

CHAPEL OF THE CROSS

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.

Fifth Sunday After The Epiphany

February 7 & 8, 2026

5:00 p.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Please note: The 11:00 a.m. worship service is live streamed and recorded.

AS WE GATHER

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth...you are the light of the world.” In the Old Testament reading for today, the prophet Isaiah warns us against the kind of bland outward obedience to God that only goes through the motions. Instead, he urges an obedience to God that grows out of a confident trust in His presence and power. This kind of obedience, Jesus says, brings the light of the Gospel into the world, and Christians who are obedient servants provide a “flavor enhancer” to the earth.

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

901 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

People: **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

People: **Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against You in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved You with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve Your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with His innocent suffering and death. Trusting in Him, I pray, God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

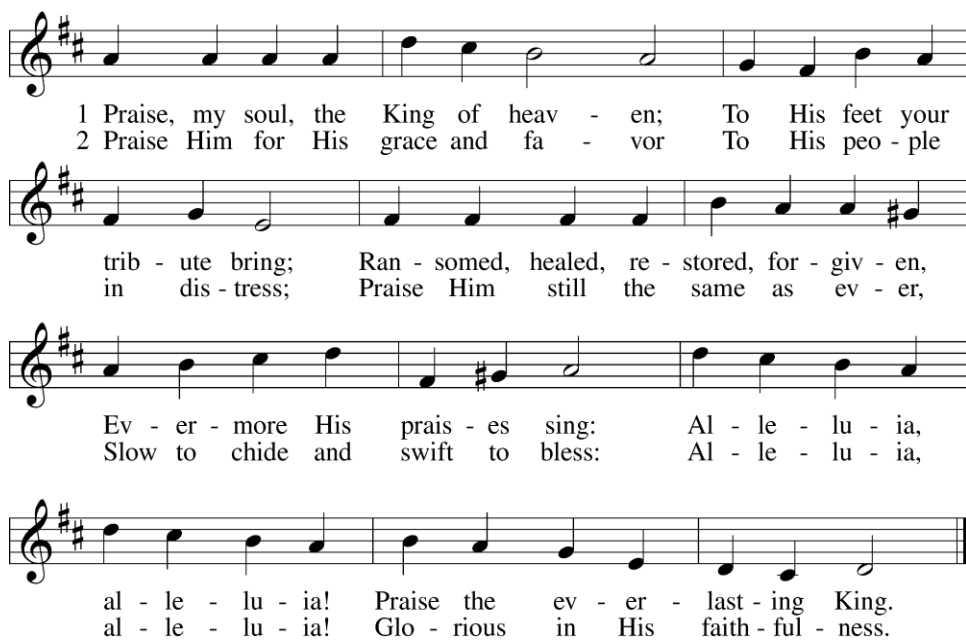
Silence for meditation and reflection

Pastor: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave His life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive You all Your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

793 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven



1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; To His feet your
 2 Praise Him for His grace and fa - vor To His peo - ple

trib - ute bring; Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
 in dis - tress; Praise Him still the same as ev - er,

Ev - er - more His prais - es sing: Al - le - lu - ia,
 Slow to chide and swift to bless: Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
 al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in His faith - ful - ness.

Text and 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, You called us out of darkness into light so that we will show forth Your praise in all the world; shine in our hearts that those who live in darkness may see the light and give glory to Your name, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

MINISTRY MINUTE

✂ WORD ✂

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 58:3–9a

(The brightness of the Lord's light breaking forth.)

³ 'Why have we fasted,' they say, 'and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?' "Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. ⁴ Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. ⁵ Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for a man to humble himself? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying on sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶ "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter-- when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? ⁸ Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 112:1-9

Pastor: Praise the LORD. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands.

People: His children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Pastor: Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.

People: Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for the gracious and compassionate and righteous man.

Pastor: Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice.

People: Surely he will never be shaken; a righteous man will be remembered forever.

Pastor: He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

People: His heart is secure, he will have no fear; in the end he will look in triumph on his foes.

Pastor: He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor,

People: his righteousness endures forever; his horn will be lifted high in honor.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

(Paul speaks and writes in and with the Spirit's power.)

¹ When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. ² For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. ⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

(continued on next page)

⁶ We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ However, as it is written:

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" —

¹⁰ but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM (5:00 p.m.)

"Eyes Have Not Seen"

Marty Haugen

Refrain:

*Eye has not seen, ear has not heard,
What God has ready for those who love Him;
Spirit of love, come give us the mind of Jesus,
Teach us the wisdom of God.*

*When pain and sorrow weigh us down,
Be near to us, O Lord,
Forgive the weakness of our faith,
And bear us up within Your peaceful Word. (refrain)*

*Our lives are but a single breath,
We flower and we fade,
Yet all our days are in Your hands,
So we return in love what Love has made. (refrain)*

*To those who see with eyes of faith,
The Lord is ever near,
Reflected in the faces
Of all the poor and lowly of the world. (refrain)*

Please stand

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

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13–20

(Jesus calls His followers to be salt and light in the world.)

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹ Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Please stand

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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

Please stand

OFFERTORY

956 Create in Me

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.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Text and tune: Public domain

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

In the Lord's Supper we receive Christ's body and blood in and with the bread and wine. The two great blessings of the Lord's Supper are the forgiveness of sins and strength to live an improved Christian life. In response to the Lord's command we are to examine ourselves privately prior to partaking of the Sacrament. There are three basic questions on 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 truly sorry for my sins? 2) Do I believe Jesus Christ is my Savior? 3) Do I promise with God's help to live a Christian life? If you agree with the above statement, we invite you to the Sacrament.

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

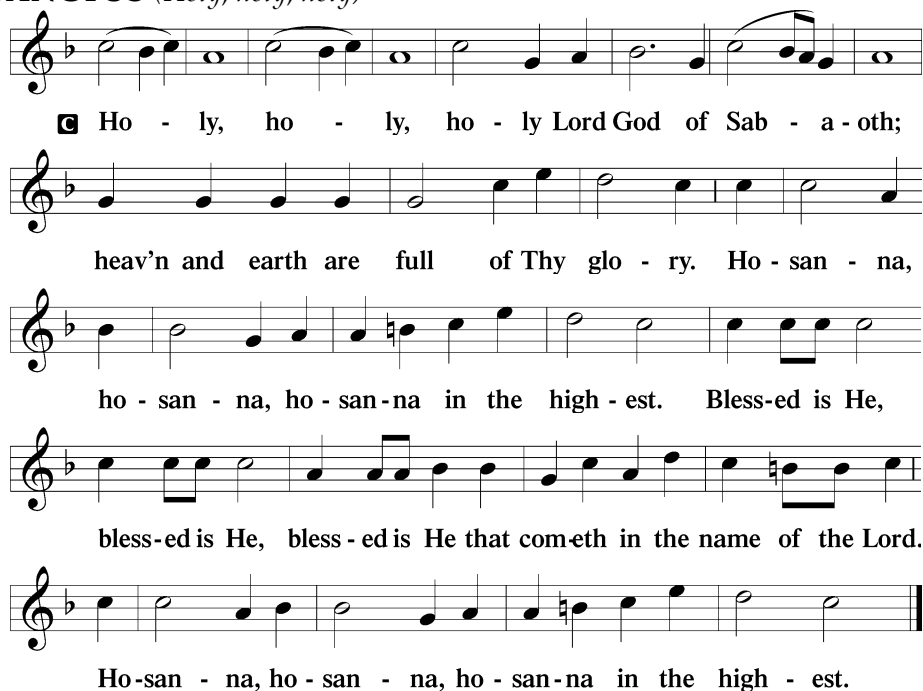
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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 proper that we should give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have shown mercy to all in Christ, our Redeemer, who calls us to His Table of grace. Receive our thanks that we are guests at His divine feast this day, where our souls are fed and our lives are strengthened. Unite our praises with those of all the faithful, who are connected to Christ, and join them with the unending praise of the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven:

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

- 560 Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed
412 The People That in Darkness Sat
535 How Wide the Love of Christ

SILENT PRAYER

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

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen

NUNC DIMITTIS



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast 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 Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Please stand

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for having fed us with Your life-giving food. Strengthen us through the same; help us to rejoice in Your mercies that we may grow daily and reach out with Your love in every situation. Finally, in Your mercy, grant us a portion with the saints in light eternal. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, world without end.

People: Amen.

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

922 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

POSTLUDE

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:

Exodus 24:8-18; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

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

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Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Charles Wallace	
Liturgists:	5:00 p.m.	Theodore Laesch
	8:30 a.m.	Ellory Glenn
	11:00 a.m.	Theodore Laesch
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	Sandy Otto
	11:00 a.m.	Jen Schmidt
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Eve Zvirgzdins
	11:00 a.m.	Logan Hill
Soloist:	Ezekiel Laesch	
Organist & Accompanist:	Johnathan Clayton	
Director of the Week:	Matt Gahr	
Elder of the Week:	Paul Brameier	

Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran

11645 Benham Road, St. Louis, MO 63136

(314) 741-3737

www.chapelofthecross.org

Email: 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 Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

*Holy Communion is celebrated the 1st and 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month at 8:30 a.m.,
the 2nd and 4th and 5th Sundays of the month at 11:00 a.m.,
and the 1st and 3rd and 5th 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	pastorlaesch@chapelofthecross.org
Ellory Glenn, Specific Ministry Pastor	314-369-8014	ellory.glenn@chapelofthecross.org
Charles Wallace, Vicar	985-852-7958	vicarchuck@chapelofthecross.org
Bill Rusnak, Director of Adult Ministry	314-200-9797	bill.rusnak@chapelofthecross.org
Clifford Bischoff, Pastoral Assistant	314-921-1107	pastorbischoff@chapelofthecross.org
Mary Laesch, Children and Family Ministry Coord.	314-355-0688	family@chapelofthecross.org

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 & Pilots	KFUD Radio

** indicates special emphasis in 2025*

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