

**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  
**Liturgist:** Bob Petersen  
**Organist:** Helen Gibson

Blessed are  
the peacemakers,  
for they will be called  
Children of God



**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**January 29, 2023**

*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**

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

**People:** Amen.

**Liturgist:** 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.)*

**Liturgist:** 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

**Liturgist:** 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:**

***Breathe on Me, Breath of God***

***Hymn #470***

Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what thou dost love, And do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, Until my heart is pure,  
Until with thee I will one will, To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, Unite my soul with thine,  
Until this earthly part of me Glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I never die,  
But live with thee the perfect life Of thine eternity.

**\*\*\*Psalm: Psalm 15 (read responsively)**

**Liturgist:** O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent?

**People:** Who shall dwell on your holy hill?

**Liturgist:** He who walks blamelessly and does what is right

**People:** and speaks truth in his heart;

**Liturgist:** who does not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor,

**People:** nor takes up a reproach against his friend;

**Liturgist:** in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but who honors those who fear the Lord;

**People:** who swears to his own hurt and does not change;

**Liturgist:** who does not put out his money at interest and does not take a bribe against the innocent.

**People:** He who does these things shall never be moved.

**\*\*\*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 Ghost, 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 God, who knowest us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations; through thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*The Scripture Lessons:*

**First Lesson: Micah 6:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> Listen to what the LORD says: “Stand up, plead my case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say.

<sup>2</sup> “Hear, you mountains, the LORD’s accusation; listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth. For the LORD has a case against his people; he is lodging a charge against Israel.

<sup>3</sup> “My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you? Answer me.

<sup>4</sup> I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup> My people, remember what Balak king of Moab plotted and what Balaam son of Beor answered. Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD.”

<sup>6</sup> With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup> Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

<sup>8</sup> He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

<sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup> God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one may boast before him. <sup>30</sup> It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. <sup>31</sup> Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

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

**People:** Thanks be to God

**\*\*\*The Alleluia: (sung)** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Presenter:** Lift up your hearts and hear the Holy Gospel as it is recorded in the fifth chapter of Saint Matthew beginning with the first verse.

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

**Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:1-12**

<sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them. He said:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

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

*Children’s Sermon:*

***The Happy Worm***

*Jeane Flesch*



Jesus, the very thought of thee With sweetness fills the breast;  
But sweeter far thy face to see, And in thy presence rest.

Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame, Nor can the memory find  
A sweeter sound than thy blest Name, O Saviour of mankind!

O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all thy meek,  
To those who fall, how kind thou art, How good to those who seek!

But what to those who find? Ah, this Nor tongue nor pen can show;  
Thy love of Jesus, what it is, None but his loved ones know.

Jesus, our only joy be thou, As thou our prize wilt be;  
Jesus, be thou our glory now, And through eternity.



***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 Ghost, 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 Ghost; 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)**

**Presenter:** 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:**

**Presenter:** 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:**

***God of our Life***

**Hymn #209**

God of our life, all glorious Lord,  
Be now and evermore adored!  
Into the opening of this day  
Bring grace, and love, and peace, we pray.

Make clear our path, that we may see  
Where we must walk to be with thee,  
And listen always for thy voice  
That we may make thy way our choice.

Give help for doing every task,  
Nor let us fail of thee to ask  
For grace in speech, for love in deed,  
From wrongful actions to be freed.

Inspire us now to do some deed  
For other's good to help in need;  
To rescue and to lead from shame;  
To bless and comfort in thy Name.

Thus may we walk our way with thee,  
Enabled by thy grace to be  
A little less unworthy, Lord,  
Of thee our Friend, our Holy God.

At eventide then will we raise  
A grateful heart in songs of praise;  
And worship thee, and thy dear Son,  
With God the Spirit, ever One.

**\*\*\*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

Joyce Ballard	Mark & Terri Ballard	Sheila Perini	Robin Nicholson
Michael D'Amico	Hope Johnston	Sharon Phelps	Ken Ford
Lee Ballard	Samantha Shriver	Jimmy Beall	Burk Hill
Dorothy Foster	Elizabeth Ondulich	Ruth Bates	Tammy Stimmell
Rebecca Robinson	Bill Trall	Ted Hawk	Harvey Jester
Debbie Stapf	Jake Greear	Sheri Perini	Irv Stapf
Fred Carlson	Bob Petersen	Wendy Battles	Meryl Benenati
Jan Gladhill	Bruce Gladhill	Janice Delagrange	Brenda Beall
Paul Shriver			

For the President and the leaders of our nation

For those in the armed Services: Grace Gorevin, Zach Gorevin, Christopher Clarke, Travis Hawk, Skyler Hawk, Bethany Hueter, Chaplain John Reutemann, Chaplain Len Brokenshire, Cameron Donk, Ethan Stone, Rebecca Deppe, Wendy Ahern

For our Seminary Students: Chris Clarke, Cameron Swanson, Kris Johnson

For a Region congregation: Pastor Raymond Lorthioir, Jr., Trinity Lutheran Church, West Hampstead, NY

For our missionary work: Youth for Christ

For those being persecuted for their faith in Christ

For the congregations of our Germantown/Clarksburg/Damascus community: Neelsville Presbyterian Church

For the congregations of the American Association of Lutheran Churches

For our college students: Haven Flesch, Shelby Evans, Maddie Day, Joseph Flesch, Jude Stapf

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Men's Bible Study: TBA**
- **Women's Bible Study: Wednesday at 10 AM**
- **Children's Sunday School: 9:30 AM**
- **Adult 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 be having our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, after church. Please turn in any information and reports to Carrie by Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>.**
- **Reminder: IOOW write-ups are due no later than February 8<sup>th</sup>. Please turn them in to Jeane or Joe.**