

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.

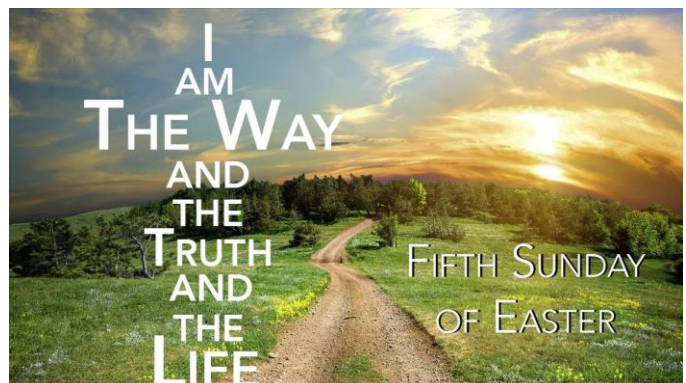
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Church Secretary: Carrie Shriver Perini
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Pastor Emeritus: Irvin Stapf
Pastor: Vacant
Vicar: Chris Clarke
Liturgist: Bob Petersen



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 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:*

Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart

Hymn #555

Rejoice, ye pure in heart, Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
Your festal banner wave on high, The Cross of Christ your King. *(Chorus)*

Rejoice, rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

Bright youth and snow-crowned age, Strong men and maidens meek,
Raise high your free exulting song; God's wondrous praises speak. *(Chorus)*

With all the angel choirs, With all the saints on earth,
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss, True rapture, no-blest mirth. *(Chorus)*

With voice as full and strong As ocean's surging praise,
Send forth the hymns our fathers loved, The psalms of ancient days. *(Chorus)*

Still lift your standard high, Still march in firm array,
As warriors through the darkness toil Till dawns the golden day. *(Chorus)*

At last the march shall end, The wearied ones shall rest,
The pilgrims find their Father's house, Jerusalem the blest. *(Chorus)*

Then on, ye pure in heart, Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
Your festal banner wave on high, The Cross of Christ your King. *(Chorus)*

*****Psalm: Psalm 148 (read responsively)**

Liturgist: ¹ Praise the Lord.

People: Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise him in the heights above.

Liturgist: ² Praise him, all his angels,

People: praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Liturgist: ³ Praise him, sun and moon,

People: praise him, all you shining stars.

Liturgist: ⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens

People: and you waters above the skies.

Liturgist: ⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord,

People: for he commanded and they were created.

Liturgist: ⁶ He set them in place for ever and ever;

People: he gave a decree that will never pass away.

Liturgist: ⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,

People: you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

Liturgist: ⁸ lightening and hail, snow and clouds,

People: stormy winds that do his bidding,

Liturgist: ⁹ you mountains and all hills,

People: fruit trees and all cedars,

Liturgist: ¹⁰ wild animals and all cattle,

People: small creatures and flying birds,

Liturgist: ¹¹ kings of the earth and all nations,

People: you princes and all rulers on earth,

Liturgist: ¹² Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;

People: his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

Liturgist: ¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;

People: his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

Liturgist: ¹⁴ He has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his saints, of Israel, the people close to his heart.

People: Praise the Lord.

*****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, from whom all good things do come: Grant to us thy humble servants, that by thy holy inspiration we may think those things that be right, and by thy merciful guiding may perform the same; 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: Acts 11:1-18

¹ The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him ³ and said, “You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.”

⁴ Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: ⁵ “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. ⁶ I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. ⁷ Then I heard a voice telling me, ‘Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.’

⁸ “I replied, ‘Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’

⁹ “The voice spoke from heaven a second time, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.’ ¹⁰ This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

¹¹ “Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. ¹² The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. ¹⁴ He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.’

¹⁵ “As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. ¹⁶ Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God’s way?”

¹⁸ When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson: Revelation 21:1-7

¹ Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

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 thirteenth chapter of Saint John, beginning with the thirty-first verse.

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

Gospel Lesson: John 13:31-35

³¹ When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

³³ “My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Vicar: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

Children’s Sermon:

Vicar Chris Clarke



LOVE one another, As i have LOVED you.
John 13:34

In Christ there is no east or west, In him no south or north,
But one great fellowship of love Throughout the whole wide earth.

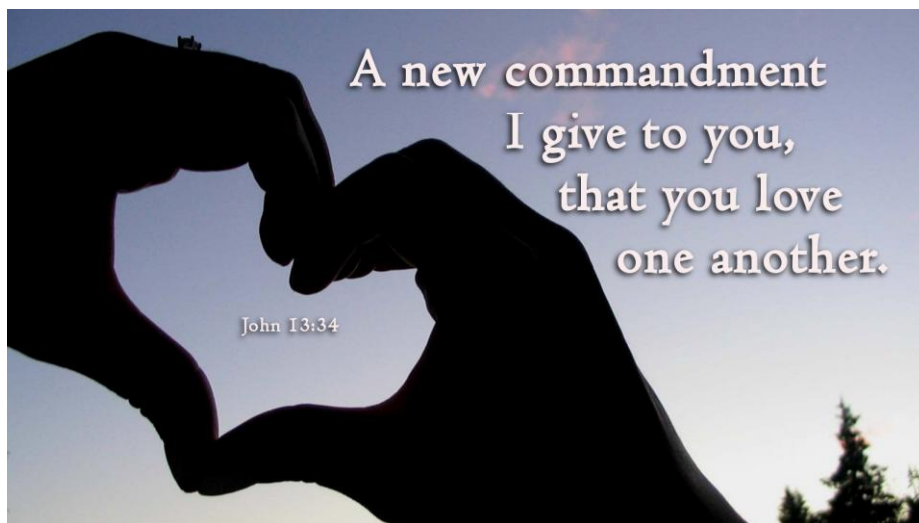
In him shall true hearts everywhere Their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord Close binding all man-kind.

Join hands, then, brothers of the faith, What'er you race may be:
Who serves my Father as a son Is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west, In him meet south and north;
All Christly souls are one in him Throughout the whole wide earth.

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 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:**

Because He Lives

God sent His Son—They called Him Jesus;

He came to love, heal and forgive.

He bled and died to buy my pardon;

An empty grave is there to prove my Saviour lives. (*Chorus*)

Because He lives I can face tomorrow; Because He lives, all fear is gone.

Because I know He holds the future, And life is worth the living just because He lives.

How sweet to hold our newborn baby,

And feel the pride and joy he gives;

But greater still the calm assurance;

This child can face uncertain days because Christ lives. (*Chorus*)

And then one day I'll cross that river;

I'll fight life's final war with pain.

And then, as death gives way to victory,

I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives. (*Chorus*)

*****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
Debbie Stapf	Chris German	Danny Beall	Nick Wrenn
Ben Flynn	Audrey Stapf	Pastor Irvin Stapf	Paul Beall
Terri & Mike Taylor	Bob & Mike Wolfgang		

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: The Reverend Dr. Jordan Cooper, Just & Sinner Publications/Weidner Institute

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: Redeemer Lutheran 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 Helen'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: clcmd.org or 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 have begun [CareNet's Baby Bottle Campaign](#)! Bottles are available in the Lobby. We encourage all the children to do chores for change! Bottles are due on Father's Day, June 15th ([CareNet](#) accepts cash and checks)**
- **Church Council will not be meeting this month. The next meeting will be Sunday, June 22nd, with reports due to Carrie by Tuesday, June 17th.**

John 3:16 Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.

John 3:16a (NIV)

A	N	D	T	B	E	T	H	E	F	M	O	T
T	I	O	N	O	E	U	G	I	A	M	V	H
L	A	I	Q	U	N	O	N	F	O	R	T	A
T	U	H	E	O	R	L	D	E	L	I	Q	T
Z	R	I	T	F	E	U	Y	A	I	T	V	U
L	A	O	R	S	L	O	R	S	I	H	E	R
S	U	M	L	O	V	E	D	T	A	T	I	E
L	I	S	I	T	N	U	A	F	A	C	I	S
U	J	T	A	L	U	A	T	U	E	R	I	T
S	O	N	E	E	G	A	V	E	D	I	T	O
N	H	L	L	C	O	N	S	E	Q	U	I	N
N	N	N	S	E	D	S	C	I	L	L	A	E
D	R	E	V	E	X	E	W	O	R	L	D	R

FOR
GOD
SO

LOVED
THE
WORLD

THAT
HE
GAVE

HIS
ONE
AND

ONLY
SON
JOHN