

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.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 16, 2024

11:00 a.m.

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

AS WE GATHER

Jesus teaches extensively through the use of parables—“earthly stories with heavenly meanings.” In today’s Gospel Jesus uses two parables to teach about His Father’s kingdom. The stories illustrate the growth of maturing seeds. Their growth is a mystery, accomplished not by a farmer’s efforts, but by God’s design. Faith is like a sprouting mustard seed, constantly maturing until the fullest revelation of God’s glory in His heavenly realm. From even the tiniest seed, God produces an awesome plant that provides shade and respite for weary travelers, repentant sinners, and labor-worn disciples. By His Word, Jesus sows faith-seeds among His people. God’s Spirit causes that faith to grow and thrive.

Today, Jesus teaches and nourishes our Spirit-initiated faith that we may be strong, vibrant branches of refreshment, grafted only to Christ—the True Vine.

PRELUDE

“Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices”

setting by Paul Manz

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

811 Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices

- 1 Oh, that I had a thousand voices
To praise my God with thousand tongues!
My heart, which in the Lord rejoices,
Would then proclaim in grateful songs
To all, wherever I might be,
What great things God has done for me.
- 2 O all you pow'rs that He implanted,
Arise, keep silence now no more;
Put forth the strength that God has granted!
Your noblest work is to adore.
O soul and body, join to raise
With heartfelt joy our Maker's praise.

(Organ alone)

- 3 You forest leaves so green and tender
That dance for joy in summer air,
You meadow grasses, bright and slender,
You flow'rs so fragrant and so fair,
You live to show God's praise alone.
Join me to make His glory known.

4 All creatures that have breath and motion,
That throng the earth, the sea, the sky,
Come, share with me my heart's devotion,
Help me to sing God's praises high.
My utmost pow'rs can never quite
Declare the wonders of His might.

5 Creator, humbly I implore You
To listen to my earthly song
Until that day when I adore You,
Together with the angel throng
And learn with choirs of heav'n to sing
Eternal anthems to my King.

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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.

(continued on next page)

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



1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



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

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Gracious Father, in Jesus Christ Your Son, You have inaugurated Your kingdom of forgiveness and spiritual power. We pray that Your kingdom will also come through us to others; 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

Ezekiel 17:22–24

(A promise of the Messiah)

²² "'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³ On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it; they will find shelter in the shade of its branches. ²⁴ All the trees of the field will know that I the LORD bring down the tall tree and make the low tree grow tall. I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. "I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it."

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.**

ANTHEM

By Faith

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*By faith we see the hand of God In the light of creation's grand design
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness Who walk by faith and not by sight*

*By faith our fathers roamed the earth With the pow'r of His promise in their hearts
Of a holy city built by God's own hand A place where peace and justice reign*

(Chorus)

*We will stand as children of the promise We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward
Till the race is finished and the work is done We'll walk by faith and not by sight*

*By faith the prophets saw a day When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death And rise triumphant from the grave*

*By faith the church was called to go In the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach good news In ev'ry corner of the earth (chorus)*

(Congregation)

**By faith the mountain shall be moved And the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail
For we know in Christ all things are possible For all who call upon His name
(chorus)**

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 5:1–10

(Awaiting the new body and a new creation)

¹ Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. ² Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, ³ because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. ⁶ Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. ⁷ We live by faith, not by sight. ⁸ We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

720 We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight

Please stand

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

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 4:26–34

(The growing seed and the mustard seed)

²⁶ He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain--first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

³⁰ Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. ³² Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade." ³³ With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. ³⁴ He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

577 Almighty God, Your Word is Cast

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

“Almighty God, Your Word is Cast”

setting by Stephen P. Johnson

Please stand

OFFERTORY

704 Renew Me, O Eternal Light

- 3** Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey Your Word.
Let what You will be my desire,
And with new life my soul inspire.
- 4** Grant that I only You may love
And seek those things which are above
Till I behold You face to face,
O Light eternal, through Your grace.

Text: Public domain

PRAYER

Pastor: 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

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

921 On What Has Now Been Sown

POSTLUDE

“On What Has Now Been Sown”

setting by Benjamin M. Culli

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:

Job 38:1-11; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

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

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CCLI Song # 5469291

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Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Brett Arrasmith	
Liturgist:	Ellory Glenn	
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	Sandy Otto
	11:00 a.m.	John Schmidt
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Jordan Hill
	11:00 a.m.	Nathan Runser
Singers:	5:00 p.m.	Ryan Meyer
	8:30 a.m.	Ryan Meyer
	11:00 a.m.	Denise Koch, Mark Petersen
Instrumentalist:	11:00 a.m.	Bud Shultz
Organist & Accompanist:	Ryan Meyer	
Elder of the Week:	Russell Mains	

Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran

11645 Benham Road, St. Louis, MO 63136
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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
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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*