

# 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.*

# Second Sunday in Advent

December 7, 2025

11:00 a.m.

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

## AS WE GATHER

Months ago, people warned us that Christmas was coming. Did it help? From the days of John the Baptist, we have been warned that the day is approaching for Christ to come again. Are we ready? The coming One is not only the familiar Lord whom we know and confess as Savior but also the eternal judge before whom every knee will bow. We do not get our house in order because we are expecting guests but because we expect to be received in our Father's house and to be found faithful. This is why we confess our sin and are absolved of those sins. This is why we prepare by hearing His Word and receiving His body and blood. This is why we pray and do the works of the light before the night comes when no one can work. We are getting ready for the day we know is coming when we shall stand before the Lord.

## PRELUDE

"Hark the Glad Sound"

Wilbur Held

## 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

**349** Hark the Glad Sound

### 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 say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**People:** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Pastor:** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**People:** Most merciful God, 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 forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*Isaiah 11:10; Romans 15:11*

Pastor: Isaiah wrote, "In that day the root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples—the nations will rally to Him, and His place of rest will be glorious."

*(Sung)*      **O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
Free them from Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Pastor: Paul wrote, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and sing praises to Him, all you peoples.  
Let us pray. O Root of Jesse, standing as a banner before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will honor:

People: **Come quickly to deliver us.**

*(Sung)*      **O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

*Public domain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Stir up your power, O Lord and come among us with great might. Because we are severely hindered by our sins, by Your grace and mercy deliver us quickly through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

## MINISTRY MINUTE

### ✂ WORD ✂

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 11:1–10

*("There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse.")*

<sup>1</sup> A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. <sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD-- <sup>3</sup> and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. <sup>9</sup> They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM HYMN

Psalm 72

**A King on high is reigning whom endless ages bless,  
From sea to sea sustaining his rule of righteousness.  
Beneath his strong defending his people stand secure,  
Whose justice knows no ending while sun and moon endure.**

**As rains that gently nourish and bring the seed to birth,  
His righteousness shall flourish, his peace possess the earth;  
Her sceptered kings acclaim him, before his feet they fall,  
The nations kneel to name him the sov'-reign Lord of all.**

**The poor are in his keeping, he hears their bitter cry,  
His watchfulness unsleeping to answer ev'ry sigh;  
The lonely and neglected, the outcast and in need,  
Forsaken and rejected, to him are dear indeed.**

**His name endues forever who formed the fertile land;  
The fruits of our endeavor shall prosper in his hand  
With prayer and song and story his praises sound again,  
In all the earth his glory; so be it , Lord! Amen!**

*("May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.")*

<sup>4</sup> For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

<sup>5</sup> May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

<sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs <sup>9</sup> so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name."

<sup>10</sup> Again, it says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

<sup>11</sup> And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and sing praises to him, all you peoples."

<sup>12</sup> And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him."

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



*Please stand*

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

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

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 3:1–12

*("The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord.'")*

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." <sup>3</sup> This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

<sup>4</sup> John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. <sup>6</sup> Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup> The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

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

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

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## HYMN

344      On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

*Please stand*

### 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.**

## 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*

**“Four Variations-On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist Cry”      Michael Burkhardt**

*Please stand*

## OFFERTORY

**791    All People That on Earth Do Dwell**

- 1    All people that on earth do dwell,  
     Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.  
     Him serve with mirth, His praise forthtell;  
     Come ye before Him and rejoice.**
- 3    O enter then His gates with praise;  
     Approach with joy His courts unto.  
     Praise, laud, and bless His name always,  
     For it is seemly so to do.**
- 5    To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
     The God whom heav’n and earth adore,  
     From us and from the angel host  
     Be praise and glory evermore.**

*Text: Public domain*

## PRAYER

**Pastor:** Almighty God, we thank You for teaching us the things You want us to believe and do. Help us by Your Holy Spirit to keep Your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

## 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.**

## 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

**936** Sing Praise to the God of Israel

## POSTLUDE

“ Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

Stephen Johnson

Prepare for next weekend’s worship by reading:

Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-11; Matthew 11:2-15

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

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## Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Charles Wallace	
Liturgist:	Ellory Glenn	
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	George Tomazi
	11:00 a.m.	Connie Scott
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Kyleigh Hill
	11:00 a.m.	Plaseyh Hallowanger
Instrumentalists:	Lynda Christian	
	Craig Schlichtmann	
Organists:	5:00 p.m.	Johnathan Clayton
	8:30 a.m.	John Frank
	11:00 a.m.	John Frank
Director of the Week:	Christy Boehmer	
Elder of the Week:	Craig Schlichtmann	

## 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>
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:

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

*\* indicates special emphasis in 2025*

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