

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.

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 7, 2024

11:00 a.m.

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

AS WE GATHER

Life is not always easy. Life in and of faith is often less easy. In our readings today we encounter a few people who faced difficulty and challenges amid their godly callings. Ezekiel would be sent to speak the Word of God to a rebellious people who wouldn't happily receive the message. The apostle Paul would face his own personal struggles with his "thorn . . . in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12:7) as he brought the Gospel to many on his mission journeys. Jesus Himself would not be welcomed as Savior when He returned to His hometown of Nazareth. Though things were far from easy, God would bless the work that He called His people and His own Son to do. Even in our times of difficulty and challenges living as His people, we are reminded of the same truth from the Lord: "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

PRELUDE

"Allegro" (from Oboe Concerto in D Minor"

Tomaso Albinoni

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.

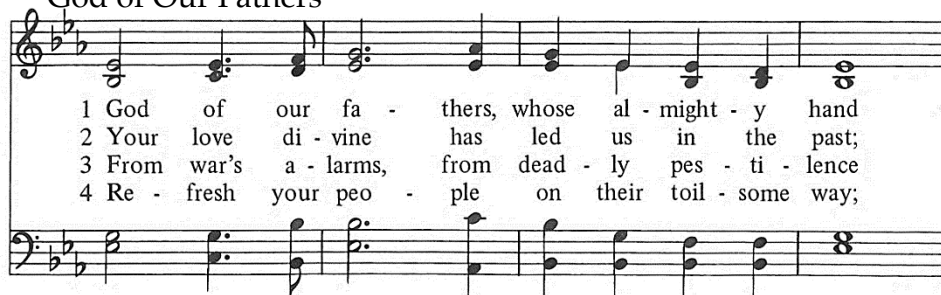
✠ PREPARATION ✠

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

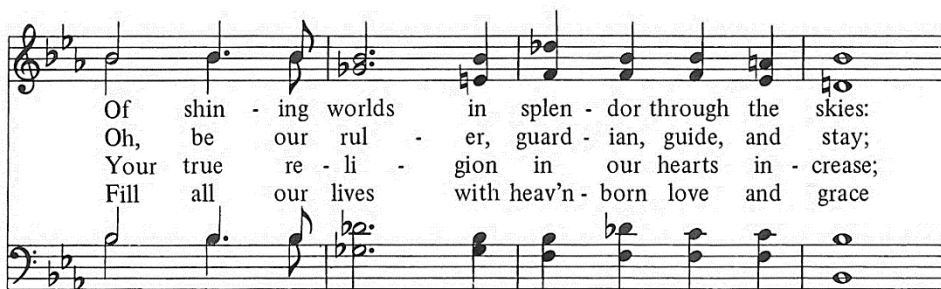
"God of Our Fathers"



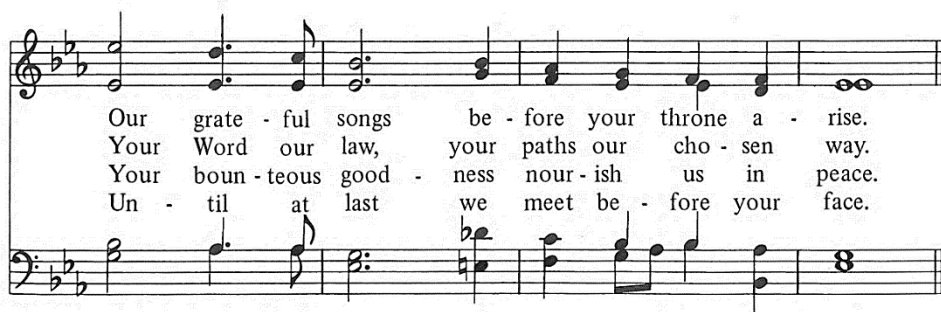
1 God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y hand
2 Your love di - vine has led us in the past;
3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti - lence
4 Re - fresh your peo - ple on their toil - some way;



Leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
In this free land by you our lot is cast;
Make your strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense.
Lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;



Of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies:
Oh, be our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay;
Your true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease;
Fill all our lives with heav'n - born love and grace



Our grate - ful songs be - fore your throne a - rise.
Your Word our law, your paths our cho - sen way.
Your boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
Un - til at last we meet be - fore your face.

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Since we have such a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus Christ our Lord, let us with confidence draw near to God, that we may receive mercy and find grace in time of need.

People: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your lovingkindness. In Your great mercy, wash away our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not remove us from Your presence; do not take Your Spirit away. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation, and sustain us with Your Spirit. Amen.

Pastor: God is merciful and gracious, granting forgiveness through Jesus Christ to all who confess their sin. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sin, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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 belovèd Son.

Text: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Gracious Lord, Your Son Jesus faithfully proclaimed Your will and Word wherever He went. Grant that we too may be faithful in our proclamations, even among those who dishonor Your Word, until Your love reaches all those for whom Your Son gave His life. For He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 2:1–5

(Ezekiel's call)

¹ He said to me, "Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you." ² As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.

³ He said: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their fathers have been in revolt against me to this very day. ⁴ The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says.' ⁵ And whether they listen or fail to listen--for they are a rebellious house--they will know that a prophet has been among them.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 123

Pastor: I lift up my eyes to you, to you whose throne is in heaven.

People: **As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid look to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he shows us his mercy.**

Pastor: Have mercy on us, O LORD, have mercy on us, for we have endured much contempt.

People: **We have endured much ridicule from the proud, much contempt from the arrogant.**

(Paul's vision and his thorn)

¹ I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. ² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know--God knows. ³ And I know that this man--whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows-- ⁴ was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell. ⁵ I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. ⁶ Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say.

⁷ To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

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

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 6:1–13

(Jesus rejected at Nazareth)

¹ Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. ² When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed.

"Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles! ³ Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.

⁴ Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor." ⁵ He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. ⁶ And he was amazed at their lack of faith.

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. ⁷ Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits.

⁸ These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff--no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. ⁹ Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. ¹⁰ Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. ¹¹ And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them."

¹² They went out and preached that people should repent. ¹³ They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

583 God has Spoken by His Prophets

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Sermon Notes:

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

"Battle Hymn of the Republic"

Traditional

Please stand

OFFERTORY

857 Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way

1 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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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

965 God Bless Our Native Land

POSTLUDE

“Patriotic Medley”

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:

Amos 7:7-15; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

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

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Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Brett Arrasmith	
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.	Matt Gahr
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Anna Zvirgzdins
	11:00 a.m.	Audrey Runser
Instrumentalist:	Lynda Christian, oboe	
Organist & Accompanist:	Ryan Meyer	
Elder of the Week:	Paul Brameier	

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 KFUD 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 1st and 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month at 8:30 a.m.,
the 2nd and 4th and 5th Sundays of the month at 11:00 a.m.,
and the 1st and 3rd and 5th 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	pastorlaesch@chapelofthecross.org
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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:

*Day 3 Seeds	*Lutheran Heritage Foundation	*Lutheran Chaplains
L.A.M.P. Lutheran Assoc. of Missionaries & Pilots		Helping Hands Food Pantry
Concordia Seminary	Friend of Moms	Lutherans for Life
KFUD Radio	Chapel Summer Camp	

** indicates special emphasis in 2024*

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