

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)**

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



Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 30, 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**

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

People: Amen.

Vicar: 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.)

Vicar: 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

Vicar: 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:**

Christ, the Life of all the Living

Hymn #79

Christ, the Life of all the living, Christ the Death, our foe,
Who thyself for us once giving To the darkest depths of woe,
Patiently didst yield the breath But to save my soul from death;
Praise and glory ever be, Blessed Jesus, unto thee.

Thou, O Christ, hast taken on thee Bitter strokes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon thee, O thou sinless Son of God,
Only thus for me to win Rescue from the bonds of sin;
Praise and glory ever be, Blessed Jesus, unto thee.

Thou didst bear the smiling only That it might not fall on me;
Stoodest falsely charged and lonely That I might be safe and free;
Comfortless that I might know Comfort from thy boundless woe,
Praise and glory ever be, Blessed Jesus, unto thee.

Then for all that wrought our pardon, For thy sorrows deep and sore,
For thine anguish in the garden, I will thank thee evermore;
Thank thee with my latest breath For thy sad and cruel death,
For that last and bitter cry Praise thee evermore on high.

*****Psalm: Psalm 32 (read responsively)**

Liturgist: ¹ Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,

People: whose wins are covered.

Liturgist: ² Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him

People: and in whose spirit is no deceit.

Liturgist: ³ When I kept silent,

People: my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

Liturgist: ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;

People: my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

Liturgist: ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord”—

People: and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Liturgist: ⁶ Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found;

People: surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him.

Liturgist: ⁷ You are my hiding place;

People: you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

Liturgist: ⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;

People: I will counsel you and watch over you.

Liturgist: ⁹ Do not be like the horse or the mule,

People: which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.

Liturgist: ¹⁰ Many are the woes of the wicked,

People: but the Lord’s unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts him.

Liturgist: ¹¹ Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous;

People: sing, all you who are upright in heart!

*****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: 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 lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

The Scripture Lessons:

First Reading: Isaiah 12:1-6

¹In that day you will say: "I will praise you, LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me.

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation."

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

⁴In that day you will say: "Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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 fifteenth chapter of Saint Luke, beginning with the first verse.

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

Gospel Lesson: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ²But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³Then Jesus told them this parable:

¹¹Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.

¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything

¹⁷ “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

²⁸ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

³¹ “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

Vicar: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

Children’s Sermon:

Vicar Chris Clarke



Pulpit Hymn:

And Can It Be That I Should Gain

And can it be that I should gain An interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be That thou, my God, should die for me? (*Chorus*)

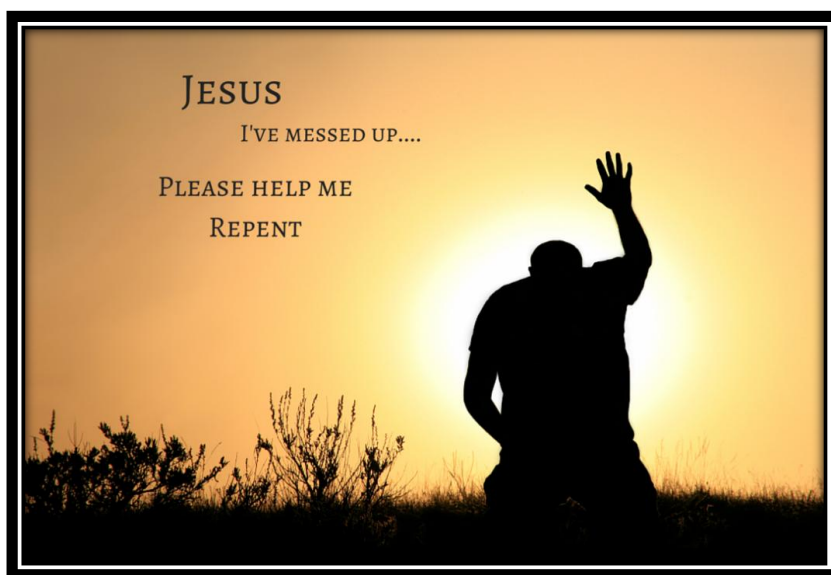
Amazing love! how can it be That thou, my God, should die for me.

He left His Father's throne above, So free, so infinite His grace,
Emptied Himself of all but love, And bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free; For O my God, it found out me. (*Chorus*)

Long my imprisoned spirit lay Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick-'ning ray, I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and followed Thee. (*Chorus*)

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 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)***

Vicar: 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:**

Vicar: 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) A-men, A-men, A----men.

*****Closing Hymn:**

I Know Whom I Have Believed

Hymn #51 (P&P)

I know not why God's wondrous grace To me He hath made known,
Nor why, unworthy, Christ in love Redeemed me for His own. (*Chorus*)

*But "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able
To keep that which I've committed Unto Him against that day."*

I know not how this saving faith To me He did impart,
Nor how believing in His Word Wrought peace within my heart. (*Chorus*)

I know not how the Spirit moves, Convincing men of sin,
Revealing Jesus thro' the Word, Creating faith in Him.

I know not what of good or ill May be reserved for me,
Of weary ways or golden days, Before His face I see.

I know not when my Lord may come, At night or noonday fair,
Nor if I'll walk the vale with Him, Or "meet Him in the air." (*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
Cam Swanson	Debbie Stapf	Chris German	Danny Beall
Ben Flynn	Audrey Stapf	Pastor Irvin 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: Pastor Nigel Brown, Hope Lutheran Church, Franklin, NC

For our missionary work: Waterboyz

For those being persecuted for their faith in Christ

For the congregations of our Germantown/Clarksburg/Damascus community: Greenridge Baptist 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 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. 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.**
- **The Reverend Joe Christina will be visiting us next Sunday, April 6th. He will be preaching and conducting Communion. We will have coffee, juice and donuts following the service.**
- **We are collecting food items for Damascus HELP during the month of April. Please place items by the water fountain.**