

# CHAPEL OF THE CROSS

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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.*

# Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

February 22 & 23, 2025

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

*Please note: The 8:30 a.m. worship service is live streamed and recorded.*

## AS WE GATHER

Today's Old Testament Reading is the account of Joseph forgiving his brothers, who had sold him into slavery years earlier. Is it possible for us to forgive as he did? Joseph learned to trust in God and how He would arrange things. God has arranged everything for us too! The resurrection of Jesus is beyond our understanding but not beyond our comprehension. So Paul tries to explain about heavenly beings. We don't know much about them, but we can forgive because our Lord went a lot farther than we are called to follow, into death, for God to forgive us. Today Word and Sacrament strengthen us to follow His example in daily living.

## PRELUDE

"His Eye Is on the Sparrow"

arr. by Jack Schrader

## 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

790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

### INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Leader: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways 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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

814 O Bless the Lord, My Soul

- 1 O bless the Lord, my soul!  
Let all within me join  
And aid my tongue to bless His name  
Whose favors are divine.
- 4 He crowns thy life with love  
When ransomed from the grave;  
He that redeemed my soul from hell  
Hath sov'reign pow'r to save.
- 6 His wondrous works and ways  
He made by Moses known,  
But sent the world His truth and grace  
By His beloved Son.

*Text: Public domain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; 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

Genesis 45:3–15

*(Joseph explains to his brothers that God is really in control of all things,  
including their selling him into slavery.)*

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! <sup>5</sup> And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. <sup>6</sup> For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. <sup>7</sup> But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

<sup>8</sup> "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.'

<sup>12</sup> "You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. <sup>13</sup> Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly."

<sup>14</sup> Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 103:1-13

Leader: Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

People: **Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—**

Leader: who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

People: **who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,**

Leader: who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

People: **The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.**

Leader: He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:

People: **The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.**

Leader: He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;

People: **he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.**

Leader: For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;

People: **as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

Leader: As a father has compassion on his children,

People: **so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;**

## HYMN

706 Love in Christ is Strong and Living

## EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 15:21–26, 30–42

*("What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.")*

<sup>21</sup> For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. <sup>24</sup> Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

<sup>30</sup> And as for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour? <sup>31</sup> I die every day--I mean that, brothers--just as surely as I glory over you in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>32</sup> If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus for merely human reasons, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." <sup>33</sup> Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." <sup>34</sup> Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God--I say this to your shame.

<sup>35</sup> But someone may ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" <sup>36</sup> How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. <sup>39</sup> All flesh is not the same: Men have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. <sup>40</sup> There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. <sup>41</sup> The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

<sup>42</sup> So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



**ANTHEM (5:00 p.m.)**

*“Wayfaring Stranger”*

arranged by John Jacob Niles

*I am a poor wayfaring stranger,  
While journeying through this world of woe,  
Yet there's no sickness, toil, or danger  
In that fair land to which I go.  
I'm going there to see my mother,  
I'm going there, no more to roam;  
I'm only going over Jordan,  
I'm only going over home.*

*I know dark clouds will gather o'er me,  
I know my way is rough and steep;  
Yet beauteous fields lie just before me  
Where God's redeemed their vigils keep.  
I'm going there to see my father,  
He said he'd meet me when I come.  
I'm only going over Jordan,  
I'm only going over home.*

*I want to wear a crown of glory  
When I get home to that good land,  
I want to shout Salvation's story  
In concert with the blood-washed Band.  
I'm going there to meet my Savior,  
To sing His praise forevermore,  
I'm only going over Jordan,  
I'm only going over home.*

*Please stand*

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

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

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 6:27–38

*(Jesus preaches about loving our enemies, beggars we meet, and others.)*

<sup>27</sup> "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup> "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. <sup>34</sup> And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup> "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. <sup>38</sup> Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

**Leader:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **HYMN**

**845** Where Charity and Love Prevail

## 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

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*

“This Little Light of Mine”

setting by Charles Callahan

*Please stand*

## OFFERTORY

This Little Light of Mine

1. **This little light of mine, I’m goin’ a let it shine;  
This little light of mine, I’m goin’ a let it shine;  
This little light of mine, I’m goin’ a let it shine,  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**
2. **Ev – ‘ry where I go, I’m goin’ a let it shine;  
Ev – ‘ry where I go, I’m goin’ a let it shine;  
Ev – ‘ry where I go, I’m goin’ a let it shine;  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

## PRAYER

**Leader:** Blessed Lord, You have given us Your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by Your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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

Leader:           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

964   Lift Every Voice and Sing

## POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Good News"

arr. by Carl MaultsBy

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Hebrew 3:1-6; Luke 9:28-36

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.	Theodore Laesch
	8:30 a.m.	Matthew Shipman
	11:00 a.m.	Matthew Shipman
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	Judy Kooi
	11:00 a.m.	Leon Steinbrueck
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Lucie Hill
	11:00 a.m.	Grace Meyer
Soloist:	5:00 p.m.	Ellory Glenn
Organist & Accompanist:	Ryan Meyer	
Elder of the Week:	Craig Schlichtmann	