

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 After The Epiphany

January 25, 2026

11:00 a.m.

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

AS WE GATHER

How does one live in the light? The child's answer would be to light a candle, get a flashlight or turn on a switch. But adults know that living in the light is a far more abstract concept that involves a spiritual illumination from a more divine light. When Isaiah says that the people who lived in darkness have seen a great light, he was referring to more than sunshine or candle power. He was looking prophetically forward to the arrival of Christ in Galilee where people would begin to see an amazing display of God's divine Light.

PRELUDE

"Amazing Grace"

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

905 Come, Thou Almighty King

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

People: **On those living in the land of the shadow of death, light has dawned**

Isaiah 9:2

Pastor: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.

Matthew 4:17

(Silence for meditation and reflection)

Pastor: Mighty and merciful God,

People: **We confess that we are sinners, sinful from birth, separated from You. We often walk in the darkness of sin rather than in the light of Your glory; we often live in the shadow of death instead of the brilliance of Your life. We sin by what we do and by what we fail to do—in thoughts, words, and deeds. In repentant faith, we pray for Your mercy. Save us from death, hell, and Satan, forgiving our trespasses that we may be received into Your eternal presence. Amen.**

Pastor: Jesus went about teaching and preaching the good news of the Kingdom, healing every disease and sickness. Christ is indeed our divine physician, healing us in body, mind and spirit, forgiving sins, and raising us to new life. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, and by the command and authority of Christ Jesus, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM OF PRAISE

"Rise and Shine"

Todd Jolly

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **O Lord God Almighty, we once walked in darkness, but You have shown Your light and established Your kingdom among us through our Lord Jesus Christ. May we so reflect Your light that others may share in the life we now have by Your grace, and, by the forgiveness of their sins, enter into Your kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:1–4

(The light of God's reign breaks into the world.)

¹ Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan-- ² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. ³ You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. ⁴ For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:10–18

(Divisions in the church)

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. ¹¹ My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. ¹² What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas "; still another, "I follow Christ." ¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I am thankful that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so no one can say that you were baptized into my name. ¹⁶ (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel--not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“Festive Alleluia”

Mary Lynn Lightfoot

Please stand

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12–25

(Jesus begins calling the first disciples.)

¹² When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he returned to Galilee. ¹³ Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali-- ¹⁴ to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: ¹⁵ "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles-- ¹⁶ the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." ¹⁷ From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

(continued on next page)

²³ Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. ²⁴ News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them. ²⁵ Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN

839 O Christ, Our True and Only Light

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

“Ask of Me”

Douglas Nolan

✠ 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.

Please stand

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

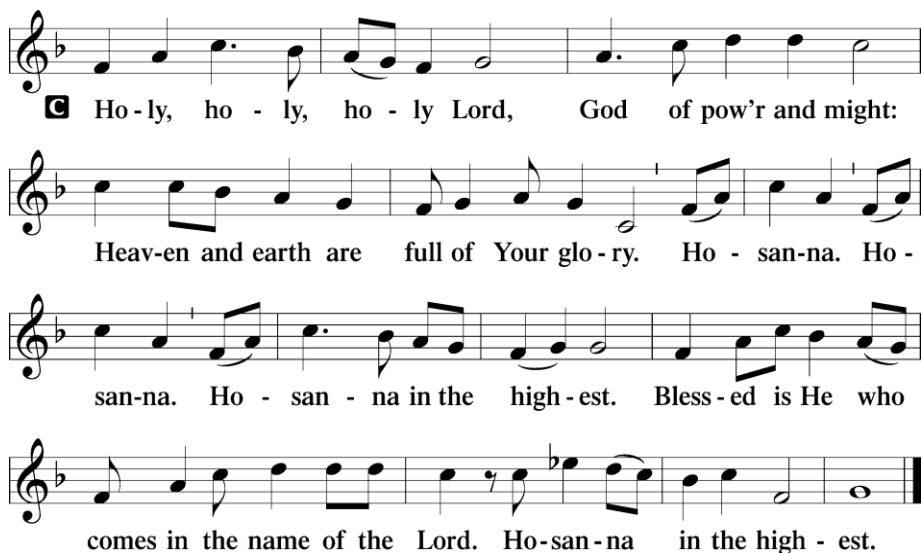
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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 and right that we should at all times, and in all places give You thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord who lived among us as a human being and revealed His glory at Your only son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise Your holy name and join their glorious song:

SANCTUS (*Holy, holy, holy*)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

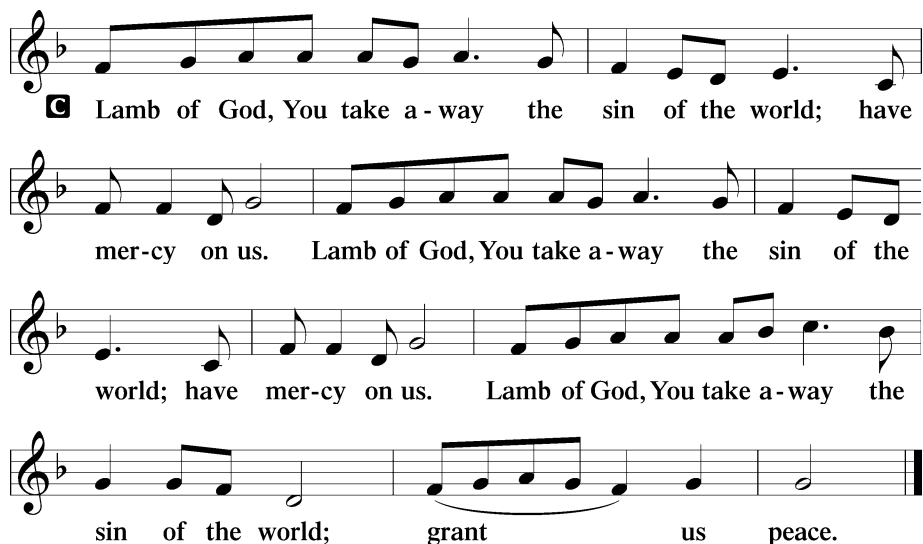
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: **And also with you.**

AGNUS DEI (*Lamb of God*)



□ 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.

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

- 412** The People That in Darkness Sat
- 688** Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake
- 856** O Christ, Who Called the Twelve

SILENT PRAYER

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

Lord Jesus, we have gathered together in Your house to be guests at Your table. We thank and praise You that You have nourished us with Your body and blood and have covered our sinful hearts with the pure garment of Your perfect righteousness. As You have drawn close to us and shown us Your love and forgiveness, in the same way, help us to draw close and love one another. Keep us in the true Christian faith so that we glorify You with our lives until that time that You call us to be guests at Your heavenly table. In Your name we pray, Amen.

Please stand

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

790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

POSTLUDE

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:

Micah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

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

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com Hymns used by permission. OneLicense.net #A-725523 Lutheran Service Builder License no. VVPKL-GBOIT-LYVDV-EKAFZ.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2025 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Charles Wallace	
Liturgists:	5:00 p.m.	Ellory Glenn
	8:30 a.m.	Theodore Laesch
	11:00 a.m.	Theodore Laesch
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	Anna Zvirgzdins
	11:00 a.m.	Kristine Geisz
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Plaseyh Hallowanger
	11:00 a.m.	Lucie Hill
Choir & Band	Lutheran High School North	
Pianist:	Ruth Stith	
Elder of the Week:	Jonathan Bellmann	

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 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 2025*

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