

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

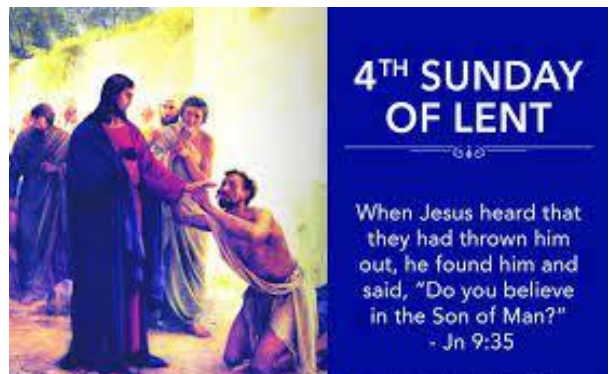
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Church Secretary: Carrie Shriver Perini
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Pastor Emeritus: Irvin Stapf
Pastor: Vacant
Liturgist: Bob Petersen
Organist: Helen Gibson



**4TH SUNDAY
OF LENT**

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
- Jn 9:35

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 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:**

O Jesus, Thou Art Standing

Hymn #386

O Jesus, thou art standing Outside the fast-closed door,
In lowly patience waiting To pass the threshold o'er.
Shame on us, Christian brethren, His Name and sign who bear,
O shame, thrice shame upon us, To keep him standing there!

O Jesus, thou art knocking; And lo, that hand is scarred,
And thorns thy brow encircle, And tears thy face have marred.
O love that passeth knowledge, So patiently to wait;
O shame, thrice shame upon us, To keep him standing there!

O Jesus, thou art pleading In accents meek and low,
'I died for you, my children, And will ye treat me so?'
O Lord, with shame and sorrow We open now the door;
Dear Saviour, enter, enter And leave us nevermore.

*****Psalm: Psalm 142 (read responsively)**

Liturgist: ¹With my voice I cry out to the Lord;

People: with my voice I plead for mercy to the Lord.

Liturgist: ²I pour out my complaint before him;

People: I tell my trouble before him.

Liturgist: ³When my spirit faints within me, you know my way!

People: In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.

Liturgist: ⁴Look to the right and see: there is none who takes notice of me;

People: no refuge remains to me; no one cares for my soul.

Liturgist: ⁵I cry to you, O Lord;

People: I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."

Liturgist: ⁶Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low!

People: Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me!

Liturgist: ⁷Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name!

People: The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me.

*****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: Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of thy grace may mercifully be relieved; 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: Isaiah 42:14-21

¹⁴ “For a long time I have kept silent, I have been quiet and held myself back. But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant.

¹⁵ I will lay waste the mountains and hills and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn rivers into islands and dry up the pools.

¹⁶ I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.

¹⁷ But those who trust in idols, who say to images, ‘You are our gods,’ will be turned back in utter shame.

¹⁸ “Hear, you deaf; look, you blind, and see!

¹⁹ Who is blind but my servant, and deaf like the messenger I send? Who is blind like the one in covenant with me, blind like the servant of the LORD?

²⁰ You have seen many things, but you pay no attention; your ears are open, but you do not listen.”

²¹ It pleased the LORD for the sake of his righteousness to make his law great and glorious.

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴ This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

The Lenten Sentence: Christ hath humbled himself, and become obedient unto death: even the death of the Cross.

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

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

Gospel Lesson: John 9:1-41

¹ As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

³ “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷ “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some claimed that he was.

Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.”

¹⁰ “How then were your eyes opened?” they asked.

¹¹ He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.”

¹² “Where is this man?” they asked him. “I don’t know,” he said.

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided.

¹⁷ Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸ They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man’s parents. ¹⁹ “Is this your son?” they asked. “Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?”

²⁰ “We know he is our son,” the parents answered, “and we know he was born blind. ²¹ But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don’t know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ That was why his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴ A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. “Give glory to God by telling the truth,” they said. “We know this man is a sinner.”

²⁵ He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”

²⁶ Then they asked him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”

²⁷ He answered, “I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?”

²⁸ Then they hurled insults at him and said, “You are this fellow’s disciple! We are disciples of Moses! ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don’t even know where he comes from.”

³⁰ The man answered, “Now that is remarkable! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. ³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”

³⁴ To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

³⁶ “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

³⁷ Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

³⁸ Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

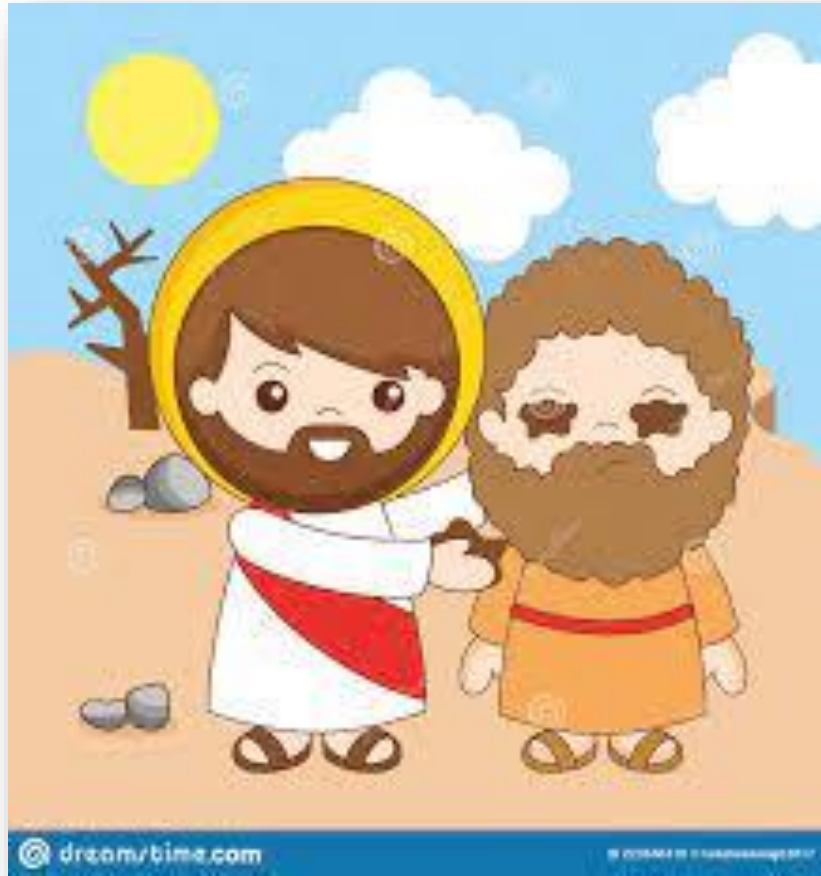
³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?”

⁴¹ Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

Presenter: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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



Pulpit Hymn:
#64

In the Cross of Christ, I Glory

Hymn

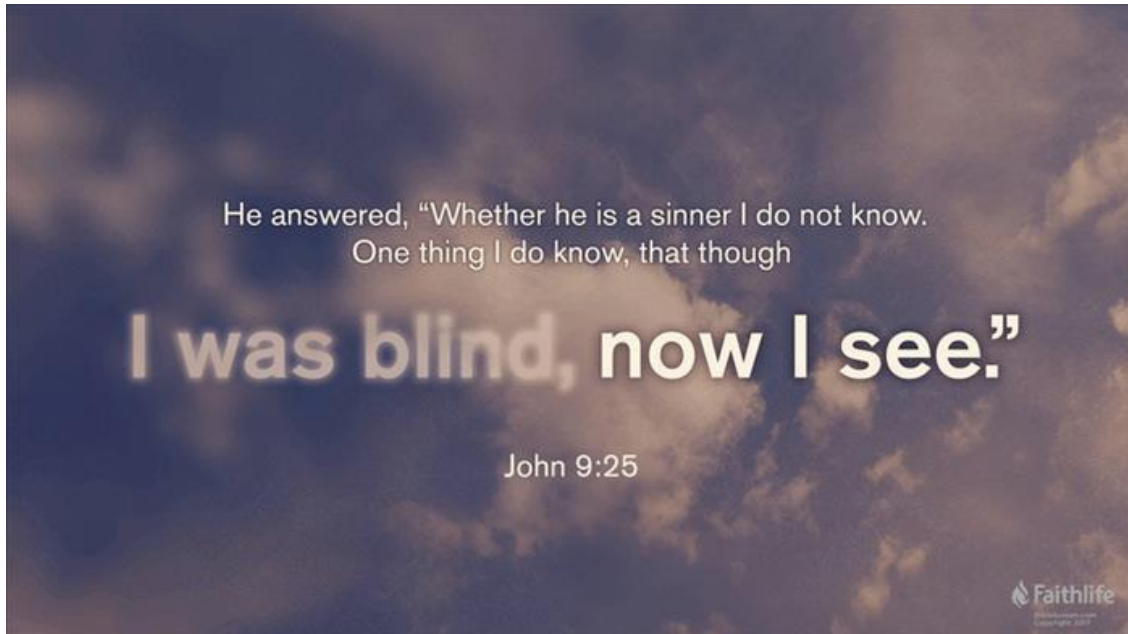
In the Cross of Christ I glory, Towering o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'er-take me, Hopes deceive and fears annoy,
Never shall the Cross forsake me; Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming Light and love upon my way,
From the Cross the radiance streaming Adds more lustre to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, By the Cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that through all time abide.

Sight for the Blind



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

*****Closing Hymn:**

Thou Hidden Love of God

Hymn #391

Thou hidden Love of God, whose height, Whose depth unfathomed no man knows;
I see from far thy beauteous light, Only I sigh for thy repose.
My heart is pained, nor can it be At rest, till it finds rest in thee.

Thy secret voice invites me still The sweetness of thy yoke to prove;
And fain I would; but, though my will Seem fixed, yet wide with passions rove.
Yet hindrances strew all the way; I aim at thee, yet from thee stray.

Is there a thing beneath the sun That strives with thee my heart to share?
Ah, tear it thence, and reign alone, The Lord of every motion there;
Then shall my heart from earth be free, When it hath found repose in thee.

Each moment draw from earth away My heart, that lowly waits thy call;
Speak to my inmost soul, and say, 'I am thy Love, thy God, thy All!'
To feel thy power, to hear thy voice, To taste thy love, be all my choice.

*****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
Bruce Gladhill	Brenda Beall	Paul Shriver	
Family of Jan Gladhill			

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

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

For a Region congregation: Pastor Neil Cadle, Bethel Lutheran Church, Rowland, PA

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: Tri-County Baptist 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. 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.**
- **Church Council will meet today after church.**
- **Please review the Church Directory, including friends, and let Carrie know of any changes by Sunday, April 2nd.**

SERMON NOTES: Sight for the Blind



