

# 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:** [clc-md.org](http://clc-md.org) or [christlutheranofgermantown.org](http://christlutheranofgermantown.org)

**Facebook:** Christ Lutheran Church AALC

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**Church Secretary:** Carrie Shriver Perini  
Mobile phone: 240 397-3498  
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**Pastor Emeritus:** Irvin Stapf  
**Pastor:** Vacant  
**Vicar:** Chris Clarke  
**Liturgist:** Bob Petersen

THE THIRD SUNDAY  
AFTER THE

*Epiphany*

## *Third Sunday after the Epiphany*

**January 25, 2026**

*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:**

***All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!***

***Hymn #426***

*All hail the power of Jesus' Name! Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown him Lord of all. (X2)*

*Crown him, ye martyrs of your God Who from his altar call;  
Extol the Stem of Jesse's rod, And crown him Lord of all. (X2)*

*Ye seed of Israel's chosen race, Ye ransomed of the fall,  
Hail him who saves you by his grace, And crown him Lord of all. (X2)*

*Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget The wormwood and the gall,  
Go, spread your trophies at his feet, And crown him Lord of all. (X2)*

*Let every kindred, every tribe, On this terrestrial ball,  
To him all majesty ascribe, And crown him Lord of all. (X2)*

*O that with yonder sacred throng We at his feet may fall;  
We'll join the everlasting song And crown him Lord of all. (X2)*

\*\*\***Psalm:** Psalm 27:1-9 (read responsively)

**Liturgist:** <sup>1</sup>The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

**People:** The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

**Liturgist:** <sup>2</sup>When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh,

**People:** when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall.

**Liturgist:** <sup>3</sup>Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;

**People:** the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters.

**Liturgist:** <sup>4</sup>One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek:

**People:** that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

**Liturgist:** <sup>5</sup>For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling;

**People:** he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.

**Liturgist:** <sup>6</sup>Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy;

**People:** I will sing and make music to the Lord.

**Liturgist:** <sup>7</sup>Hear my voice when I call, O Lord;

**People:** be merciful to me and answer me.

**Liturgist:** <sup>8</sup>My heart says of you, “Seek his face!”

**People:** Your face, Lord, I will seek.

**Liturgist:** <sup>9</sup>Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper,

**People:** Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior.

\*\*\***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 and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth the right hand of thy Majesty to help and defend us; 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 9:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

#### **Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

<sup>10</sup> I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. <sup>11</sup> For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. <sup>12</sup> What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." <sup>13</sup> Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

<sup>18</sup> For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

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

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

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

## Gospel Lesson: Matthew 4:12-25

<sup>12</sup> Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. <sup>13</sup> And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup> “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—<sup>16</sup> the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.” <sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

<sup>18</sup> While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

<sup>23</sup> And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. <sup>24</sup> So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. <sup>25</sup> And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

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

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

*Children's Sermon:*

*Vicar Chris Clarke*



*Pulpit Hymn:*

*Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*

*Hymn #351*

*Where cross the crowded ways of life,  
Where sound the cries of race and clan,  
Above the noise of selfish strife,  
We hear thy voice, O Son of Man.*

*In haunts of wretchedness and need,  
On shadowed thresholds dark with fears,  
From paths where hide the lures of greed,  
We catch the vision of thy tears.*

*From tender childhood's helplessness,  
From woman's grief, man's burdened toil,  
From famished souls, from sorrow's stress,  
Thy heart has never known recoil.*

*The cup of water given for thee  
Still holds the freshness of thy grace;  
Yet long these multitudes to see  
The sweet compassion of thy face.*

*O Master, from the mountain side,  
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;  
Among these restless throngs abide,  
O tread the city's streets again;*

*Till sons of men shall learn thy love,  
And follow where thy feet have trod;  
'Till glorious from thy heaven above,  
Shall come the city of our God.*

*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:**

***O God of Jacob***

*O God of Jacob, by whose hand Your people still are fed,  
Who through this weary pilgrimage A wav'ring Israel led:*

*Our vows, our prayers, we now present Before your throne of grace.  
O God of Jacob, be the God Of their succeeding race.*

*Through each perplexing path of life Our wand'dring footsteps guide;  
Give us this day our daily bread, And shelter fit provide.*

*Oh, grant us your protecting care Till all our wand'rings cease,  
That to those mansions kept for us We all may come in peace.*

**\*\*\*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	Brian Gray
Rebecca Robinson	Bill Trall	Harvey Jester	Justin Serene
Fred Carlson	Bob Petersen	Norita Shipley	Debbie Stapf
Ben Flynn	Meryl Benenati	Tom Jarels	Rodney Perini
Mary Neighly	The Reverend Joe Christina		

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

For our missionary work: Blanket Ministry

For those being persecuted for their faith in Christ

For the congregations of our Germantown/Clarksburg/Damascus community: Christian Life Center

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: Cancelled this week**
- **Women's Bible Study: Wednesday – 10 AM at the Mt. Airy Fire Hall in the Lion's Club Room. Depending on weather.**
- **Adult Sunday School and Children's Sunday School at 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: [clc-md.org](http://clc-md.org) or [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 are collecting Cereals (cold or hot), Instant Coffee (less than 3 oz) & Tea Bags for Damascus HELP during the month of February. There is a collection bin in the Narthex.**
- **Church Council will meet next Sunday. Please turn in any reports to Carrie, by Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, after church.**

