

# CHAPEL OF THE CROSS

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LUTHERAN



FAITH • HOPE • LOVE

# First Sunday in Lent

February 20 & 21, 2021

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

## AS WE GATHER

Today we hear of God testing Abraham and of Satan tempting Jesus. James reminds us that God tempts no one. So, how can we know whether God is testing us or Satan is tempting us? James reminds us that “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change” (James 1:17). As we go through life, striving to live out our calling as God’s people, we will hit obstacles and face tests to our faith and to how we live that faith. God can work through these tests to draw us closer to Him. On the other hand, Satan wants to lure and entice us away from the path God would have us walk.

## PRELUDE

“Jesus, Lead Thou On”

setting by Paul Manz

## WELCOME

✘ PREPARATION ✘

OPENING HYMN

418 O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days (sung by the soloist)

- 1        *O Lord, throughout these forty days  
          You prayed and kept the fast;  
Inspire repentance for our sin,  
          And free us from our past.*
  
- 2        *You strove with Satan, and You won;  
          Your faithfulness endured;  
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust  
          In God's eternal Word.*
  
- 3        *Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed  
          And fixed Your mind above;  
So teach us to deny ourselves,  
          Since we have known God's love.*
  
- 4        *Be with us through this season, Lord,  
          And all our earthly days,  
That when the final Easter dawns,  
          We join in heaven's praise.*

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*Please stand*

## INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Leader: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

People: **Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Leader: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

People: **Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended You and sinned against Your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to Your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection.*

Leader: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by His death on the cross and freed us from death by His resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

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

**KYRIE** (sung by soloist)  
*Lord, have mercy.*  
*Christ, have mercy.*  
*Lord, have mercy.*

*Music: Dinah Reindorf, Ghana, 20th cent.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the Promised Land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

## ✠ WORD ✠

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 22:1-18

*(God tested Abraham.)*

<sup>1</sup>Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

<sup>2</sup> Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."

<sup>3</sup> Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. <sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. <sup>5</sup> He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

<sup>6</sup> Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, <sup>7</sup> Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?"

*(continued on next page)*

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.

"The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

<sup>8</sup> Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

<sup>9</sup> When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

<sup>12</sup> "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

<sup>13</sup> Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup> So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

<sup>15</sup> The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time <sup>16</sup> and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, <sup>18</sup> and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALMODY

Psalm 25:1-10

Leader: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God.

People: **Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Leader: No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse.

People: **Show me your ways, O LORD, teach me your paths;**

Leader: guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

People: **Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.**

Leader: Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD.

People: **Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.**

Leader: He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

People: **All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant.**

## EPISTLE

James 1:12–18

*(The path temptation treads)*

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

<sup>13</sup> When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; <sup>14</sup> but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

*(continued on next page)*

<sup>16</sup> Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. <sup>17</sup> Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. <sup>18</sup> He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

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

## HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:9–15

*(Jesus is baptized and sent to be tempted.)*

<sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup> At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, <sup>13</sup> and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

<sup>14</sup> After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup> "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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



## 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.

## 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.

## ✠ 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.*

## 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.**

*After the Words of Institution are spoken, the bread and wine (sealed in a plastic chalice) will be distributed to communicants in the pew. Non-alcoholic elements have the letters "NA" written on the top of the chalice.*

*Please wait to open the sealed chalice until after the bread and wine has been distributed to everyone. When all have received the bread and wine, we will all take the body of blood of Christ together at the same time.*

*The ushers will collect the used communion cup when you are dismissed to leave after the closing hymn.*

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

### ANTHEM

739 Precious Lord, Take My Hand (sung by soloist)

1 Precious Lord, take my hand,  
Lead me on, let me stand;  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
Through the storm, through the night,  
Lead me on to the light.  
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

2 When my way grows drear,  
Precious Lord, linger near,  
When my life is almost gone,  
Hear my cry, hear my call;  
Hold my hand lest I fall.  
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

*(continued on next page)*

3            *When the darkness appears  
              And the night draws near  
              And the day is almost gone,  
              At the river I stand;  
              Guide my feet, hold my hand,  
              Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.*

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## **SILENT PRAYER**

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

*Dear Lord Jesus, we thank and praise You that You have again refreshed us with the gift of Your holy body and blood in this comforting sacrament. Bless our participation that we may depart from Your presence with peace and joy in the knowledge that we are reconciled to God. We ask this in Your name. Amen.*

*Please stand*

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Pastor:**            Let us pray.

O God, our Father, the One who fulfills His promises and gives the crown of life to those who believe, we thank You for keeping Your promises, even when it meant the death of Your one and only Son, Jesus. We thank You that in spite of all of our wrongs, You give us forgiveness freely in this sacred Meal. Guide us on our pilgrimage through this life to the life You have promised, so that together with all of Your saints we may celebrate the feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end; 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.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

770    What A Friend We Have in Jesus

- 1       **What a friend we have in Jesus,  
          All our sins and griefs to bear!  
          What a privilege to carry  
          Ev'rything to God in prayer!  
          Oh, what peace we often forfeit;  
          Oh, what needless pain we bear—  
          All because we do not carry  
          Ev'rything to God in prayer!**
  
- 2       **Have we trials and temptations?  
          Is there trouble anywhere?  
          We should never be discouraged—  
          Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
          Can we find a friend so faithful  
          Who will all our sorrows share?  
          Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—  
          Take it to the Lord in prayer.**
  
- 3       **Are we weak and heavy laden,  
          Cumbered with a load of care?  
          Precious Savior, still our refuge—  
          Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
          Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
          Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
          In His arms He'll take and shield thee;  
          Thou wilt find a solace there.**

## POSTLUDE

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

setting by Charles W. Ore

Prepare for next weekend’s worship by reading:

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Romans 5:1-11; Mark 8:27-38

Find a devotional guide on the readings at [www.chapelofthecross.org/walkingtogether](http://www.chapelofthecross.org/walkingtogether)

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## Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Theodore Laesch	
Liturgists:	5:00 p.m.	Jedidiah McClellan
	8:30 a.m.	Ellory Glenn
	11:00 a.m.	Adam Rouse
Singers:	5:00 p.m.	Mark Petersen
	8:30 a.m.	Nate Laesch
	11:00 a.m.	Ellory Glenn
Organist & Accompanist:	Ryan Meyer	

## Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran

11645 Benham Road, St. Louis, MO 63136  
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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>
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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*