

# 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 of Easter

May 17, 2026

11:00 a.m.

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

## **AS WE GATHER**

Christians are “faith alone” people. We most often think of that in terms of salvation: we are saved by faith alone! But throughout our daily life, Christians function by faith alone. We practice generous stewardship by faith alone, trusting in the God who supplies all our needs. We keep God’s commands by faith alone, confident that His ways are better than our ways. And we pray by faith alone, assured our loving God has opened His door and His heart to hear and answer us. It is faith, and faith alone, that fuels us for life today and secures us for the life to come.

## **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

650 Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

### INVOCATION

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

**People:** Amen.

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**Leader:** Holy and gracious Lord, the earth was made to be filled with Your glory. Despite Your love and care, we have not lived lives worthy of being called Your people.

**People:** **Heavenly Father, forgive our sins and shortcomings. Overcome our inability and inaction. Replace our selfish and faithless nature with hearts that glorify You. O Lord, be gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Amen.**

**Leader:** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People:** Amen.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

947 All Glory Be to God on High



1 All glo - ry be to God on high And thanks for all His  
3 O Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son Be - got - ten of the  
fa - vor; No harm can touch or ter - ri - fy A  
Fa - ther, Your sav - ing death has made us one With  
child of God for - ev - er. God shows His good and  
God and with each oth - er. O Lamb of God, to  
gra - cious will And grants His peace, the world to fill—  
You on high In our dis - tress we sin - ners cry,  
All strife at last has end - ed.  
Have mer - cy on us, a - men!

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Tune: Public domain

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

✘ WORD ✘

**FIRST READING**

Acts 1:12–26

*(Trusting in the Lord's guidance, the apostles select faithful Matthias to complete the Twelve.)*

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. <sup>13</sup> When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

<sup>15</sup> In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) <sup>16</sup> and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus-- <sup>17</sup> he was one of our number and shared in this ministry."

<sup>18</sup> (With the reward he got for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. <sup>19</sup> Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

<sup>20</sup> "For," said Peter, "it is written in the book of Psalms, "

'May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,'

and,

" 'May another take his place of leadership.'

<sup>21</sup> Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup> beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

<sup>23</sup> So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias.

<sup>24</sup> Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup> to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs."

<sup>26</sup> Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 68:1-10

Leader: May God arise, may his enemies be scattered; may his foes flee before him.

People: **As smoke is blown away by the wind, may you blow them away; as wax melts before the fire, may the wicked perish before God.**

Leader: But may the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; may they be happy and joyful.

People: **Sing to God, sing praise to his name, extol him who rides on the clouds-- his name is the LORD-- and rejoice before him.**

Leader: A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.

People: **God sets the lonely in families, he leads forth the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.**

*(continued on next page)*

Leader: When you went out before your people, O God, when you marched through the wasteland,  
People: **the earth shook, the heavens poured down rain, before God, the One of Sinai, before God, the God of Israel.**

Leader: You gave abundant showers, O God; you refreshed your weary inheritance.  
People: **Your people settled in it, and from your bounty, O God, you provided for the poor.**

## EPISTLE

1 Peter 4:12–19; 5:6–11

*(Peter prepares believers for suffering and points them to the God who cares for them.)*

<sup>12</sup> Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. <sup>15</sup> If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. <sup>16</sup> However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. <sup>17</sup> For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup> And,

"If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

<sup>19</sup> So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

<sup>6</sup>Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

<sup>8</sup> Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

<sup>10</sup> And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

<sup>11</sup> To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **HYMN**

587 I Know My Faith is Founded

*Please stand*

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.

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

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

John 17:1–11

*(Christ prays for the unity and safety of those who believe.)*

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. <sup>2</sup> For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. <sup>3</sup> Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

*(continued on next page)*

<sup>6</sup> "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. <sup>8</sup> For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. <sup>11</sup> I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name--the name you gave me--so that they may be one as we are one.

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

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

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## HYMN

**665** Be Strong in the Lord

## 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**

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

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

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

**Leader:** 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

553

O Christ, Our Hope, Our Hearts' Desire

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' desire,<br/>Creation's mighty Lord,<br/>Redeemer of the fallen world,<br/>By holy love outpoured:</p> | <p>6 All praise to You, ascended Lord;<br/>All glory ever be<br/>To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost<br/>Through all eternity!</p> |
| <p>5 Christ Jesus, be our present joy,<br/>Our future great reward;<br/>Our only glory, may it be<br/>To glory in the Lord!</p>            |   |

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## PRAYER

- Leader:** Blessed Lord, You have given us Your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by Your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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**

Leader:           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**

474    Alleluia! Jesus is Risen

## **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:	Theodore Laesch	
Liturgists:	5:00 p.m.	Charles Wallace
	8:30 a.m.	Matthew Shipman
	11:00 a.m.	Charles Wallace
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	Christy Boehmer
	11:00 a.m.	Sandy Otto
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Emma Runser
	11:00 a.m.	Nathan Runser
Choir:	5:00 p.m.	Choral Singers
Director:	Matt McEuen	
Organist & Accompanist:	Johnathan Clayton	

## 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*