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 of Easter Confirmation Sunday

May 21, 2023 11:00 a.m.

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

AS WE GATHER

The ten days between the Ascension and the arrival of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost were unique in all of history. In that time, the disciples were left to ponder all they had been told by the risen Christ. They must have wondered, "What next? We know the salvation of our God in Jesus, but how will we be 'witnesses?' We are just ordinary people." But soon, God would perform extraordinary things through them and through us as well. He sends His Spirit to empower us with our life and our lips to "Glorify His name."

PRELUDE

"Jesus Loves Me"

setting for handbells by Sandra Eithun

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

Please stand

ENTRANCE HYMN

728 How Firm a Foundation

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His

sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the

name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"O God Beyond All Praising"

O God beyond all praising,
We worship You today
And sing the love amazing
That songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder
At every gift You send,
At blessings without number
And mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before You
And wait upon Your Word,
We honor and adore You,
Our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior,
Accept the love we bring,
That we who know Your favor
May serve You as our King;
And whether our tomorrows
Be filled with good or ill,
We'll triumph through our sorrows
And rise to bless You still:
To marvel at Your beauty
And glory in Your ways,
And make a joyful duty
Our sacrifice of praise.

"O God Beyond All Praising" CCLI Song # 2625313 Michael Perry

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Almighty Father, Your Son prayed for His disciples to remain one, as

You and He are one. Keep Your Church bound together in love and obedience to You, so that the world may believe in Him whom You have sent, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the

Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

₩ WORD ₩

FIRST READING Acts 1:12-26

(The Apostles find a replacement for Judas.)

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. ¹³ When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

 15 In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) 16 and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus-- 17 he was one of our number and shared in this ministry."

¹⁸ (With the reward he got for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out.

¹⁹ Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

²⁰ "For," said Peter, "it is written in the book of Psalms,

- " 'May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,' and,
- " 'May another take his place of leadership.'
- ²¹ Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."
- ²³ So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." ²⁶ Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE 1 Peter 4:12–19; 5:6–11

(Jesus suffered. As people connected to Jesus, we can expect to suffer also.)

¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.

(continued on next page)

¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And,

"If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

¹⁹So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

- ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.
- ⁸ Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.
- ¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"He Leadeth Me"

arr. by Janelle A. Clark

He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught,
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in mine, Nor ever murmur nor repine; Content, whatever lot I see, Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

Refrain:

He leadeth me, He leadeth me! By His own hand He leadeth me. His faithful follower I would be, For by His hand He leadeth me.

And when my task on earth is done, When, by Thy grace, the victory's won, E'en death's cold wave I will not flee, Since God through Jordan leadeth me. (Refrain)

Please stand

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL John 17:1–11

(Jesus prays for Himself and for us.)

"Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³ Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

(continued on next page)

¹ After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

⁶ "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name--the name you gave me--so that they may be one as we are one.

Pastor: 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

Sermon notes:	

OFFERING

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

setting by Benjamin M. Culli

▼ THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION **▼**

FOR

Aniya Cleveland Ethan Moss

THE INVITATION

Pastor:

Pastor: These persons have been instructed in the Christian faith and desire to

make public affirmation of their baptismal covenant, marking another

step in their growth as Christian men and women.

People: Dear Friends, we rejoice that through our pastoral and educational

ministry you now desire to make public profession of your faith, and assume greater responsibility in the life of our Christian community

and for the mission of the church in the world.

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "All

authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." You have been baptized and catechized in the Christian faith according to our Lord's bidding. Jesus said, "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and

joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

Class: Yes, I do.

Pastor: Do you renounce the devil?

Class: Yes, I renounce him.

Pastor: Do you renounce all his works?

Class: Yes, I renounce them.

Pastor: Do you renounce all his ways?

Class: Yes, I renounce them.

Pastor: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

Class: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord?

Class: Yes, I believe 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.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Class: Yes, 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.

Pastor: Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired

Word of God?

Class: I do.

Pastor: Do you confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn

from the Scriptures, as you have learned to know it from the Small

Catechism, to be faithful and true?

Class: I do.

Pastor: Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper

faithfully?

Class: I do, by the grace of God.

Pastor: Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word,

and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to

death?

Class: I do, by the grace of God.

Pastor: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to

suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

Class: I do, by the grace of God.

Pastor: We rejoice with thankful hearts, that you have been baptized and have

received the teaching of the Lord. You have confessed the faith and been absolved of your sins. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His blessed Sacrament, He who has begun a good work in you

will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Class: Amen.

THE PROMISE OF THE PARENTS

Pastor: Dear Parents: At the Baptism of these children, you

promised to bring them up in the fear and love of God and see to it that

they were properly instructed in God's word so that they may understand and treasure the new life given them in Baptism. You promised also to set a Christian example for your children by

worshipping and growing in faith in Christ yourselves.

Confirmation is not the end of the need for growth in discipleship for your children nor for you. You will need during these next years of their life to support and love them, as by your example you continue to grow in faith through regular use of Word and Sacrament. Will you as parents support your children's Christian growth by word and example?

Parents: We will with the help of God.

THE REDEDICATION OF THE CONGREGATION

Pastor: Will you as a congregation seek in every way by word and deed to

provide for these young Christians opportunity for continued growth in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ, and will you by your example of faithful worship, loving service, and sacrificial giving be to them an

example of the Christian life?

People: We will with the help of God.

THE BLESSING OF THE CONFIRMANDS

Pastor: Give then your hand as a pledge of your promise, and kneel to receive

the blessing.

After all catechumens have received the blessings and text of Holy Scripture, the pastor says:

Upon this your profession and promise I invite and welcome you, as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation, to share with us in all the gifts our Lord has for His Church and to live them out continually in His worship and service.

Let us pray for the newly confirmed -

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for your great goodness in bringing these Your children to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, they may continue steadfast and victorious to the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The almighty and most merciful God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless

and keep you.

People: Amen.

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.

▼ 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.

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

599 O Gracious Lord, with Love Draw Near

- O gracious Lord, with love draw near To these, Your children gathered here; The Spirit's gift in them renew: The gift of faith that clings to You.
- 2 Sustain the work You have begun
 In these united to Your Son,
 For in that pure baptismal flood
 They have been cleansed by Jesus' blood.
- 3 Deliver them from ev'ry wile, From all that would their hearts beguile, From worldly ways and Satan's lies, That they may not Your Word despise.
- 4 Lord, keep them firm in their intent
 To You, Your Word and Sacrament.
 O make them bold, their faith to share
 And make them strong, each cross to bear.
- 5 O Father, grant that by Your grace
 They may Your will each day embrace;
 With fruits of faith their lives now bless,
 Till they at death Your name confess.
- 6 Then robed in white before Your throne, Your holy saints, by You foreknown— Predestined, called, and justified, Shall, crowned in light, be glorified.

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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

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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

922 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

POSTLUDE

"Rondo in G Major"

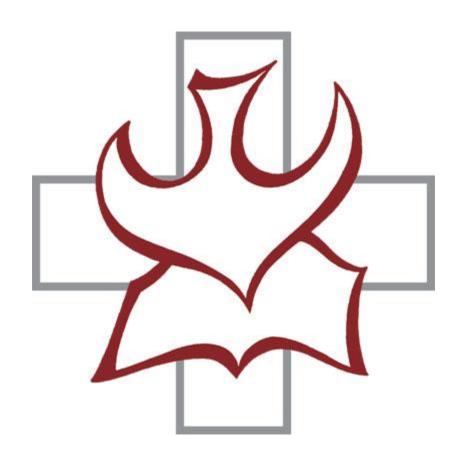
John Bull

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading: Numbers 11:24-30; Acts 2:1-21; John 7:37-39

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

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Serving at Chapel

Preacher: Theodore Laesch Liturgist: Jacob Anderson 5:00 p.m. 8:30 a.m. Ellory Glenn 11:00 a.m. Theodore Laesch Lectors: 8:30 a.m. Bill Westbrook 11:00 a.m. Milo Lombard Acolytes: 8:30 a.m. Audrey Runser 11:00 a.m. Nathan Runser Choirs: 11:00 a.m. Choral Singers, Chapel Bells & Children's Handbell Choir Instrumentalist: Zeke Laesch, French Horn Directors: Jen Schmidt Ryan Meyer Organist & Accompanist: Ryan Meyer

Jim Crosier

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

	<u>Home Phone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Theodore Laesch, Pastor	355-0688	pastorlaesch@chapelofthecross.org
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Clifford Bischoff, Pastoral Assistant	921-1107	pastorbischoff@chapelofthecross.org
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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	*Christian Friends of New Americans	*Food for the Poor
Helping Hands Food Pantry	Concordia Seminary	Friend of Moms
Sidewalk Sunday School	Lutherans for Life	KFUO Radio
Chapel Summer Camp	Apple of His Eye	Hope Center for Families

^{*} indicates special emphasis in 2021-2022

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