

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



**Second Sunday in Lent**  
**March 16, 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**

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

**People:** Amen.

**Pastor:** 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.)*

**Pastor:** 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

**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 therefore 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.

**People:** Amen. Thanks be to God.

**\*\*\*Opening Hymn:**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

*Hymn #397*

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down!  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, All thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, Pure unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving spirit, Into every troubled breast;  
Let us all in thee inherit, Let us find thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver, Let us all thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never, Never more thy temples leave,  
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve thee as thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, Glory in thy precious love.

Finish then thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see thy great salvation Perfectly restored in thee!  
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

**\*\*\*Psalm: Psalm 4 (read responsively)**

**Liturgist:** <sup>1</sup> Answer me when I call to you, O my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress;

**People:** be merciful to me and hear my prayer.

**Liturgist:** <sup>2</sup> How long, O men, will you turn my glory into shame?

**People:** How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?

**Liturgist:** <sup>3</sup> Know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself;

**People:** the Lord will hear when I call to him.

**Liturgist:** <sup>4</sup> In your anger do not sin;

**People:** when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.

**Liturgist:** <sup>5</sup> Offer right sacrifices

**People:** and trust in the Lord.

**Liturgist:** <sup>6</sup> Many are asking, "Who can show us any good?"

**People:** Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord.

**Liturgist:** <sup>7</sup> You have filled my heart with greater joy

**People:** than when their grain and new wine abound.

**Liturgist:** <sup>8</sup> I will lie down and sleep in peace,

**People:** for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

**\*\*\*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 God, who seest that of ourselves we have no strength: Keep us both outwardly and inwardly; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; 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: Jeremiah 26:8-15**

<sup>8</sup>But as soon as Jeremiah finished telling all the people everything the LORD had commanded him to say, the priests, the prophets and all the people seized him and said, “You must die! <sup>9</sup>Why do you prophesy in the LORD’s name that this house will be like Shiloh and this city will be desolate and deserted?” And all the people crowded around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

<sup>10</sup>When the officials of Judah heard about these things, they went up from the royal palace to the house of the LORD and took their places at the entrance of the New Gate of the LORD’s house. <sup>11</sup>Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and all the people, “This man should be sentenced to death because he has prophesied against this city. You have heard it with your own ears!”

<sup>12</sup>Then Jeremiah said to all the officials and all the people: “The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the things you have heard. <sup>13</sup>Now reform your ways and your actions and obey the LORD your God. Then the LORD will relent and not bring the disaster he has pronounced against you. <sup>14</sup>As for me, I am in your hands; do with me whatever you think is good and right. <sup>15</sup>Be assured, however, that if you put me to death, you will bring the guilt of innocent blood on yourselves and on this city and on those who live in it, for in truth the LORD has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing.”

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Epistle Lesson: Philippians 3:17-4:1**

<sup>17</sup>Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. <sup>18</sup>For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup>Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

<sup>4</sup><sup>1</sup>Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

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

**People:** Thanks be to God

**\*\*\*The Lenten Sentence: (sung)** Christ hath humbled himself, and become obedient unto death: even the death of the Cross.

**Vicar:** Lift up your hearts and hear the Holy Gospel as it is recorded in the thirteenth chapter of Saint Luke, beginning with the thirty-first verse.

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

**Gospel Lesson: Luke 13:31-35**

<sup>31</sup>At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, “Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.”

<sup>32</sup>He replied, “Go tell that fox, ‘I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.’ <sup>33</sup>In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

<sup>34</sup>“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. <sup>35</sup>Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

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

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



*Pulpit Hymn:*

*Wide Open Are Thy Hands*

*Hymn #66*

Wide open are thy hands, Paying with more than gold  
The awful debt of guilty men, Forever and of old.  
Ah, let me grasp those hands, That we may never part,  
And let the power of their blood Sustain my fainting heart.

Wide open are thine arms, A fallen world to embrace;  
To take to love and endless rest Our whole forsaken race,  
Lord, I am sad and poor, But boundless is thy grace;  
Give me the soul-transforming joy For which I seek thy face.

Draw all my mind and heart Up to thy throne on high,  
And let thy sacred Cross exalt My spirit to the sky.  
To these, thy mighty hands, My spirit I resign;  
Living, I live alone to thee, Dying, alone am thine.

*Sermon:*

*Vicar Chris Clarke*



**BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES  
IN THE NAME OF THE LORD**

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*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.

**\*\*\*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 Spirit 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 Spirit, 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 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 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 Spirit; 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, forever and ever.

**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:**

***O Love, That Wilt Not Let Me Go***

***Hymn #402***

O Love, that wilt not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that sleekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain  
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
And from the ground there blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be.

**\*\*\*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	Audrey Stapf	Pastor Irvin Stapf
Becky Stapf			

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: Faith Lutheran Church, Watseka, IL

For our missionary work: Waterboyz

For those being persecuted for their faith in Christ

For the congregations of our Germantown/Clarksburg/Damascus community: First Baptist Church of Damascus

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](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.**
- **We will have a Church Council Meeting after service today.**

# **SERMON NOTES:**