

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.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023

11:00 a.m.

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

AS WE GATHER

Jesus is alive! Our hearts need not be troubled nor afraid; He has shown us the Father's love. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. As God's chosen people, we continue to celebrate our resurrected Lord.

PRELUDE

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

J. S. Bach

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

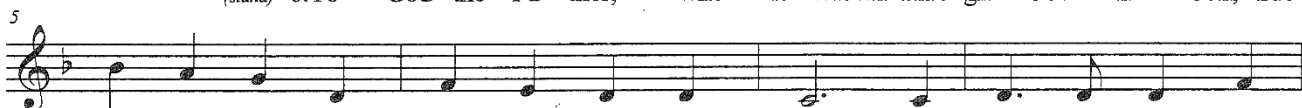
ENTRANCE HYMN

For Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran,
Celebrating 50 Years of Ministry, 1965-2015

A Chosen, Precious Cornerstone



1. A cho - sen, pre - cious cor - ner - stone In Zi - on laid, as
2. The stone was set for all to see, As jew - el of that
3. For Je - sus is that sav - ing Name The One of worth to
4. All those once lost, con - demned, a - lone, God's grace would claim and
5. Now none who trust Christ's ho - ly Name Shall stum - ble or be
(stand) 6. To God the Fa - ther, who is known Through God the Son, true



flesh and bone, In - car - nate God Most High; This stone the buil - ders
sa - cred tree, A gem of price - less worth; So faith and hope could
right - ly claim Re - demp - tion gained for all: Ful - fill - ing God the
make His own: Washed clean, re - newed, re - stored; As liv - ing stones, born
put to shame They walk in won - drous light! Made roy - al priests, a
Cor - ner - stone, All laud and praise af - ford, With God the Spir - it



would re - ject, God's will o - beyed as God's E - lect For
rest se - cure Up - on such love, so rare and pure, Love
Fa - ther's plan, Christ came to earth as God and man, Un -
from a - bove, Built on that Name whose name is Love, On
cho - sen race, A peo - ple for the praise of grace That
hon - or be, The Three in One, the One in Three, Thrice -



us or - dained to die, For us or - dained to die!
bridg - ing heav'n and earth, Love bridg - ing heav'n and earth.
do - ing A - dam's Fall, Un - do - ing A - dam's Fall.
Je - sus Christ our Lord, On Je - sus Christ our Lord.
called them out of night, That called them out of night.
ho - ly, gra - cious Lord, Thrice - ho - ly gra - cious Lord!

Text Copyright © 2015 Stephen P. Starke.
Tune: CORNERSTONE & Setting Copyright © 2015 Carl Schalk

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.

People: Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Pastor: As God's people, we make confession, seeking mercy.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Merciful God,

People: we confess to You that we are by nature sinful, living in darkness. We have often gone our own way, listened to lies instead of the truth, and sought to live life on our own terms. Forgive us our many sins of thought, word, and action, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor: God has called you out of the darkness of sin into His wonderful light. He has shown you the way, spoken the truth, and given you new life in Jesus. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF PRAISE

477 Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven



1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heav'n and voic - es raise:
2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:



Sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise;
See the an-cient pow'rs of e - vil In con - fu - sion and re-treat;



He who on the cross a vic-tim For the world's sal - va-tion bled—
Once He died, and once was bur-ied: Now He lives for - ev - er - more,



Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.
Je - sus Christ, the world's Re - deem - er, Whom we wor-ship and a - dore.

Text (st. 2): © 1982 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: Chapel of the Cross no. VVPKL-GBOIT-LYVDV-EKAFZ
Text (st. 1) and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Almighty God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Help us to be faithful to Him to death and to receive life eternal. He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING

Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

(Stephen remains faithful in the midst of death.)

¹ In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. ² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³ Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷ So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

⁸ Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. ⁹ Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia. These men began to argue with Stephen,

² To this he replied:

⁵¹ "You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit! ⁵² Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him-- ⁵³ you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it."

⁵⁴ When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to

(continued on next page)

stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 146

Pastor: Praise the LORD.
People: **Praise the LORD, O my soul.**

Pastor: I will praise the LORD all my life;
People: **I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.**

Pastor: Do not put your trust in princes,
People: **in mortal men, who cannot save.**

Pastor: When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
People: **on that very day their plans come to nothing.**

Pastor: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
People: **whose hope is in the LORD his God,**

Pastor: the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them
People: **the LORD, who remains faithful forever.**

Pastor: He upholds the cause of the oppressed
People: **and gives food to the hungry.**

Pastor: The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the blind,
People: **the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous.**

Pastor: The LORD watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow,

People: but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

Pastor: The LORD reigns forever,

People: your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD.

EPISTLE

1 Peter 2:2–10

(Built on Jesus, we are a chosen people.)

² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-- ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says:

"See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

"The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone, " ⁸ and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message--which is also what they were destined for.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"Christ is Our Hope in Life and Death"

Getty, Boswell, Kauflin, Merker, Papa

What is our hope in life and death?

Christ alone, Christ alone.

What is our only confidence?

That our souls to Him belong.

Who holds our days within His hand?

What comes apart from His command?

And what will keep us to the end?

The love of Christ, in which we stand.

Oh, sing hallelujah!

Our hope springs eternal;

Oh, sing hallelujah!

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul?

God is good, God is good.

Where is His grace and goodness known?

In our great Redeemer's blood.

Who holds our faith when fears arise?

Who stands above the stormy trial?

Who sends the waves that bring us nigh

Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

Oh, sing hallelujah!

Our hope springs eternal;

Oh, sing hallelujah!

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death.

Unto the grave, what will we sing?

"Christ, He lives; Christ He lives!"

And what reward will heaven bring?

Everlasting life with Him.

There we will rise to meet the Lord,

Then sin and death will be destroyed,

And we will feast in endless joy,

When Christ is ours forevermore.

Oh, sing hallelujah!

Our hope springs eternal;

Oh, sing hallelujah!

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death.

Oh, sing hallelujah!

Our hope springs eternal;

Oh, sing hallelujah!

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death.

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death.

Please stand

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

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

HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:1–14

(Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.)

¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going."

⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

⁸ Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

⁹ Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. ¹² I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

526 You Are the Way; Through You Alone

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.

OFFERING

"Ariso"

J. S. Bach

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.

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

644 The Church's One Foundation

POSTLUDE

"Hornpipe"

G. F. Handel

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:

Acts 17:16-31; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

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

*Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserve worldwide. www.zondervan.com
Hymns used by permission. OneLicense.net #A-725523 Lutheran Service Builder License no. VVPKL-GBOIT-LYVDV-EKAFZ.*

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2. Copyright © 2022 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Theodore Laesch	
Liturgists:	5:00 p.m.	Theodore Laesch
	8:30 a.m.	Jacob Anderson
	11:00 a.m.	Ellory Glenn
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	Lynn Freund
	11:00 a.m.	Edem Ekpo
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Zoe Laesch
	11:00 a.m.	Zoe Laesch
Singer:	Zeke Laesch	
Organist & Accompanist:	Milo Lombard	
Elder of the Week:	Jerry Bowen	
Director of the Week:	Gary Timm	

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
Ellory Glenn, Specific Ministry Pastor	369-8014	ellory.glenn@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	* Helping Hands Food Pantry	
*Lutheran Bible Translators	Friend of Moms	Food for the Poor
Concordia Seminary	Lutherans for Life	KFUD Radio
Day 3 Seeds	Apple of His Eye	
Chapel Summer Camp		

** indicates special emphasis in 2023*

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