

# CHAPEL OF THE CROSS

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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.*

# First Sunday after Christmas

December 26, 2021

11:00 a.m.

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

## PRELUDE

Trumpet Tune on “In His Temple Now Behold Him”

Mark Sedio

## WELCOME

*The congregation turns and faces the cross as the procession approaches the altar reminding us that Christ leads us into the presence of God.*

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

*Please stand*

## ENTRANCE HYMN

389 Let All Together Praise Our God

- 1 Let all together praise our God  
Before His glorious throne;  
Today He opens heav'n again  
To give us His own Son,  
To give us His own Son.

*(continued on next page)*

- 2 He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne,  
Is born an infant small,  
And in a manger, poor and lone,  
Lies in a humble stall,  
Lies in a humble stall.
- 4 He undertakes a great exchange,  
Puts on our human frame,  
And in return gives us His realm,  
His glory, and His name,  
His glory, and His name.
- 6 He is the key and He the door  
To blessèd paradise;  
The angel bars the way no more.  
To God our praises rise,  
To God our praises rise.
- Δ 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,  
Lord Jesus, we adore  
And praise to God the Father yield  
And Spirit evermore;  
We praise You evermore.

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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: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are sinful and unclean. We have taken for granted the free gift of salvation You give us through Jesus. Help us to focus on the reason for the season, the birth of Your Son. Forgive us, O God, and let us depart in peace, according to Your Word, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus, who came to save us from our sins.**

Pastor: Receive the free gift that Jesus offers: the forgiveness of sins. As a called and ordained servant of our newborn King, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Thank You, Jesus! Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

391 Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice this happy morn,  
A Savior unto us is born,  
The Christ, the Lord of glory!  
His lowly birth in Bethlehem  
The angels from on high proclaim  
And sing redemption's story!  
My soul, extol  
God's great favor;  
Bless Him ever  
For salvation;  
Give Him praise and adoration!

*Text: Public domain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, our Savior, we praise and thank You for coming to be born of Mary so that through faith in You we might depart this life in peace. Grant that we may ever share this gift; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

✘ WORD ✘

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 13:1–3a, 11–15

*(The Israelites are to consecrate their firstborn to the Lord.)*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> "Consecrate to me every firstborn **male**. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether man or animal." <sup>3</sup> Then Moses said to the people, "Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the LORD brought you out of it with a mighty hand.

<sup>11</sup> "After the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites and gives it to you, as he promised on oath to you and your forefathers, <sup>12</sup> you are to give over to the LORD the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the LORD. <sup>13</sup> Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem every firstborn among your sons.

<sup>14</sup> "In days to come, when your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' say to him, 'With a mighty hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>15</sup> When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed every firstborn in Egypt, both man and animal. This is why I sacrifice to the LORD the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.'

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 111

Pastor: Praise the LORD. I will extol the LORD with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

People: **Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them.**

Pastor: Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever.

People: **He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate.**

*(continued on next page)*

Pastor: He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

**People: He has shown his people the power of his works, giving them the lands of other nations.**

Pastor: The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

**People: They are steadfast for ever and ever, done in faithfulness and uprightness.**

Pastor: He provided redemption for his people; he **ordained** his covenant forever-- holy and awesome is his name.

**People: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.**

## EPISTLE

Colossians 3:12–17

*(Wrap yourselves with the characteristics, peace, and word of Christ.)*

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Arranged by John Leavitt

*In the bleak midwinter  
Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter  
Long ago.*

*Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him  
Nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When He comes to reign:  
In the bleak midwinter  
A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty,  
Jesus Christ.*

*What can I give Him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb,  
If I were a wise man  
I would do my part,  
Yet what I can I give Him,  
Give my heart.*

*Please stand*

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

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

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 2:22–40

*(Jesus is brought to the temple.)*

<sup>22</sup> When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

<sup>29</sup> "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. <sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all people, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. <sup>38</sup> Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## HYMN OF THE WORD

519 In His Temple Now Behold Him

- 1 In His temple now behold Him,  
See the long-expected Lord;  
Ancient prophets had foretold Him,  
God has now fulfilled His word.  
Now to praise Him, His redeemed  
Shall break forth with one accord.
  
- 2 In the arms of her who bore Him,  
Virgin pure, behold Him lie  
While His aged saints adore Him  
Ere in perfect faith they die.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Lo, the incarnate God Most High!
  
- 3 Jesus, by Your presentation,  
When they blessed You, weak and poor,  
Make us see Your great salvation,  
Seal us with Your promise sure;  
And present us in Your glory  
To Your Father, cleansed and pure.

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## 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.**

### OFFERING

*“Rise Up, Shepherd”*

Charles Callahan

*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.*

## **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.**

*(continued on next page)*

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord by whose wonderful and mysterious birth You have opened our eyes to the glory of Your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of Your love. 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**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord  
God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim  
Shout the glory of Your name:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Sing hosanna in the heights,  
Sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes  
In the name of Christ the Lord:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

## **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.**

## **AGNUS DEI**

**Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God,  
All our sins You take away;  
Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Grant us mercy, Lord, we pray.**

**Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God,  
All our sins You take away;  
Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

*A "continuous communion table" will be the method of distribution this day. Communicants will come forward down the center aisle at the direction of the usher. You will receive the wafer from the pastor at the center and then proceed to the right or left (depending on which side of the church you are sitting) to receive the wine. You will then return to your pew. As is our custom, communion will be brought to people in the pews who have difficulty walking to the chancel. If you wish to take communion in the pew, please raise your hand when the communion assistant comes down the aisle. Also young children will receive a word of blessing.*

## **DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**383     A Great and Mighty Wonder**

- 1     A great and mighty wonder,  
       A full and holy cure:  
       The virgin bears the infant  
       With virgin honor pure! (Refrain)**
  
- ref Proclaim the Savior's birth:  
       "To God on high be glory  
       And peace to all the earth!"**
  
- 2     The Word becomes incarnate  
       And yet remains on high,  
       And cherubim sing anthems  
       To shepherds from the sky. (Refrain)**
  
- 3     While thus they sing your Monarch,  
       Those bright angelic bands,  
       Rejoice, O vales and mountains,  
       And oceans, clap your hands. (Refrain)**

4 Since all He comes to ransom,  
By all be He adored,  
The infant born in Bethl'em,  
The Savior and the Lord. (Refrain)

5 All idols then shall perish  
And Satan's lying cease,  
And Christ shall raise His scepter,  
Decreeing endless peace. (Refrain)

*Text: Public domain*

367 Angels from the Realms of Glory

1 Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. (Refrain)

ref Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the Infant Light. (Refrain)

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations,  
Ye have seen His natal star. (Refrain)

*(continued on next page)*

4 **Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear. (Refrain)**

Δ 5 **All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the\_ eternal Three in One. (Refrain)**

*Text: Public domain*

## **SILENT PRAYER**

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

*Lord Jesus, we have gathered together in Your house to be guests at Your table. We thank and praise You that You have nourished us with Your body and blood and have covered our sinful hearts with the pure garment of Your perfect righteousness. As You have drawn close to us and shown us Your love and forgiveness, in the same way, help us to drawn close and love one another. Keep us in the true Christian faith so that we glorify You with our lives until that time that You call us to be guests at Your heavenly table. In Your name we pray, Amen.*

*Please stand*

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Pastor: Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good.

**People: His steadfast love endures forever.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

We thank You, our newborn King, for You have given us the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation. Let Your Word and this Meal dwell within us richly, empowering us to live lives as Your chosen ones—lives lived with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience as we bear with one another in love and forgive others as You forgive us; for You live and reign with the Father 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

937 Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

- 1 Lord, bid Your servant go in peace,  
Your word is now fulfilled.  
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,  
This child so long foretold.
- 2 This is the Savior of the world,  
The Gentiles' promised light,  
God's glory dwelling in our midst,  
The joy of Israel.
- Δ 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,  
To You we lift our voice;  
To Father, Son, and Spirit blest  
Be honor, love, and praise.

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## POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

J. Wayne Kerr

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:

1 Kings 3:4-15; Ephesians 1:3-14; Luke 2:40-52

Find a devotional guide on the readings at [www.chapelofthecross.org/walkingtogether](http://www.chapelofthecross.org/walkingtogether)

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## Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	James Marriott
Liturgist:	Ellory Glenn
Lectors:	8:30 a.m. Judy Kooi 11:00 a.m. Tonja Cleveland
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m. Aniya Cleveland 11:00 a.m. Joel Marriott
Singer:	Mark Petersen
Organist & Accompanist:	Carolyn Rusnak

## Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran

11645 Benham Road, St. Louis, MO 63136  
(314) 741-3737      www.chapelofthecross.org  
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### Worship and Christian Education

Saturday - 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday - 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Worship Service broadcast on KFUE 850 AM Sundays at 4:00 p.m.  
Live internet streaming at www.chapelofthecross.org Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

*Holy Communion is celebrated the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 8:30 a.m.,  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 11:00 a.m.,  
and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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	<a href="mailto:pastorlaesch@chapelofthecross.org">pastorlaesch@chapelofthecross.org</a>
Ellory Glenn, Specific Ministry Pastor	369-8014	<a href="mailto:ellory.glenn@chapelofthecross.org">ellory.glenn@chapelofthecross.org</a>
James Marriott, Pastoral Assistant - Youth	(972) 741-5978	<a href="mailto:james.marriott@chapelofthecross.org">james.marriott@chapelofthecross.org</a>
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Bill Rusnak, Director of Adult Ministry	200-9797	<a href="mailto:bill.rusnak@chapelofthecross.org">bill.rusnak@chapelofthecross.org</a>
Clifford Bischoff, Pastoral Assistant	921-1107	<a href="mailto:pastorbischoff@chapelofthecross.org">pastorbischoff@chapelofthecross.org</a>
Mary Laesch, Children and Family Ministry Coord.	355-0688	<a href="mailto:family@chapelofthecross.org">family@chapelofthecross.org</a>

### 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	KFUE 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*