frederick Rescue Mission

For those being persecuted for their faith in Christ

For the congregations of our Germantown/Clarksburg/Damascus community: Iglesia La Casa De Dios

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: None this week**
- **Women's Bible Study: Wednesday: None this week**
- **Adult Sunday School: 9:30 AM**
- **Children's Sunday School: Will resume January 19, 2025**
- **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.**
- **Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**. We will be having our **Annual Meeting after Church**. Please bring your own lunch, we will be eating before our meeting. Please have all **reports** turned in to Carrie by **Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>**.**
- **On Sunday the 12th and 19th of January from 9:30-10:30 a.m., Vicar Chris Clarke is conducting New Member Classes for anyone considering joining the church. If you or others are interested in joining, (or you are just interested in learning more about the church in general), please feel free to contact Chris at 703-261-5060 or [sendmenojunkmailok@yahoo.com](mailto:sendmenojunkmailok@yahoo.com) or just show up!**