

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.

Sixth Sunday After The Epiphany

February 16, 2025

11:00 a.m.

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

AS WE GATHER

Blessings abound in today's readings! Jeremiah laments the one who "trusts in man," but sees the one who "trusts in the Lord," to be like a tree planted with abundant water that "does not cease to bear fruit" (Jeremiah 17:5, 7, 8). Luke records another time Jesus preached using beatitudes. He concluded that we, His hearers, should rejoice and leap for joy, for our reward is great in heaven. Such grace! No wonder that Paul, in the Epistle, warns against those who doubt Christ's resurrection. Our Lord is only "the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:20). Today our worship is full of rejoicing in the grace of God. It also gives us strength to produce fruit every day.

PRELUDE

"Beautiful Savior"

arr. for handbells by Linda Scholes

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

901 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Relying on the grace of God and anticipating the joys of heaven He has prepared for Jesus' sake, let us confess our sins to our gracious God.

People: Heavenly Father,
we confess that, although You have blessed us like trees planted by streams of water, we have failed to bear fruit for You and have feared when life has been difficult. Forgive us.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ,
People: **we confess that we have not relied on Your resurrection as proof of the grace of God. We have not always lived in the hope of our own resurrection. Forgive us.**

Pastor: O Holy Spirit,
People: **we confess that we have failed to keep the faith You have given us. It is not always active in the face of the difficulties of life and opposition from other people. Forgive us and renew a strong faith within us.**

Pastor: By the grace of God, you are like trees planted by streams of water! Grace is abundant daily in God's Word and by His promises. For the sake of our living Lord, rejoice and be glad! 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

821 Alleluia, Sing to Jesus

- 4 Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! Born of Mary,
Earth Your footstool, heav'n Your throne.
As within the veil You entered,
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,
Here on earth both priest and victim
In the eucharistic feast.
- 5 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
Has redeemed us by His blood."

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; 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

Jeremiah 17:5–8

(The one who trusts in the Lord is firmly planted.)

⁵ This is what the LORD says:

"Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the LORD. ⁶ He will be like a bush in the wastelands; he will not see prosperity when it comes. He will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. ⁷ "But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. ⁸ He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 1

Pastor: Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

People: **But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.**

Pastor: He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

People: **Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.**

Pastor: Therefore, the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

People: **For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 15:1–20

(Stand firm in what we believe.)

¹ Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.

⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

(continued on next page)

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them--yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹ Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

¹² But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“Only Trust Him”

*1. Come, ev'ry soul by sin oppressed,
There's mercy with the Lord;
And He will surely give you rest,
By trusting in His word.*

*Refrain:
Only trust Him, only trust Him,
only trust Him now;
He will save you, He will save you,
He will save you now.*

*2. For Jesus shed His precious blood
Rich blessings to bestow;
Plunge now into the crimson flood
That washes bright as snow. (Refrain)*

*3. Yes, Jesus is the truth, the way
That leads you into rest;
Believe in Him without delay,
And you are fully blest. (Refrain)*

Please stand

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

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 6:17–26

(Jesus preaches both blessings and curses.)

¹⁷ He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coast of Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸ who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by evil spirits were cured, ¹⁹ and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

²⁰ Looking at his disciples, he said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²² Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.

²³ "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets.

²⁴ "But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. ²⁵ Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶ Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.

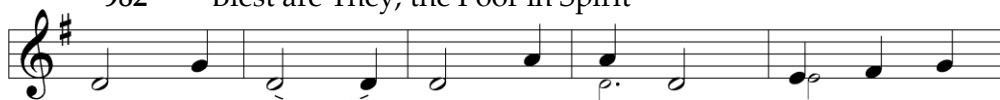
Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

982 Blest are They, the Poor in Spirit



1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; Theirs is the
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones;— They shall in -
 3 Blest are they— who show mer - cy; Mer - cy
 4 Blest are they— who seek peace;— They are the
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate,— All— be -



king - dom of God.— Blest are they,— full— of
 her - it the earth.— Blest are they who hun - ger and
 shall— be theirs.— Blest are they, the pure— of
 chil - dren of God.— Blest are they who suf - fer in
 cause— of Me.— Re-joice and be glad,— yours is the



sor - row; They— shall be con - soled.—
 thirst;— They— shall have their fill.—
 heart;— They— shall see God!—
 faith;— The glo - ry of God is theirs.—
 king - dom; Shine— for all to see.—



Refrain
 Re - joice— and be glad!— Bless-ed are you,



ho-ly are you. Re - joice— and be glad!— Yours is the



king - dom of God.—

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PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Please stand

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.

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

“Romance (from Fantasiestykker, Op.2)”

Carl Nielsen

Please stand

OFFERTORY

749 There is a Balm in Gilead

ref **There is a balm in Gilead
To make the wounded whole;
There is a balm in Gilead
To heal the sin-sick soul.**

**1 Sometimes I feel discouraged
And think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit
Revives my soul again. Refrain**

Text: Public domain

PRAYER

Pastor: Almighty God, we thank You for teaching us the things You want us to believe and do. Help us by Your Holy Spirit to keep Your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.**

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

486 If Christ Had Not Been Raised from Death

1 **If Christ had not been raised from death
 Our faith would be in vain,
 Our preaching but a waste of breath,
 Our sin and guilt remain.
 But now the Lord is ris'n indeed;
 He rules in earth and heav'n:
 His Gospel meets a world of need—
 In Christ we are forgiv'n.**

(continued on next page)

- 2 If Christ still lay within the tomb
Then death would be the end,
And we should face our final doom
With neither guide nor friend.
But now the Savior is raised up,
So when a Christian dies
We mourn, yet look to God in hope—
In Christ the saints arise!**
- 3 If Christ had not been truly raised
His Church would live a lie;
His name should nevermore be praised,
His words deserve to die.
But now our great Redeemer lives;
Through Him we are restored;
His Word endures, His Church revives
In Christ, our risen Lord.**

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POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Great Day"

Setting by Adolphus Hailstork

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:

Genesis 45:3-15; 1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42; Luke 6:27-38

Find a devotional guide on the readings at www.chapelofthecross.org/walkingtogether

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Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Samuel Wondemu	
Liturgists:	5:00 p.m.	Ellory Glenn
	8:30 a.m.	Theodore Laesch
	11:00 a.m.	Theodore Laesch
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	Adrienne Burton
	11:00 a.m.	Tonja Cleveland
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Emma Runser
	11:00 a.m.	Nathan Runser
Soloist:	Mark Petersen	
Choir:	Chapel Bells	
Instrumentalist:	Lynda Christian, oboe	
Handbell Director:	Ryan Meyer	
Organist & Accompanist:	Ryan Meyer	
Elder of the Week:	Jon Rogers	