

# 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.*

# **The Baptism of Our Lord**

**January 11, 2026**

**11:00 a.m.**

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

## **AS WE GATHER**

Today we hear that divine promise in Isaiah 42, identifying Jesus as God's chosen servant. From the beginning, however, we are told He is not only to be King of the Jews alone but a light to lighten the Gentiles also. The great news is that He is the Savior of and for all people, the descendants not only of Abraham but also of Adam and Noah! By repentance of sin and faith in Christ, worked by the same Spirit that marked Jesus as the chosen one at His Baptism, now all who are baptized into Christ—Jew or Gentile—are the chosen people of God. Praising and thanking God for calling and saving us, we echo the Gospel to all people in the words of the Psalm: "Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples!" (Psalm 117:1).

## **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

409 Hail, O Source of Every Blessing

### INVOCATION

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

**People:** Amen.

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**Pastor:** God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of Your people, turning us from our sin to live for You alone. Give us the power of Your Holy Spirit that, attentive to Your word, we may confess our sins, receive Your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People:** Amen.

**Pastor:** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection or self-examination*

**People:** Gracious God,  
have mercy on us. In Your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by Your Spirit so that we may live and serve You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Pastor:** Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**People:** Amen.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

805 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

**People:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Let us pray.

**People:** Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## ✠ WORD ✠

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 42:1–9

*(The LORD's chosen servant)*

<sup>1</sup> "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. <sup>2</sup> He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. <sup>3</sup> A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; <sup>4</sup> he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his law the islands will put their hope."

<sup>5</sup> This is what God the LORD says-- he who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: <sup>6</sup> "I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, <sup>7</sup> to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

<sup>8</sup> "I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols. <sup>9</sup> See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### HYMN

739 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Pastor: Ascribe to the LORD, O mighty ones, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**People: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.**

Pastor: The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters.

**People: The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is majestic.**

Pastor: The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

**People: He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, Sirion like a young wild ox.**

Pastor: The voice of the LORD strikes with flashes of lightning.

**People: The voice of the LORD shakes the desert; the LORD shakes the Desert of Kadesh.**

Pastor: The voice of the LORD twists the oaks and strips the forests bare.

**People: And in his temple all cry, "Glory!"**

Pastor: The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD is enthroned as King forever.

**People: The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.**

*(Dead to sin, alive to God)*

<sup>1</sup> What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? <sup>3</sup> Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

<sup>5</sup> If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. <sup>6</sup> For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin--  
<sup>7</sup> because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

<sup>8</sup> Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. <sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

<sup>11</sup> In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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 3:13–17

*(The Baptism of Jesus)*

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

<sup>15</sup> Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

<sup>16</sup> As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.

<sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

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

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

## **HYMN**

**405** To Jordan's River Came Our Lord

## **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

595 O Blessed Spring

- 1 O blessèd spring, where Word and sign  
Embrace us into Christ the Vine:  
Here Christ enjoins each one to be  
A branch of this life-giving Tree.
  
- 5 Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree,  
Be praised for this blest mystery:  
That Word and water thus revive  
And join us to Your Tree of Life.

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GBOIT-LYVDV-EKAFZ*

## ✠ 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 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; for at His Baptism Your voice from heaven revealed Him as Your beloved Son, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him, confirming Him to be the Christ. 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*)

**G** 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.*

## **DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

- 404**     Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered
- 603**     We Know That Christ is Raised
- 596**     All Christians Who Have Been Baptized

## **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.*

## CANTICLE

**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what  
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -  
joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-  
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Please stand*

## 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.



## 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

537     Beautiful Savior

## POSTLUDE

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-35

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

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## Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Matthew Shipman	
Liturgists:	5:00 p.m.	Ellory Glenn
	8:30 a.m.	Theodore Laesch
	11:00 a.m.	Theodore Laesch
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	Matt Gahr
	11:00 a.m.	Milo Lombard
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Nathan Runser
	11:00 a.m.	Emma Runser
Organist:	Johnathan Clayton	

## Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran

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(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 KFUE 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
KFUE 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*