

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.

Third Sunday In Lent

March 7 & 8, 2026

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

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

AS WE GATHER

Christ is our rock and He alone gives to us the water of life. The children of Israel journeyed from the Red Sea through the wilderness toward the land of promise. Along the way they complained to the Lord about their lack of bread and meat and water. At every juncture, the Lord revealed His mercy and provided for His people. They did not realize that all of this was but a promise of the eternal care provided in Christ. He is the rock of their salvation, the bread of heaven come down to feed them until they want for nothing more, the Lamb of God who gives Himself as food for His people, and the living water that tastes of everlasting life. Israel's doubts and fears are warnings to us lest we fail to see how Christ answers all our needs even to eternal life.

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

648 Glorious Things of You Are Spoken

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Leader: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

People: **And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Leader: Almighty God, merciful Father:

People: **I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You and for which I justly deserve Your punishment. But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for Your boundless mercy.**

For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being; forgive my sins, give me Your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.

Leader: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for His sake God forgives you all your 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.

People: Amen.

KYRIE (*Lord, have mercy*)

945 Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved



1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.
2 O Son of God, Redeemer of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer - cy up - on us.



Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, By ev - 'ry
Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save From sting of
O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid The fee - ble



e - vil, ev - 'ry woe; Up - on Your cross - for -
death and grasp of grave; Your scars be - fore the
child Your grace has made. Now make us grow and



sak - en Son Our death is laid, and peace is won.
Fa - ther move His heart to mer - cy at such love.
help us pray; Bring joy and com - fort; come to stay.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **Almighty God, You show the light of Your truth to those in darkness. Give strength to all who are joined in Your family to reject what erodes their faith and to follow Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 17:1–7

(Moses is commanded to strike the rock from which God will bring forth water.)

¹ The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?"

³ But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

⁴ Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

⁵ The LORD answered Moses, "Walk on ahead of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 95:1-9

Leader: Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;

People: let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Leader: Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

People: For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.

Leader: In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.

People: The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

Leader: Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

People: for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

EPISTLE

Romans 5:1-8

(We have peace with God through Jesus Christ.)

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM (11:00 a.m.)

"Were You There"

Arr. John Barnard

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

*Were you there when they rolled the stone away?
Were you there when they rolled the stone away?
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they rolled the stone away?*

Please stand

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

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

HOLY GOSPEL

John 4:5–26

(Jesus shows Himself as the living water to a Samaritan woman at the well.)

⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

¹¹ "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?"

¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

¹⁷ "I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

²¹ Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

(continued on next page)

²⁵ The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

²⁶ Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

HYMN

849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Sermon notes:

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

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

424 O Christ, You Walked the Road

- 1 O Christ, You walked the road
Our wand'ring feet must go.
You faced with us temptation's pow'r
And fought our ancient foe.**

- 2 No bread of earth alone
Can fill our hung'ring hearts.
Lord, help us seek Your living Word,
The food Your grace imparts.**

- 3 No blinding sign we ask,
No wonder from above.
Lord, help us place our trust alone
In Your unswerving love.**

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✠ 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 accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. 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*)

**Hosanna, loud hosanna, To You, O God, we sing;
Hosanna in the highest, To You our praise we bring.
For You are God most holy, The God of pow'r and might;
Your glory, all things filling, Brings blessing and delight.**

**Christ comes in the name of the Lord, In body and in blood
Forgiveness to us He bestows—His covenant of love.
Your people in unending praise, Cry holy, holy Lord
Your glory, all things filling, New life be now restored.**

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*)

Lamb of God have mercy on us, Lamb of God, to You we pray.

Lamb of God have mercy on us, Lamb of God, to You we pray.

All the world's sin You have taken, You have borne the awful load;

Grant us peace, have mercy on us. Grant us peace, O Lamb of God.

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

637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

693 O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace

524 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

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.

Please stand

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank You for feeding us with spiritual food, the body and blood of Christ. All who come to You will not hunger, all who believe in You will not thirst. Empowered by this sacrament, send us back into the world to do the work You have given us to do: to share the gospel and be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

917 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

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. | Theodore Laesch |
| | 8:30 a.m. | Charles Wallace |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Matthew Shipman |
| Lectors: | 8:30 a.m. | Judy Kooi |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Matt Gahr |
| Acolytes: | 8:30 a.m. | Logan Hill |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Nyla Hill |
| Choir: | 11:00 a.m. | Choral Singers |
| Director: | Matt McEuen | |
| Organists: | 5:00 p.m. | Rev. Arthur Eichhorn |
| | 8:30 a.m. | Stephanie Gibbs |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Stephanie Gibbs |
| Accompanist: | Stephanie Gibbs | |
| Director of the Week: | Tim Brown | |
| Elder of the Week: | Ken Kreitner | |

Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran

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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 2026*

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