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.

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 29 & 30, 2023 5:00 p.m., 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Please note: The 11:00 a.m. worship service is live streamed and recorded.

AS WE GATHER

Jesus' parables in today's Gospel are a bit difficult to understand. In the first the kingdom of heaven is hidden, like treasure in a field. In the second it is extremely costly, like a large, perfect pearl. And we rejoice that we have found the Kingdom and value it above all. But what about that third parable, in which angels sort evil and righteous people like fish being burned or saved? Can we sinner-saints be confident as that day approaches? We can, for our inclusion in the Kingdom is not because of anything we have done. First, God chose us to be a people for His treasured possession, the Old Testament Reading tells us. Then, explains the Epistle, "Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us" (Romans 8:34). Our heavenly Father sent His Son to give us His own righteousness. For our Lord, incorporating us in the kingdom of heaven was something to die for.

PRELUDE

"Adagio" (from Sonata No. 2)

F. Mendelssohn

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

907 God Himself is Present

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

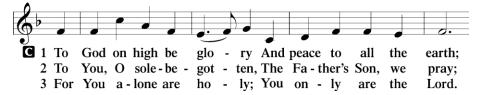
Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our

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!

HYMN OF PRAISE





Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!

O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.

For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry, You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo-ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King. Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—In God the Fa-ther's glo-ry. "A-men!" our glad re-ply.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you. **People:** And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: O God, You make Your power known by showing mercy. Grant us

Your grace always to enjoy Your heavenly Treasure, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now

and forever. Amen.

₩ WORD ₩

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

(In His steadfast love, God keeps His promises.)

⁶ For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

⁷ The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. ⁸ But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹ Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Romans 8:28–39

(All things work together for those who love God.)

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

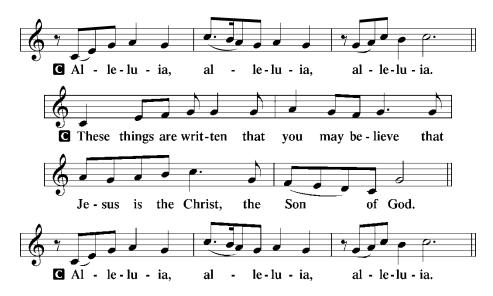
"For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA & VERSE



Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 13:44–52

(The parables of the hidden treasure, pearl of great price, and catch of fish)

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ "Have you understood all these things?" Jesus asked. "Yes," they replied.

⁵² He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN

One Thing's Needful; Lord, this Treasure

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.

CONFIRMATION AND WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS (11:00 a.m.)

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

"Wye Valley"

setting by Raymond H. Haan

Please stand

OFFERTORY

857 Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way

- Lord, help us walk Your servant way
 Wherever love may lead
 And, bending low, forgetting self,
 Each serve the other's need.
- 4 You bid us bend our human pride
 Nor count ourselves above
 The lowest place, the meanest task
 That waits the gift of love.

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★ 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.

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. **People:** And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

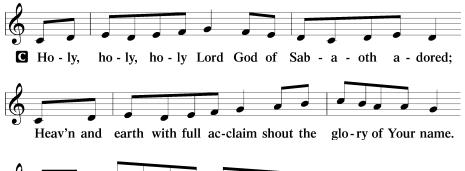
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **People:** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all

places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who kept all Your gracious promises, who died for the sins of the whole world, and from whom nothing in all creation can separate us. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name,

evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS







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:

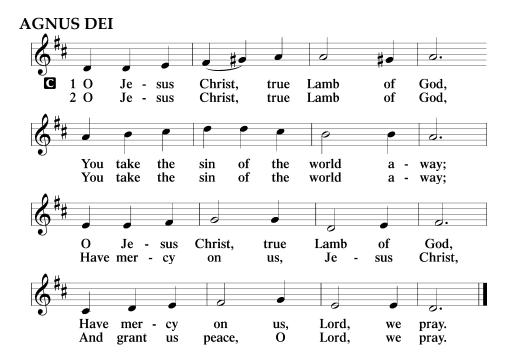
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me.

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.



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

- 669 Come, We That Love the Lord
- 760 What God Ordains is Always Good
- 554 O Jesus, King, Most Wonderful

SILENT PRAYER

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

I thank You, Lord Jesus Christ, that You have permitted me, unworthy as I am, to partake of this Your most holy body and this Your most precious blood. I pray that it may be to me for the forgiveness of all my sins, for strength in resisting temptations, for service in Your kingdom and finally for the glories of life that has no end. In Your name we pray, Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS



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

644 The Church's One Foundation

POSTLUDE

"Allegro" (from Sonata No. 2 in F Major)

A. Vivaldi

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading: Isaiah 55:1-5; Roman 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

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

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Serving at Chapel

Jay Zvirgzdins

Preacher:	Theodore Laesch	
Liturgist:	Brett Arrasmith	
Lectors:	8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Carla Rainey Leon Steinbrueck
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Jonah Meyer Aniya Cleveland
Instrumentalists:	Lynda Christian, oboe Gary Lee, cello	
Organist & Accompanist:	Ryan Meyer	

Elder of the Week:

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 KFUO 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 1^{st} and 3^{rd} and 5^{th} Sundays of the month at 8:30 a.m., the 2^{nd} and 4^{th} and 5^{th} Sundays of the month at 11:00 a.m., and the 1^{st} and 3^{rd} and 5^{th} 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

	Home Phone	<u>E-mail</u>
Theodore Laesch, Pastor	355-0688	pastorlaesch@chapelofthecross.org
Ellory Glenn, Specific Ministry Pastor	369-8014	ellory.glenn@chapelofthecross.org
Brett Arrasmith, Vicar	417-592-1854	vicar@chapelofthecross.org
Ryan Meyer, Director of Music	839-0306	ryan.meyer@chapelofthecross.org
Bill Rusnak, Director of Adult Ministry	200-9797	bill.rusnak@chapelofthecross.org
Clifford Bischoff, Pastoral Assistant	921-1107	pastorbischoff@chapelofthecross.org
Mary Laesch, Children and Family Ministry Coord.	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:

*L.A.M.P. Lutheran Assoc. of Missionaries & Pilots

Concordia Seminary Friend of Moms Food for the Poor
Day 3 Seeds Lutherans for Life KFUO Radio
Chapel Summer Camp Apple of His Eye

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

^{*} indicates special emphasis in 2023