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.

Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

November 7 & 8, 2026

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

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

AS WE GATHER

It is easy to assume that tomorrow will be little or no different from today. However, the day is coming when life as we know it will end. The final Sundays of the Church Year remind us that our comfortable routines will be interrupted by the God who cares enough to interrupt them. His justice will grab our attention like a lion (Amos 5:19). He will silence all false and empty worship with justice that rolls in like roaring waters (Amos 5:24). Jesus also calls for our attention as we wait for that day: "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour" (Matthew 25:13). As we wait for that day, Paul reminds us that our waiting is filled with hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13–14). Jesus died and rose again, and that forever changes our waiting.

PRELUDE

"Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying" J. S. Bach

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

670 Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Leader: Make haste, O God, to deliver me!
People: O LORD, make haste to help me!

Silent reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

Leader: Let us confess our sins to God, who is our help and our deliverer.
People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We confess the ways that our worship has fallen into empty words, disconnected from the life to which You have called us. We confess that we have been inattentive in our waiting for Christ's return. Forgive us, renew us, and call us back to You, that we may wait with hope and joy, 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.

✠ WORD ✠

HYMN OF PRAISE

528 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

3 Jesus! The name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life and health and peace.

6 See all your sins on Jesus laid;
The Lamb of God was slain.
His soul was once an off'ring made
For ev'ry soul of man.

7 To God all glory, praise, and love
Be now and ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above,
The Church in earth and heav'n.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Leader: Let us pray.
People: Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His Bride, the church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; 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 Amos 5:18–24

(The day of the Lord will bring justice and righteousness.)

18 Woe to you who long for the day of the LORD! Why do you long for the day of the
LORD? That day will be darkness, not light. 19 It will be as though a man fled from a lion
only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only
to have a snake bite him. 20 Will not the day of the LORD be darkness, not light-- pitch-
dark, without a ray of brightness?

21 "I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies. 22 Even though
you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you
bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. 23 Away with the noise
of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. 24 But let justice roll on like a
river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

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

ANTHEM "Come Quickly, Lord, to Rescue Me" (Psalm 70)

Come quickly, Lord, to rescue me,
And hasten to my help, I pray.
May all who seek to take my life
Be put to shame without delay.

May all who seek your name rejoice,
Your praise in gratitude record.
May those who love your saving pow'r say
Evermore, "Exalt the Lord!"

Yet I am poor and needy, Lord;
Be quick to hear my urgent plea.
You are my help, my savior God!
Do not delay; remember me.

EPISTLE 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

(We grieve with hope and await the day when Christ will awaken all who are asleep.)

13 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve
like the rest of men, who have no hope. 14 We believe that Jesus died and rose again and
so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.
15 According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left
till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For
the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of
the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in
the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18
Therefore encourage each other with these words.

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

Please stand
Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25:1–13

(Watch for the Bridegroom, who will return at any moment.)

1 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and
went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The
foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise, however,
took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and
they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

6 "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

7 "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the
wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

(continued on next page)

9 " 'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

10 "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

11 "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!'

12 "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'

13 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN

516 Wake. Awake for Night is Flying

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

"Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones" Kevin J. Sadowski

Please stand

OFFERTORY

789 Praise and Thanksgiving



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Tune: Public domain

✠ 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 overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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)*



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.

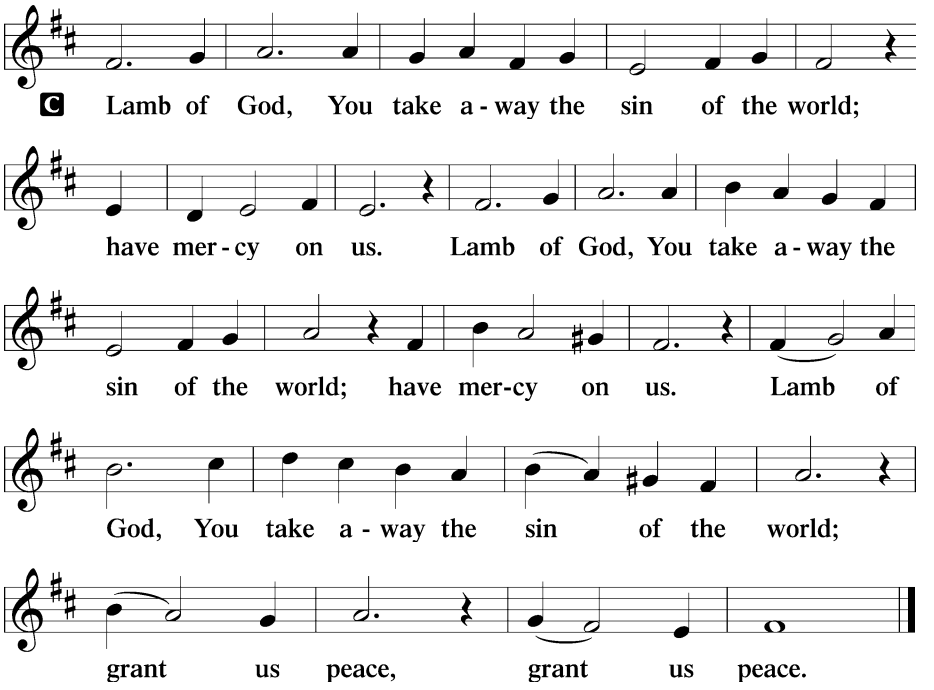
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

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

663 Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray
490 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

SILENT PRAYER

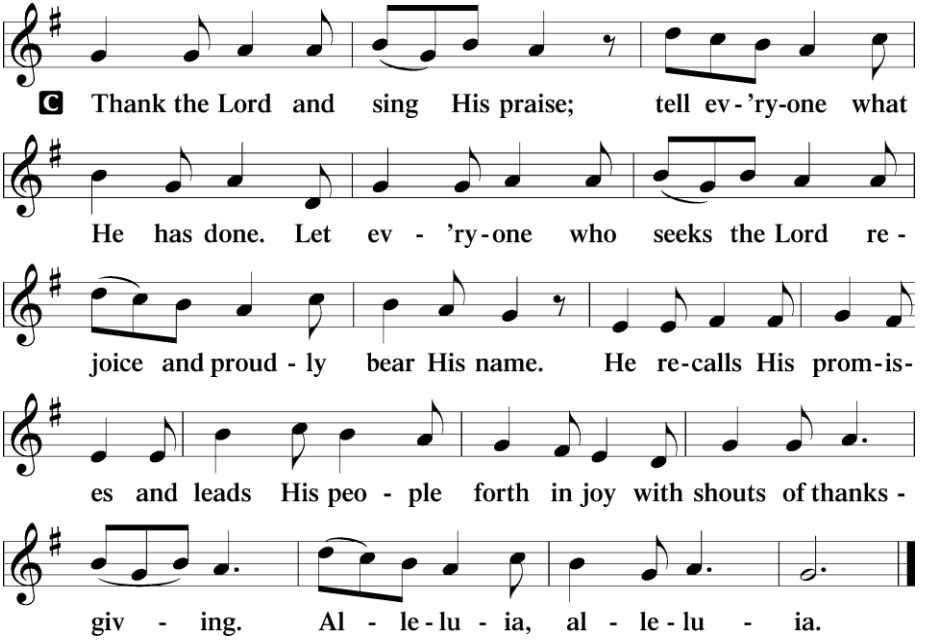
You may pray the following prayer as we give thanks to God for His good gifts:

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

CANTICLE

Thank the Lord



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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

515 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

POSTLUDE

"Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying" David Cherwien

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:
Zephaniah 1:7-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30
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.	Justin Goodrich
	11:00 a.m.	Blake Johnson
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	Carla Rainey
	11:00 a.m.	Ken Gerler
a Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Plaseyh Hallowanger
	11:00 a.m.	Emma Runser
Soloists:	5:00 p.m.	Mark Petersen
	8:30 a.m.	Denise Koch
	11:00 a.m.	Matt McEuen
Organist:	Timothy Mars	
Director of the Week:	Earl Wendt	
Elder of the Week:	Craig Schlichtmann	

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