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.

First Sunday in Advent

November 29, 2026

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

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

AS WE GATHER

Living with the unknown can be an uncomfortable feeling for many people. But today we are faced with the reality that our Lord's return will happen, but we do not when. However, just as God's people awaited His first coming at His birth in Bethlehem, God's people today prepare themselves for His return, and heed the Words of Jesus to watch and be ready.

PRELUDE

"The Advent of Our King" Charles Callahan

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

331 The Advent of Our King

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things;

People: His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

(Psalm 98:1)

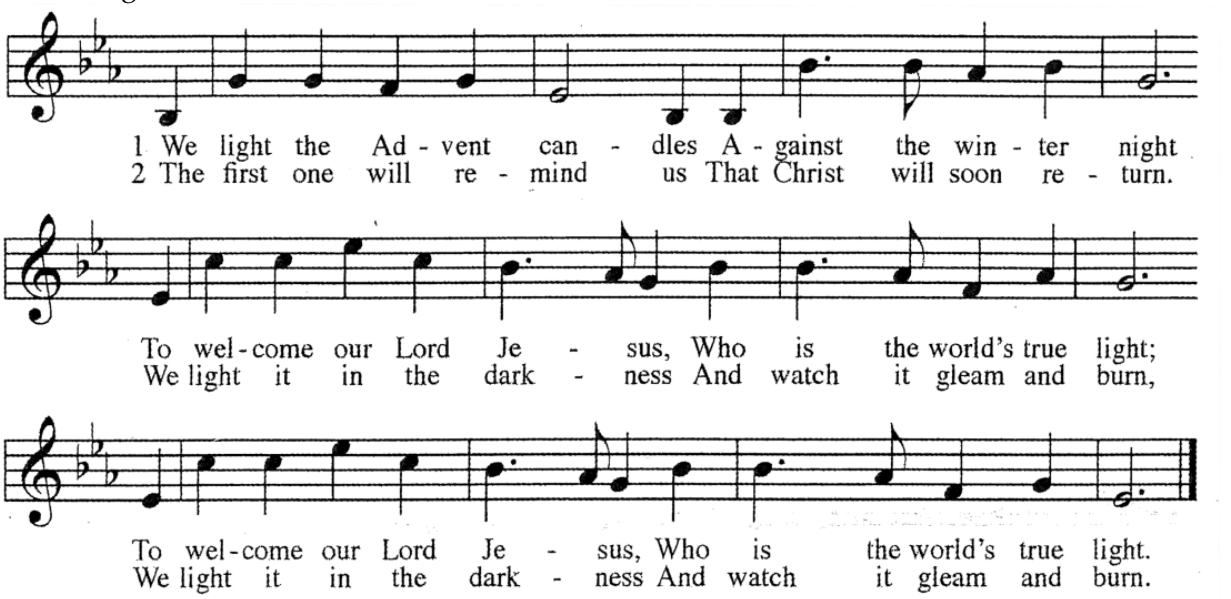
Leader: Oh, that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before You!

People: As fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make Your name known. *(Isaiah 64:1-2a)*

Leader: One candle is set ablaze, as we wait with eager expectation for You, Lord, to come down.

People: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come!

"We Light The Advent Candles"



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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.
People Almighty God, Judge and King, the whole creation waits for Your coming. Come, Lord Jesus, with Your grace and fill our lives with Your presence. Use all our time for Your gracious purpose; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 64:1–9

(God is the potter, and we are the clay.)

1 Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would
tremble before you! 2 As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come
down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before
you! 3 For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and
the mountains trembled before you. 4 Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has
perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait
for him. 5 You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways.
But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be
saved? 6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like
filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. 7 No
one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from
us and made us waste away because of our sins. 8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We
are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9 Do not be angry
beyond measure, O LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look upon us, we
pray, for we are all your people.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM HYMN Show Your Face (Psalm 80)

Shep-herd of the cho-sen flock, Might-y One, enthroned on high
God, whom an-gel hosts a-dore, hear our hum-ble, ar-dent cry
Let your glo-ry flood our sight! Rise in holy, saving might
Show your face in mer-cy, Lord—may your people be re-stored.

How long will Your an-ger blaze? How long will you spurn our prayer?
How long must our bit-ter tears bring a fore-taste of de-spair?
From our neigh-bors we have borne cruel con-tempt and brazen scorn
Show your face in mer-cy, Lord—may your peo-ple be re-stored

Lord, you cleared a plot of land, planting there a ten-der vine
There it spread its leaf-y boughs, there its fruit was lush and fine
Now that fruit, a- ban-doned falls; broken are the vine-yard walls.
Show your face in mer-cy, Lord—may your people be re-stored

Rec-og-nize our deep dis-tress: Lord, your vine is now laid waste;
See the saints whom once You chose now, at your rebuke, dis-graced
Let your call a-gain be known, claim your ser-vants as your own.
Show your face in mer-cy, Lord—may your peo-ple be re-stored.

EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

(Paul is thankful for the Christians at Corinth.)

3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. 5 For in him
you have been enriched in every way--in all your speaking and in all your knowledge-- 6
because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. 7 Therefore you do not lack
any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. 8 He will
keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus
Christ. 9 God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is
faithful.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

(Signs of the end of the Age)

24 "But in those days, following that distress," 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon
will not give its light; 25 the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be
shaken.' 26 "At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power
and glory. 27 And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from
the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. 28 "Now learn this lesson from the fig
tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is
near. 29 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at
the door. 30 I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these
things have happened. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never
pass away.

32 "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but
only the Father. 33 Be on guard! Be alert ! You do not know when that time will come. 34
It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each
with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. 35 "Therefore keep
watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back--whether
in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. 36 If he comes
suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. 37 What I say to you, I say to everyone:
'Watch!' "

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN

334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

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

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

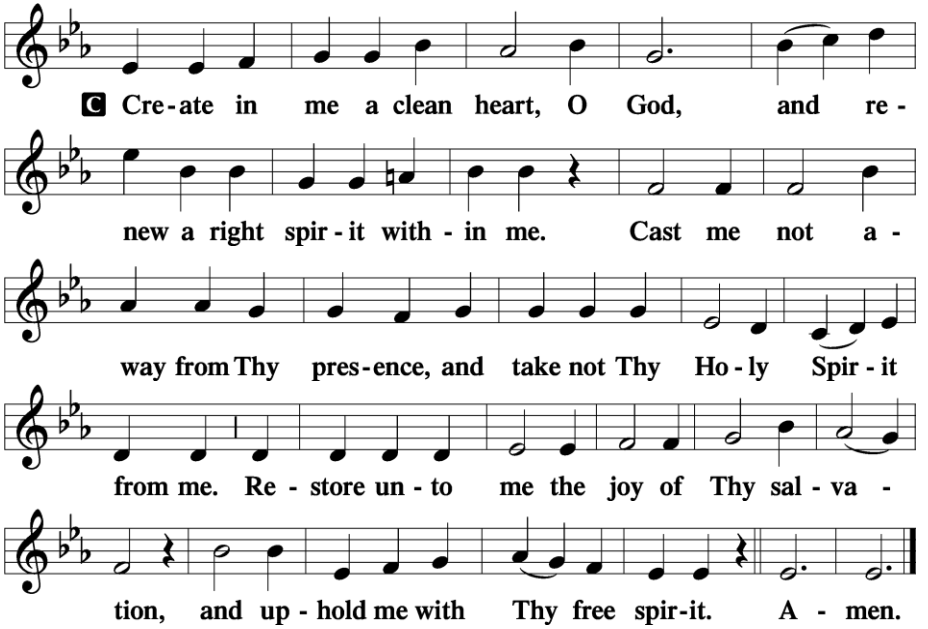
During the offering, please sign the Record of Fellowship found at the end of each pew

Scan to give online

"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" Jeffery Blersch

Please stand

OFFERTORY



✠ 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

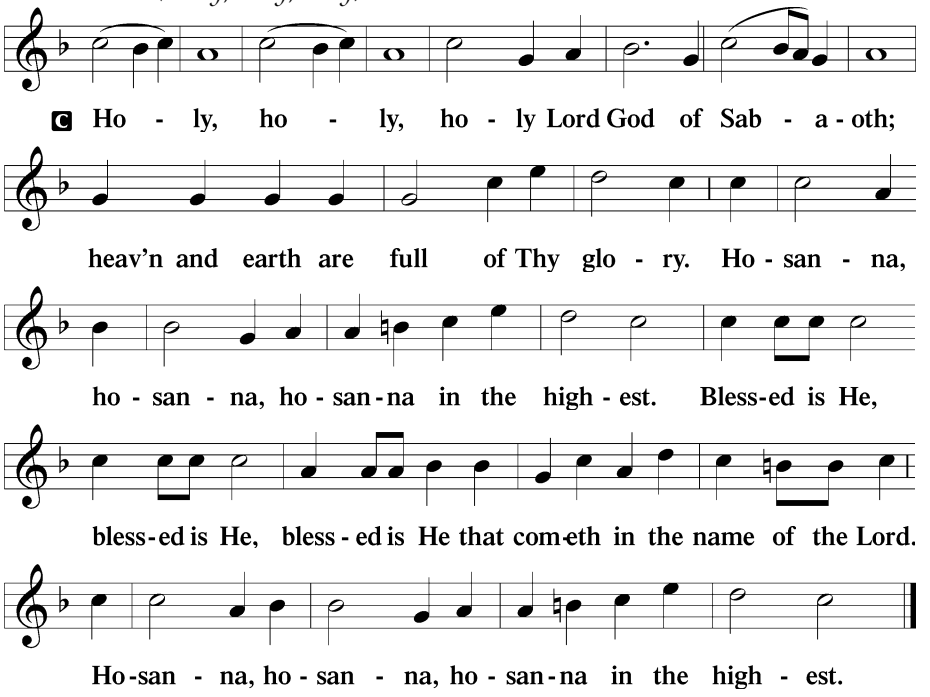
Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

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 proper everywhere and always to give thanks to You, loving Father, holy and almighty Lord, eternal God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose first advent was proclaimed by the prophets, and whose second advent we await with eager expectation, Therefore, with angels and archangels, the saints in heaven and those on earth, we glorify Your name, praising You and singing:

SANCTUS *(Holy, holy, holy)*



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.

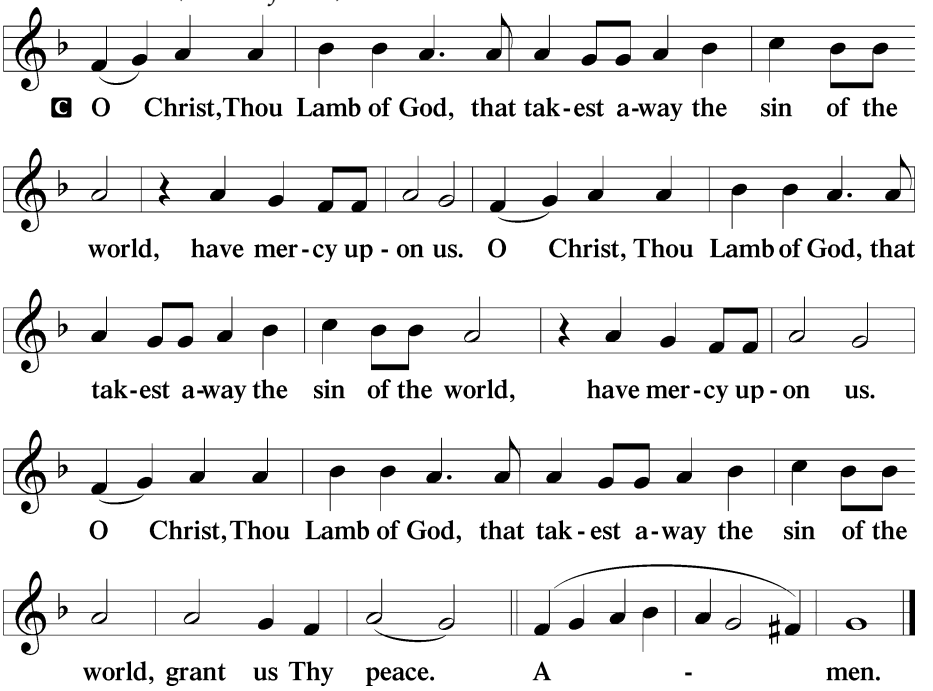
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

AGNUS DEI *(Lamb of God)*



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

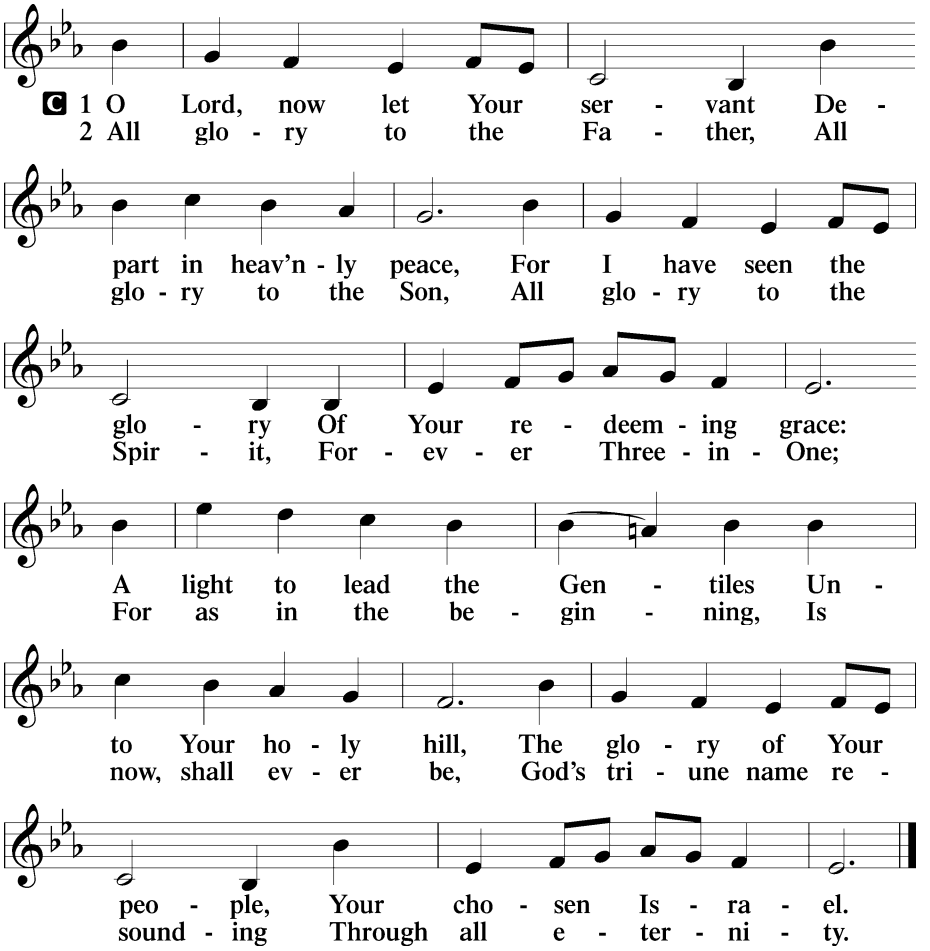
332 Savior of the Nations Come
672 Jerusalem the Golden

SILENT PRAYER

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

I thank You, Lord Jesus Christ, that You have permitted me, unworthy as I am, to partake of this Your most holy body and this Your most precious blood. I pray that it may be to me for the forgiveness of all my sins, for strength in resisting temptations, for service in Your kingdom and finally for the glories of life that has no end. In Your name we pray, Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS (Song of Simeon)



Please stand

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.
Gracious God, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in this blessed Sacrament. May our reception of Your Son's body and blood stir up our hearts to an eager expectation of the glories of heaven, and strengthen our pilgrimage on earth. 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

348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

POSTLUDE

"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" Charles Callahan

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:
Isaiah 40:1-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:3-8
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.	Blake Johnson
	8:30 a.m.	Matthew Laird
	11:00 a.m.	Justin Goodrich
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	Christy Boehmer
	11:00 a.m.	Anna Zvirgzdins
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Emma Runser
	11:00 a.m.	Juris Zvirgzdins
Organist:	Timothy Mars	

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 KFUO 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

	Home Phone	E-mail
Theodore Laesch, Pastor	314-355-0688	pastorlaesch@chapelofthecross.org
Ellory Glenn, Specific Ministry Pastor	314-369-8014	ellory.glenn@chapelofthecross.org
Justin Goodrich, Vicar	586-399-0058	vicarjustin@chapelofthecross.org
Timothy Mars, Director of Music	308-241-2012	timothy.mars@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 Chaplains
Concordia Seminary
Day 3 Seeds

*Lutheran Early Response Teams
Lutheran Heritage Foundation
Friends of New Americans
L.A.M.P. Lutheran Assoc. of Missionaries & Pilots

*Helping Hands Food Pantry
Lutherans for Life
Shoebox Ministry
KFUO Radio

** indicates special emphasis in 2026*

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