

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



Third Sunday of Easter
April 14, 2024

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 forgive you 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:**

Christ Arose

Low in the grave He lay—Jesus my Saviour!
Waiting the coming day— *(Refrain)*

*Jesus my Lord! Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

Vainly they watch His bed—Jesus my Saviour!
Vainly they seal the dead— *(Refrain)*

Death cannot keep his prey—Jesus my Saviour!
He tore the bars away— *(Refrain)*

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

Liturgist: Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress.

People: Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

Liturgist: O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame?

People: How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?

Liturgist: But know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself;

People: the Lord hears when I call to him.

Liturgist: Be angry, and do not sin;

People: ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent.

Liturgist: Offer right sacrifices,

People: and put your trust in the Lord.

Liturgist: There are many who say, "Who will show us some good?"

People: Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord!"

Liturgist: You have put more joy in my heart

People: than they have when their grain and wine abound.

Liturgist: In peace I will both lie down and sleep;

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: Almighty God, who showest to them that be in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness: Grant unto all them that are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion that they may eschew those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Scripture Lessons:

First Lesson: Acts 3:11-21

¹¹ While he was clinging to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them at the portico named Solomon's, completely astonished. ¹² But when Peter saw *this*, he replied to the people, "Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this, or why are you staring at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made him walk?" ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, *the one* whom you handed over and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release *Him*. ¹⁴ But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵ but put to death the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, *a fact* to which we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And on the basis of faith in His name, *it is* the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which *comes* through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

¹⁷ "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers also did. ¹⁸ But the things which God previously announced by the mouths of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has fulfilled in this way. ¹⁹ Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; ²⁰ and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until *the* period of restoration of all things, about which God spoke by the mouths of His holy prophets from ancient times.

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson: 1 John 3:1-7

¹ See how great a love the Father has given us, that we would be called children of God; and *in fact* we are. For this reason the world does not know us: because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope *set* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

⁴ Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who remains in Him sins *continually*; no one who sins *continually* has seen Him or knows Him. ⁷ Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;

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 twenty-fourth chapter of Saint Luke beginning with the thirty-sixth verse.

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

Gospel Lesson: Luke 24:36-49

³⁶ Now while they were telling these things, *Jesus* Himself *suddenly* stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace *be* to you." ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened, and thought that they were looking at a spirit. ³⁸ And He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why are doubts arising in your hearts? ³⁹ See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, because a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you *plainly* see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. ⁴¹ While they still could not believe *it* because of their joy and astonishment, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They served Him a piece of broiled fish; ⁴³ and He took it and ate *it* in front of them.

⁴⁴ Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all the things that are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and He said to them, “So it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

Children’s Sermon:

Jeane Flesch



Pulpit Hymn:

Rock of Ages

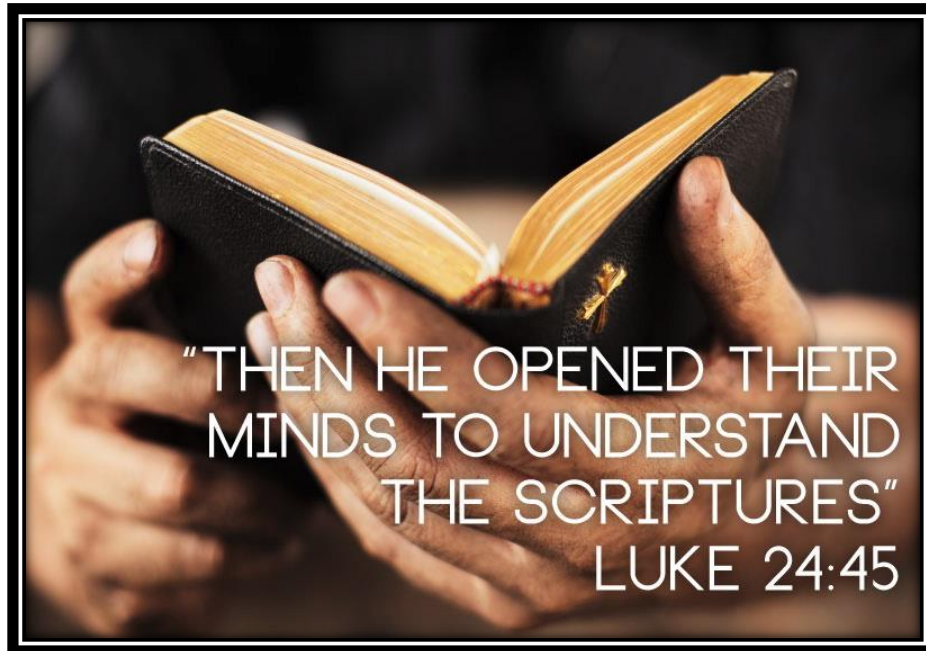
Hymn #379

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood, From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure, Cleanse me from its guilt and power.

Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill thy law’s demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to the Cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress; Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Saviour, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, See thee on thy judgement throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee.



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)**

Presenter: 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 vict'ry,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns. (*Chorus*)

*****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

Robin Nicholson	Hope Johnston	Sharon Phelps	Chris and Bob Bingaman
Jimmy Beall	Dorothy Foster	Becky Stapf	Matt Ruppalt
Rebecca Robinson	Bill Trall	Harvey Jester	Justin Serene
Fred Carlson	Bob Petersen	Meryl Benenati	Norita Shipley
Eddie Neighbors	Kris Johnson	Carrie Perini	Marty Beall
Linda Comer	Brian Stitely	The Rev. Fred Balke	Diamond Castillo
Audrey Stapf	Irv Stapf	Scott Caille	Cam Swanson
Bob Clarke	Derek Clay		

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, Kris Johnson

For our Seminary Students: Chris Clarke, Kris Johnson

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

For our missionary work: Great Commission Families (Beall)

For those being persecuted for their faith in Christ

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

For the congregations of the American Association of Lutheran Churches

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

*Pray for the families of those involved in the collapse of the Key Bridge.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Men's Bible Study: Tuesday's: 1:30 PM at Church**
- **Women's Bible Study: Wednesday's: 10 AM at Carolyn's**
- **Adult and Children's Sunday School: 9:30 Sunday mornings.**
- **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.**
- **Thank you to everyone for your donations to Damascus HELP.**
- **Church Council will meet next Sunday after church. Please turn reports in to Carrie by Tuesday, April 16th.**

SERMON NOTES: *He Opened Their Minds*