

# CHAPEL OF THE CROSS

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## LUTHERAN



FAITH • HOPE • LOVE

**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 after Christmas

December 26 & 27, 2020

5:00 p.m. & 8:30 a.m.

## AS WE GATHER

The Gospel for the First Sunday after Christmas takes us to the temple in Jerusalem, where Jesus is brought by Mary and Joseph. In presenting Him there, they are affirming that He is dedicated to God as a firstborn son. But He is much more than a son—He is the Son. In her classic hymn text, German hymnist Elisabeth Cruciger celebrates His coming as she writes, “The only Son from heaven, foretold by ancient seers, By God the Father given, In human form appears. No sphere His light confining, No star so brightly shining As He, our Morning Star” (*LSB* 402:1). Jesus is the One in whom we see our salvation, whose light guides our way through life, and whose presence enlightens our world. With joy, we worship Him!

## PRELUDE

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

arranged by Normon Dello Joio

## WELCOME

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### OPENING HYMN

519 In His Temple Now Behold Him (sung by soloist)

- 1 *In His temple now behold Him,  
See the long-expected Lord;  
Ancient prophets had foretold Him,  
God has now fulfilled His word.  
Now to praise Him, His redeemèd  
Shall break forth with one accord.*
- 2 *In the arms of her who bore Him,  
Virgin pure, behold Him lie  
While His aged saints adore Him  
Ere in perfect faith they die.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Lo, the incarnate God Most High!*
- 3 *Jesus, by Your presentation,  
When they blessed You, weak and poor,  
Make us see Your great salvation,  
Seal us with Your promise sure;  
And present us in Your glory  
To Your Father, cleansed and pure.*

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*Please stand*

## INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: People redeemed by the Lord, let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

People: **Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of having sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have left undone those things we ought to have done; we have done those things we ought not to have done. We have not lived our lives fully in the freedom won for us by our Lord. We have not always shared the bounty You have given us as stewards of Your creation. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus, our Savior. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.**

Pastor: God has promised pardon, life, and salvation because of the atoning sacrifice of His beloved Son, who has replaced slavery to sin with a priceless inheritance of freedom and joy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, 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!**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

**362**    O Sing of Christ (vv. 1-2) (sung by soloist)

1        *O sing of Christ, whose birth made known  
          The kindness of the Lord,  
          Eternal Word made flesh and bone  
          So we could be restored.  
          Upon our frail humanity  
          God's finger chose to trace  
          The fullness of His deity,  
          The icon of His grace.*

2        *What Adam lost, none could reclaim,  
          And Paradise was barred  
          Until the second Adam came  
          To mend what sin had marred.  
          For when the time was full and right  
          God sent His only Son;  
          He came to us as life and light  
          And our redemption won.*

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

## ✠ WORD ✠

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 61:10–62:3

*(Nations will acknowledge the Chosen One of the Lord.)*

<sup>10</sup> I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup> For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

<sup>1</sup> For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. <sup>2</sup> The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. <sup>3</sup> You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

## PSALM

Psalm 111

Pastor: Praise the LORD. I will extol the LORD with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

**People: Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them.**

Pastor: Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever.

**People: He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate.**

Pastor: He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

**People: He has shown his people the power of his works, giving them the lands of other nations.**

Pastor: The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

**People: They are steadfast for ever and ever, done in faithfulness and uprightness.**

Pastor: He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever-- holy and awesome is his name.

**People: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.**



*(At the right time, God sent His Son into the world.)*

<sup>4</sup> But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law,  
<sup>5</sup> to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. <sup>6</sup> Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "'Abba", Father." <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

*Lord, bid Your servant go in peace,  
Your word is now fulfilled.  
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,  
This child so long foretold.*

*This is the Savior of the world,  
The Gentiles' promised light,  
God's glory dwelling in our midst,  
The joy of Israel.*

*With saints of old, with saints to come,  
To You we lift our voice;  
To Father, Son, and Spirit blest  
Be honor, love, and praise.*

*Please stand*

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

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

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 2:22–40

*(Jesus is presented in the temple by Mary and Joseph.)*

<sup>22</sup> When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

<sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

<sup>29</sup> "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. <sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all people, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup> Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

## **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.**

## **PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

*Please stand*

## **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.**

## **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**

**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.**

## CLOSING HYMN

367 Angels from the Realms of Glory

1 Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. (refrain)

refrain Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the Infant Light. (refrain)

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations,  
Ye have seen His natal star. (refrain)

4 Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear. (refrain)

5 All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the\_ternal Three in One. (refrain)

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## POSTLUDE

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”  
(with “For Unto Us a Child is Born”-G.F. Handel)

arr. by Edwin Johnson

Prepare for next weekend’s worship by reading:  
1 Kings 3:4-15, 16; Ephesians 1:3-14; Luke 2:40-52

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## Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Theodore Laesch	
Liturgists:	5:00 p.m.	Theodore Laesch
	8:30 a.m.	Theodore Laesch
	11:00 a.m.	Ellory Glenn
Singers:	5:00 p.m.	Nate Laesch
	8:30 a.m.	Ellory Glenn
	11:00 a.m.	Lynda Christian
Organist & Accompanist:	Ryan Meyer	

## Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran

11645 Benham Road, St. Louis, MO 63136  
(314) 741-3737      [www.chapelofthecross.org](http://www.chapelofthecross.org)  
Email: [office@chapelofthecross.org](mailto: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](http://www.chapelofthecross.org) Sundays at 8:30 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	355-0688	<a href="mailto:pastorlaesch@chapelofthecross.org">pastorlaesch@chapelofthecross.org</a>
James Marriott, Pastoral Assistant - Youth	(972) 741-5978	<a href="mailto:james.marriott@chapelofthecross.org">james.marriott@chapelofthecross.org</a>
Ellory Glenn, Vicar	369-8014	<a href="mailto:ellory.glenn@chapelofthecross.org">ellory.glenn@chapelofthecross.org</a>
Ryan Meyer, Director of Music	839-0306	<a href="mailto:ryan.meyer@chapelofthecross.org">ryan.meyer@chapelofthecross.org</a>
Bill Rusnak, Director of Adult Ministry	200-9797	<a href="mailto:bill.rusnak@chapelofthecross.org">bill.rusnak@chapelofthecross.org</a>
Clifford Bischoff, Pastoral Assistant	921-1107	<a href="mailto:pastorbischoff@chapelofthecross.org">pastorbischoff@chapelofthecross.org</a>
Mary Laesch, Children and Family Ministry Coord.	355-0688	<a href="mailto:family@chapelofthecross.org">family@chapelofthecross.org</a>

### 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:

Day 3 Seeds*	Hope Center for Families*	Apple of His Eye*
Helping Hands Food Pantry	Concordia Seminary	Friend of Moms
Sidewalk Sunday School	Lutherans for Life	KFUD Radio
Chapel Summer Camp		

*\* indicates special emphasis in 2020*

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