

# 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.*

# **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**March 21 & 22, 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**

Lent is a time when God prepares His people to celebrate the Paschal Feast, the resurrection of Jesus, with sincerity and truth. In the Reading from Ezekiel 37, we see the power of the Word that transforms dry bones into living flesh with the breath of the Spirit. This same Spirit lives in us and will raise us at the Last Day, which is exactly what we hear from Paul in the Reading from Romans 8. The Spirit who raised Christ will also give life to us. Having received the Spirit in Baptism, we join with Martha in confessing boldly that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who comes to us today in His Word and Sacrament and will come again to call us out of our graves.

## **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

819 Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good

### INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Since we have such a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus Christ our Lord, let us with confidence draw near to God, that we may receive mercy and find grace in time of need.

People: **Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your lovingkindness. In Your great mercy, wash away our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not remove us from Your presence; do not take Your Spirit away. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation, and sustain us with Your Spirit. Amen.**

Pastor: God is merciful and gracious, granting forgiveness through Jesus Christ to all who confess their sin. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sin, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

## KYRIE (*Lord, have mercy*)



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray; To You, a - lone,  
Have mer - cy on us, Christ, we pray; Wash ev' - ry sin  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray Your Spir - it not

we come this day To hear Your sav - ing Word of  
and stain a - way. Grant us Your com - fort, joy and  
to take a - way. Cre - ate in us clean hearts, and

grace, And sing to You our songs of praise.  
peace; From guilt - y con - scienc - es re - lease.  
then Your joy, to us, re - store! A - men.

Tune: ERHALT UNS, HERR - Public Domain  
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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✘ WORD ✘

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 37:1–14

*(Ezekiel prophesies over the bones, and the Lord brings them to life.)*

<sup>1</sup> The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "O Sovereign LORD, you alone know."

<sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!' <sup>5</sup> This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. <sup>6</sup> I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD."

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. <sup>8</sup> I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

<sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet--a vast army.

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel.

<sup>13</sup> Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. <sup>14</sup> I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.' "

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 130

Pastor: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

**People: O Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.**

Pastor: If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**People: But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.**

Pastor: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope.

**People: My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.**

Pastor: O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

**People: He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.**

## EPISTLE

Romans 8:1–11

*(The Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to you.)*

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

<sup>5</sup> Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup> The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; <sup>7</sup> the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

*(continued on next page)*

<sup>8</sup> Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

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

## HOLY GOSPEL

John 11:17-27; 38-45

*(Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.)*

<sup>17</sup> On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

<sup>18</sup> Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup> and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

<sup>24</sup> Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

<sup>27</sup> "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

<sup>38</sup> Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. <sup>39</sup> "Take away the stone," he said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

<sup>40</sup> Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

<sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

<sup>43</sup> When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

<sup>45</sup> Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him.

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

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

## HYMN

741 Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

- 1 Jesus Christ, my sure defense  
And my Savior, now is living!  
Knowing this, my confidence  
Rests upon the hope here given,  
Though the night of death be fraught  
Still with many\_an anxious thought.
- 2 Jesus, my Redeemer, lives;  
Likewise I to life shall waken.  
He will bring me where He is;  
Shall my courage then be shaken?  
Shall I fear, or could the Head  
Rise and leave His members dead?
- 3 No, too closely I am bound  
By my hope to Christ forever;  
Faith's strong hand the Rock has found,  
Grasped it, and will leave it never;  
Even death now cannot part  
From its Lord the trusting heart.
- 6 Then take comfort and rejoice,  
For His members Christ will cherish.  
Fear not, they will hear His voice;  
Dying, they will never perish;  
For the very grave is stirred  
When the trumpet's blast is heard.
- 7 Laugh to scorn the gloomy grave  
And at death no longer tremble;  
He, the Lord, who came to save  
Will at last His own assemble.  
They will go their Lord to meet,  
Treading death beneath their feet.
- 8 O, then, draw away your hearts  
From all pleasures base and hollow;  
Strive to share what He imparts  
While you here His footsteps follow.  
As you now still wait to rise,  
Fix your hearts beyond the skies!

*Text: Public domain*

## 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

704 Renew Me, O Eternal Light

- 1 **Renew me, O eternal Light,  
And let my heart and soul be bright,  
Illumined with the light of grace  
That issues from Your holy face.**
  
- 3 **Create in me a new heart, Lord,  
That gladly I obey Your Word.  
Let what You will be my desire,  
And with new life my soul inspire.**

*Text: Public domain*

## ✠ 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 overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. 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, Lord God of  
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name  
of the Lord. 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*)



**C** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

*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**

**570**    *Just As I Am, Without One Plea*

**628**    *Your Table I Approach*

**684**    *Come Unto Me, Ye Weary*

## **SILENT PRAYER**

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

*Lord Jesus, we have gathered together in Your house to be guests at Your table. We thank and praise You that You have nourished us with Your body and blood and have covered our sinful hearts with the pure garment of Your perfect righteousness. As You have drawn close to us and shown us Your love and forgiveness, in the same way, help us to draw close and love one another. Keep us in the true Christian faith so that we glorify You with our lives until that time that You call us to be guests at Your heavenly table. In Your name we pray, Amen.*

*Please stand*

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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**

685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

## **POSTLUDE**

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:1-27:66

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

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# Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Theodore Laesch	
Liturgists:	5:00 p.m.	Theodore Laesch
	8:30 a.m.	Ellory Glenn
	11:00 a.m.	Ellory Glenn
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	Ken Gerler
	11:00 a.m.	Kristine Geisz
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Plaseyh Hallowanger
	11:00 a.m.	Kyleigh Hill
Soloist:	8:30 a.m.	Denise Koch
Organist:	Johnathan Clayton	
Accompanist:	Johnathan Clayton	
Elder of the Week:	Glenn Lackey	

## 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 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	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 2026*

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