

# CHAPEL OF THE CROSS

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## LUTHERAN



FAITH • HOPE • LOVE

# Welcome to Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran!

## **To Our Visitors**

We offer you a very warm welcome to Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran! We are happy to have you worshipping with us and hope that your worship here today and the Word of God that is shared will assist you in the week ahead. If you are looking for a church home, we hope that you would prayerfully consider making Chapel of the Cross that home. May God bless your week!

## **Nursery**

If you need to take your infant or toddler out of the worship service, the nursery is available for your use. The worship service is broadcast to the nursery. An usher will be happy to show you where it is located.

## **Sunday School and Bible Study**

We have an exciting Sunday School program for children age 2 and up. We also offer Bible studies for youth and adults at 9:45 a.m. Sunday School rooms are in the Lower Level. Check the Chapel Weekly handout for Bible study locations. An usher will be happy to take you to the appropriate place.

## **Holy Communion**

Holy Communion is celebrated regularly and often here at Chapel of the Cross. If you have questions about Holy Communion and what we as a church believe about it, please speak with the Pastor before the service. Children are invited to come forward with their parents for a blessing.

## **Sound Enhancement Devices**

If you are hearing impaired there are sound enhancement devices available. Please ask an usher for a personal receiver.

### **The Mission of Chapel of the Cross**

*Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran exists to show the love of Jesus to the people of North County and beyond so that all may have a living relationship with Christ.*

# Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

July 12, 2026

11:00 a.m.

*Please note: This worship service is live streamed and recorded.*

## AS WE GATHER

Any gardener will admit they have seen certain plants flourish while others fail. The plants don't get a choice in the matter. A plant cannot affect the amount of sunlight, moisture, or attention it receives. It simply grows the way it was designed to. You have been planted by the Lord in His garden. You have seen the light of His Gospel, been watered in Baptism, and been nourished by heaven's food. You have been designed to flourish! A pear tree doesn't grow pumpkins, and neither do the redeemed fall back into fear or slavery. You are the harvest of the Lord. We grow to His glory.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND EXCHANGE OF PEACE

*It is important to recognize that some people are especially susceptible to viruses that can be spread by contact and that some immune systems are very sensitive. Please understand that some may choose not to shake hands during the Exchange of Peace, but might simply greet you with a verbal greeting, a wave, or a smile.*

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

*The congregation turns and faces the cross as the procession approaches the altar reminding us that Christ leads us into the presence of God.*

*Please stand*

### ENTRANCE HYMN

545 Word of God, Come Down on Earth

### INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

### BAPTISM

Luca Ernest Kehe

The son of Benjamin and Allyson Kehe

Sponsors: Jenna Roeglin and Jake Roeglin

### 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, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living 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.**

*Please stand*

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**Pastor:** The Lord has delivered us from the domain of darkness

**People:** **and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

**Pastor:** Almighty God and Father,

**People:** **we confess, as Your people, our need for Your merciful kindness. We are prisoners of our own wants, our own fears, and our own inborn sinfulness. Our actions and interactions often fail as reflections of Your kingdom. Our thoughts, desires, and actions are often borne out of love for ourselves, rather than our love for others or for You. Forgive us and free us, Lord, to love what You love and go where You lead, all by the grace of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Pastor:** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus, to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word 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!**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

815 All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine



1 All praise to Thee, for Thou, O King di - vine,  
2 Thou can'st to us in low - li - ness of thought;



Didst yield the glo - ry that of right was Thine,  
By Thee the out - cast and the poor were sought;



That in our dark - ened hearts Thy grace might shine.  
And by Thy death was God's sal - va - tion wrought.



Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia!

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Tune: Public domain

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

**People:** Almighty God, we thank You for planting in us the seed of Your Word. By Your Holy Spirit help us receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow into the full maturity of Christ, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## ✠ WORD ✠

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 55:10–13

*(The Lord's powerful Word sets His people free in joy and singing.)*

<sup>10</sup> As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, <sup>11</sup> so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. <sup>12</sup> You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. <sup>13</sup> Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine tree, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the LORD's renown, for an everlasting sign, which will not be destroyed."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM

Psalms 65:9-13

Pastor: You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly.

People: **The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it.**

Pastor: You drench its furrows and level its ridges;

People: **you soften it with showers and bless its crops.**

Pastor: You crown the year with your bounty,

People: **and your carts overflow with abundance.**

Pastor: The grasslands of the desert overflow;

People: **the hills are clothed with gladness.**

Pastor: The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain;

People: **they shout for joy and sing.**

## ANTHEM

"Wherever He Leads I'll Go"

B. B. McKinney

*"Take up thy cross and follow me," I heard my Master say.*

*"I gave My life to ransom thee; surrender your all today."*

*Refrain:*

*Wherever He leads, I'll go. Wherever He leads, I'll go.*

*I'll follow my Christ who loves me so. Wherever He leads, I'll go.*

*He drew me closer to His side: I sought His will to know.*

*And in that will I now abide; wherever He leads I'll go.*

*Refrain*

## EPISTLE

Romans 8:12–17

*(Set free by the Spirit, believers are challenged to recognize their adoption into the family of God.)*

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation--but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, <sup>14</sup> because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

<sup>15</sup> For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "'Abba," Father." <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. <sup>17</sup> Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

**Lector:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand*

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

**People:** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

*(Jesus shares and interprets His story of the lavish sower and the harvest He seeks.)*

<sup>1</sup> That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. <sup>2</sup> Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup> Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. <sup>9</sup> He who has ears, let him hear."

<sup>18</sup> "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. <sup>20</sup> The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. <sup>21</sup> But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. <sup>22</sup> The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.

<sup>23</sup> But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## HYMN

577     Almighty, God, Your Word is Cast

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Sermon notes

*Please stand*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor:        Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

**+ + + Special Intercessions + + +**

**Each concluding:**    Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,    **People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor:        Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People:        Amen.**

## OFFERING

*During the offering, please sign  
the Record of Fellowship found  
at the end of each pew*



*Scan to give online*

“The Lord's Prayer”

by Andrea Bocelli

*Please stand*

## OFFERTORY

**■** Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

*The Lord's Supper is a gift Christ gives to His Church. In it, He offers His true Body and Blood, in, with, and under the bread and wine. When received in faith, it brings forgiveness, new life, and salvation. In response to God's command in Scripture, we are to examine ourselves prior to partaking of the Sacrament. There are five basic questions by which we should examine ourselves, all of which we should be able to answer in the affirmative if we are to partake of the Sacrament worthily: 1) Am I a baptized believer? 2) Do I believe I am a sinner and am truly sorry for my sins? 3) Do I believe that Jesus Christ is my Savior from sin? 4) Do I promise with God's help to turn from sin and live a God-pleasing life? 5) Do I believe in the true teachings of God's Word, namely that the Body and Blood of Jesus are truly present, powerful, and effective in the Sacrament? Any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a differing confession and yet desire to receive the sacrament are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.(see Matthew 26:26-29; 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:17- 34)*

### PREFACE

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**Pastor:** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

## SANCTUS (*Holy, holy, holy*)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## 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 forever and ever. Amen.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me.

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

## PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

## AGNUS DEI (*Lamb of God*)

■ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the

world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that

tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*If you wish to take communion in the pew, please raise your hand when the communion assistant comes down the aisle.*

*When the wine is distributed, individual glasses will be offered first, then the common cup. Communicants may take whichever is preferred. If taking the individual glass, please keep the glass visible so that the communion assistant with the common cup will know who has already communed.*

*Non-alcoholic wine is available in the center of the communion tray for those who have a sensitivity to the alcohol in wine.*

*Children and those who cannot yet commune are invited to come forward and kneel at the rail with arms crossed to receive a blessing.*

## **DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**820**     My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker

**655**     Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

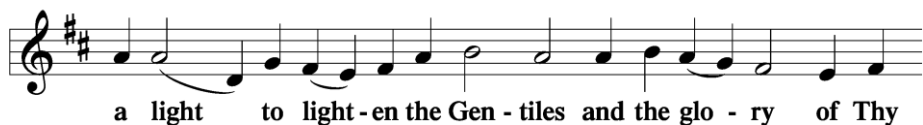
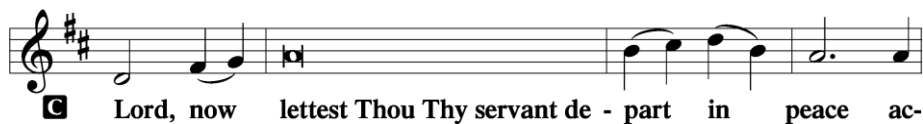
## **SILENT PRAYER**

*You may pray the following prayer as we give thanks to God for His good gifts:*

*Lord God of mercy, I give You thanks for the body and blood of Your Son; for the Word by which You give me forgiveness; for Your promises by which You give me life. May the gifts of Your heavenly banquet fortify me against the Evil One and strengthen me in the face of the world. Help me to live as one who hungers for Your grace, who thirsts after righteousness, who longs to taste of Your goodness, that I may sit at Your table at the heavenly feast which has no end. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

*Please stand*

## NUNC DIMITTIS



## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

## FAREWELL AND GODSPEED TO VICAR CHUCK WALLACE

### BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

*Please turn towards the cross as it is carried out of the church, and remain facing it until the hymn is completed. This symbolizes our following Christ into the world as we leave.*

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

## POSTLUDE

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

by Jeffery Blersch

Prepare for next weekend’s worship by reading:

Isaiah 44:6-8; Romans 8:18-27; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Find a devotional guide on the readings at <https://chapelofthecross.org/devotions>

*Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com) Hymns used by permission. OneLicense.net #A-725523 Lutheran Service Builder License no. VVPKL-GBOIT-LYVDV-EKAFZ.*

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## Serving at Chapel

|                         |                                                                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Preacher:               | Charles Wallace                                                           |
| Liturgist:              | Theodore Laesch                                                           |
| Lectors:                | 8:30 a.m. Christy Boehmer<br>11:00 a.m. Sandy Otto                        |
| Acolytes:               | 8:30 a.m. Emma Runser<br>11:00 a.m. Nathan Runser                         |
| Soloist:                | Mark Petersen                                                             |
| Instrumentalists:       | Johnathan Clayton, trumpet<br>Ted Laesch, trumpet<br>Hannah Lanning, harp |
| Organist & Accompanist: | Timothy Mars                                                              |
| Director of the Week:   | Keith Otto                                                                |
| Elder of the Week:      | Jonathan Bellmann                                                         |

## Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran

11645 Benham Road, St. Louis, MO 63136  
(314) 741-3737      [www.chapelofthecross.org](http://www.chapelofthecross.org)  
Email: [office@chapelofthecross.org](mailto:office@chapelofthecross.org)

## Worship and Christian Education

Saturday - 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday - 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Worship Service broadcast on KFUD 850 AM Sundays at 4:00 p.m.  
Live internet streaming at [www.chapelofthecross.org](http://www.chapelofthecross.org) Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

*Holy Communion is celebrated the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 8:30 a.m.,  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 11:00 a.m.,  
and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of the month at 5:00 p.m.*

Sunday school for children, Sunday Bible classes for adults and youth – 9:45 a.m.

## Chapel Ministry Staff

|                                                  | <u>Home Phone</u> | <u>E-mail</u>                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Theodore Laesch, Pastor                          | 314-355-0688      | <a href="mailto:pastorlaesch@chapelofthecross.org">pastorlaesch@chapelofthecross.org</a>     |
| Ellory Glenn, Specific Ministry Pastor           | 314-369-8014      | <a href="mailto:ellory.glenn@chapelofthecross.org">ellory.glenn@chapelofthecross.org</a>     |
| Charles Wallace, Vicar                           | 985-852-7958      | <a href="mailto:vicarchuck@chapelofthecross.org">vicarchuck@chapelofthecross.org</a>         |
| Timothy Mars, Director of Music                  | 308-241-2012      | <a href="mailto:timothy.mars@chapelofthecross.org">timothy.mars@chapelofthecross.org</a>     |
| Bill Rusnak, Director of Adult Ministry          | 314-200-9797      | <a href="mailto:bill.rusnak@chapelofthecross.org">bill.rusnak@chapelofthecross.org</a>       |
| Clifford Bischoff, Pastoral Assistant            | 314-921-1107      | <a href="mailto:pastorbischoff@chapelofthecross.org">pastorbischoff@chapelofthecross.org</a> |
| Mary Laesch, Children and Family Ministry Coord. | 314-355-0688      | <a href="mailto:family@chapelofthecross.org">family@chapelofthecross.org</a>                 |

## Missions

Chapel of the Cross supports the ministry of the English District and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod as well as the Lutheran High School Association. We also assist the following ministries and organizations:

|                    |                                                      |                            |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| *Friend of Moms    | *Lutheran Early Response Teams                       | *Helping Hands Food Pantry |
| Lutheran Chaplains | Lutheran Heritage Foundation                         | Lutherans for Life         |
| Concordia Seminary | Friends of New Americans                             | Shoebox Ministry           |
| Day 3 Seeds        | L.A.M.P. Lutheran Assoc. of Missionaries<br>& Pilots | KFUD Radio                 |

*\* indicates special emphasis in 2026*

*Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran is affiliated with the  
English District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*