

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: clcmd.org or christlutheranofgermantown.org

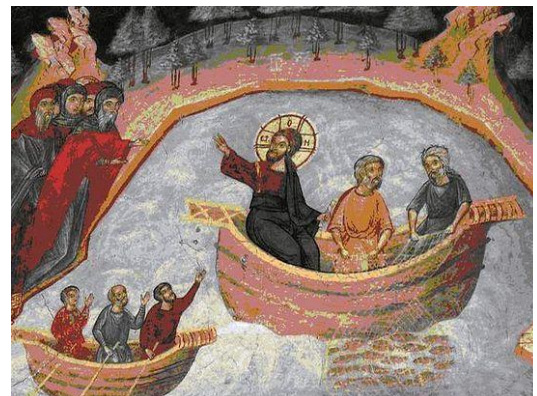
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Pastor Emeritus: Irvin Stapf
Pastor: Vacant
Vicar: Chris Clarke
Liturgist:



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 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:***

Praise to the Lord

Hymnal #408

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
All ye who hear, Now to his temple draw near; Joining in glad adoration.*

*Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:
Hast thou not seen? All that is needful hath been Granted in what he ordaineth.*

*Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do, If with his love he befriend thee!*

*Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore him;
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen Sound from his people again; Gladly for aye we adore him.*

*****Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10 (read responsively)**

Liturgist: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

People: in you I trust, O my God.

Liturgist: Do not let me be put to shame,

People: nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Liturgist: No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame,

People: but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse.

Liturgist: Show me your ways, O Lord,

People: teach me your paths;

Liturgist: guide me in your truth and teach me,

People: for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

Liturgist: Remember, O Lord, your great mercy and love,

People: for they are from of old.

Liturgist: Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;

People: according to your love remember me, for you are good, O Lord.

Liturgist: Good and upright is the Lord;

People: therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.

Liturgist: He guides the humble in what is right

People: and teaches them his way.

Liturgist: All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful

People: for those who keep the demands of his covenant.

*****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: Lord, we beseech thee, grant thy people grace to withstand the temptations of the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow thee, the only God; 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: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² “What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge’? ³ As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

²⁵ “Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶ When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷ Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸ Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰ “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Lesson: Philippians 2:1-18

¹ So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,^[c] being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.



¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷ Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Liturgist: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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

Anthem

Our God Reigns

Liturgist: Lift up your hearts and hear the Holy Gospel as it is recorded in the twenty-first chapter of Saint Matthew beginning with the twenty-third verse.

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

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 21:23-32

²³ And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

Liturgist: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

Children’s Sermon:

Jeane Flesch

CHOICES



*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 sin that hath no equal, So fast to bar the gate!*

*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 evermore.*

Sermon:

Pastor Emeritus Irvin Stapf

By What Authority?



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)**

Liturgist: 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:**

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) *A-men, A-men, A---men.*

*****Closing Hymn:**

Rise Up, O Men of God!

Hymnal #541

*Rise up, O men of God! Have done with lesser things;
Give heart and soul and mind and strength To serve the King of kings.*

*Rise up, O men of God! His kingdom tarries long;
Bring in the day of brotherhood, And end the night of wrong.*

*Rise up, O men of God! The Church for you doth wait,
Her strength unequal to her task; Rise up and make her great!*

*Lift high the Cross of Christ! Tread where his feet have trod;
As brothers of the Son of Man, Rise up, O men of God!*

*****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	Rev. Joe Christina
Rebecca Robinson	Bill Trall	Harvey Jester	Justin Serene
Fred Carlson	Norita Shipley	Debbie Stapf	Jimmy Beall
Ben Flynn	Rodney Perini	Carolyn Kelly	The Gray family
The Shriver family	Sharon Fraley	Paul Beall	

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, Ethan Stone, 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: CLC Blanket Ministry

For those being persecuted for their faith in Christ

For the congregations of our Germantown/Clarksburg/Damascus community: St. Paul's Catholic Church

For the congregations of the American Association of Lutheran Churches

For our college students: Maddie Day, Jude Stapf, Paul Stapf, Jenna Perini, Gianna Clarke

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Men's Bible Study: Monday – 11 AM at Joe Flesch's home.**
- **Women's Bible Study: Wednesday – 10 AM at Church in the Adult Sunday School room.**
- **Adult Sunday School and Children's Sunday School Sunday 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: clcmd.org or 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 soups, canned or dried, for Damascus HELP during the month of October. There is a collection bin in the Narthex.**
- **Church Council will meet after service today.**
- **Our 50th Anniversary activities and celebration were wonderful! Thank you everyone, for your hard work and participation!**