

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

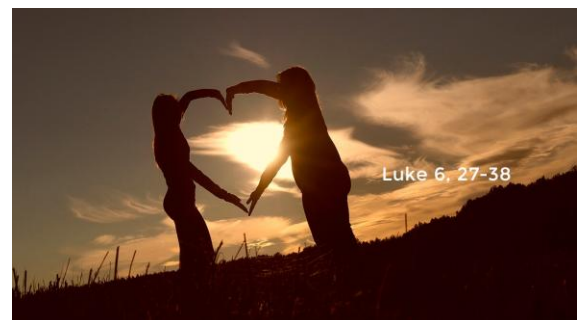
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Church Secretary: Carrie Shriver Perini
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Pastor Emeritus: Irvin Stapf
Pastor: Vacant
Vicar: Chris Clarke
Liturgist: Bob Petersen



Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
February 23, 2025

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:**

How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy pow'r through-out the universe displayed; *(Chorus)*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art! X2*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander, I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; *(Chorus)*

But when I think that God, his Son not sparing, Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing He bled and died to take away my sin; *(Chorus)*

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation, And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration And there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" *(Chorus)*

*****Psalm: Psalm 103:1-13 (read responsively)**

Liturgist: Praise the Lord, O my soul;

People: all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Liturgist: Praise the Lord, O my soul,

People: and forget not all his benefits--

Liturgist: who forgives all your sins

People: and heals all your diseases,

Liturgist: who redeems your life from the pit

People: and crowns you with love and compassion,

Liturgist: who satisfies your desires with good things

People: so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Liturgist: The Lord works righteousness

People: and justice for all the oppressed.

Liturgist: He made known his ways to Moses,

People: his deeds to the people of Israel:

Liturgist: The Lord is compassionate and gracious,

People: slow to anger, abounding in love.

Liturgist: He will not always accuse,

People: nor will he harbor his anger forever;

Liturgist: he does not treat us as our sins deserve

People: or repay us according to our iniquities.

Liturgist: For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

People: so great is his love for those who fear him;

Liturgist: as far as the east is from the west,

People: so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Liturgist: As a father has compassion on his children,

People: so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.

*****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: O Lord God, who seest that we put not our trust in anything that we do: Mercifully grant that by thy power we may be defended against all adversity; 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: Genesis 45:3-15

³ And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

⁴ So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. ¹⁰ You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' ¹² And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. ¹³ You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42

²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

³⁰ Why are we in danger every hour? ³¹ I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! ³² What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." ³³ Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." ³⁴ Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ³⁹ For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.



⁴⁰ There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. ⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

⁴² So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

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 sixth chapter of Saint Luke, beginning with the twenty-seventh verse.

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

Gospel Lesson: Luke 6:27-38

²⁷ “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹ And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

³² “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶ Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

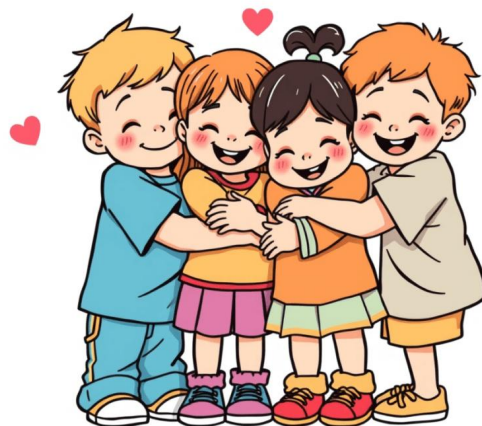
³⁷ “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

Vicar: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

Children’s Sermon:

Vicar Chris Clarke



O Master, let me walk with thee In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me thy secret; help me bear The strain of toil, the fret of care.

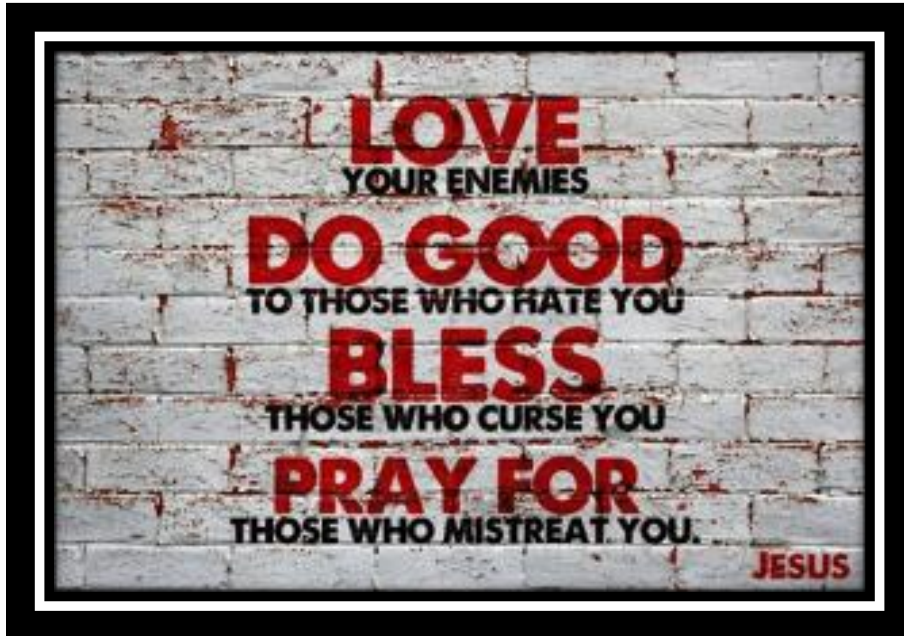
Help me the slow of heart to move By some clear, winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay, And guide them in the home-ward way.

Teach me thy patience; still with thee In closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, In trust that triumphs over wrong;

In hope that sends a shining ray Far down the future's broadening way,
In peace that only thou canst give; With thee, O Master, let me live.

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:**

The Son Of God Goes Forth To War

Hymn #562

The Son of God goes forth to war, A kingly crown to gain;
His blood-red banner streams afar; Who follows in his train?
Who best can drink his cup of woe, Triumphant over pain;
Who patient hears his cross below, He follows in his train.

The martyr first, whose eagle eye Could pierce beyond the grave,
Who saw his Master in the sky And called on him to save;
Like him, with pardon on his tongue, In midst of mortal pain,
He prayed for them that did the wrong: Who follows in his train?

A glorious band, the chosen few, On whom the Spirit came,
Twelve valiant saints, their hope they knew, And mocked the cross and flame.
They met the tyrant's brandished steel, The lion's gory mane;
They bowed their necks the death to feel: Who follows in their train?

A noble army, men and boys, The matron and the maid,
Around the Saviour's throne rejoice In robes of light arrayed.
They climbed the steep ascent of heaven Through peril, toil, and pain:
O God, to us may grace be given To follow in their train!

*****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	Dorothy Foster	Matt Ruppalt
Rebecca Robinson	Bill Trall	Harvey Jester	Justin Serene
Fred Carlson	Bob Petersen	Norita Shipley	Sue Clarke
Cam Swanson	Debbie Stapf	Chris German	Danny Beall
Ben Flynn	Carrie Perini	Jane Simcox	Audrey Stapf
Lilly Hoyles	Family of Jeanette Culp		

For those that have suffered loss, due to hurricanes, fires, and other natural disasters

For the President and the leaders of our nation

For those in the armed Services: Grace Gorevin, Zach Gorevin, Christopher Clarke,
Bethany Hueter, Cameron Donk, Ethan Stone, Wendy Ahern, Kris Johnson

For our Seminary Students: Chris Clarke, Kris Johnson

For a Region congregation: First English Lutheran Church, Gibsonburg, OH

For our missionary work: Great Commission Families

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 Joe's home.**
- **Women's Bible Study: Wednesday: 10 AM at Carolyn's home.**
- **Adult Sunday School: 9:30 AM**
- **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.**
- **Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 5th. IOOW will be printed and distributed before then. Thank you to everyone who turned in their write-ups!**