

# 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.*

# Second Sunday after Christmas

January 2, 2022

11:00 a.m.

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

## AS WE GATHER

God loves you! He chose you before the foundation of the world and knew that you would be part of His family through faith in Jesus Christ. Whom do you know who needs to experience God's unconditional, all-accepting, no-strings-attached love? As we are reminded throughout the Scriptures, God's love is for all people. Who is near to you who may still be far from God? How can you connect with them this year so that they might come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved?

## PRELUDE

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

arr. by Anna L. Page

## 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**

**523**    O Word of God Incarnate

- 1    O Word of God incarnate,  
      O Wisdom from on high,  
      O Truth unchanged, unchanging,  
      O Light of our dark sky:  
      We praise You for the radiance  
      That from the hallowed page,  
      A lantern to our footsteps,  
      Shines on from age to age.
  
- 2    The Church from You, dear Master,  
      Received the gift divine;  
      And still that light is lifted  
      O'er all the earth to shine.  
      It is the chart and compass  
      That, all life's voyage through,  
      Mid mists and rocks and quicksands  
      Still guides, O Christ, to You.
  
- 3    O make Your Church, dear Savior,  
      A lamp of burnished gold  
      To bear before the nations  
      Your true light as of old!  
      O teach Your wand'ring pilgrims  
      By this their path to trace  
      Till, clouds and darkness ended,  
      They see You face to face!

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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: 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

390 Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

- 1 Let us all with gladsome voice  
Praise the God of heaven,  
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,  
His own Son hath given.
- 2 To this vale of tears He comes,  
Here to serve in sadness,  
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes  
We may reign in gladness.
- 3 We are rich, for He was poor;  
Is not this a wonder?  
Therefore praise God evermore  
Here on earth and yonder.
- 4 Christ, our Lord and Savior dear,  
Be Thou ever near us.  
Grant us now a glad new year.  
Amen, Jesus, hear us.

*Text: Public domain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your Incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

✘ WORD ✘

OLD TESTAMENT READING

1 Kings 3:4–15

*(Solomon prays to God for the gift of wisdom.)*

<sup>4</sup> The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. <sup>5</sup> At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

<sup>6</sup> Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

<sup>7</sup> "Now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. <sup>8</sup> Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. <sup>9</sup> So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

<sup>10</sup> The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. <sup>11</sup> So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, <sup>12</sup> I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. <sup>13</sup> Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for--both riches and honor--so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. <sup>14</sup> And if you walk in my ways and obey my statutes and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life." <sup>15</sup> Then Solomon awoke--and he realized it had been a dream.

*(continued on next page)*

He returned to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord's covenant and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he gave a feast for all his court.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 119:97-104

Pastor: Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.

People: **Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me.**

Pastor: I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes.

People: **I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts.**

Pastor: I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word.

People: **I have not departed from your laws, for you yourself have taught me.**

Pastor: How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

People: **I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path.**

*(In His infinite wisdom, God gives us an eternal inheritance.)*

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. <sup>4</sup> For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. <sup>9</sup> And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup> to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

<sup>11</sup> In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, <sup>12</sup> in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

### "The Perfect Wisdom of Our God"

*The perfect wisdom of our God  
Revealed in all the universe:  
All things created by His hand  
And held together at His command.  
He knows the mysteries of the seas,  
The secrets of the stars are His;  
He guides the planets on their way  
And turns the earth through another day.*

*The matchless wisdom of His ways  
That mark the path of righteousness;  
His word a lamp unto my feet,  
His Spirit teaching and guiding me.  
And O the mystery of the cross,  
That God should suffer for the lost,  
So that the fool might shame the wise,  
And all the glory might go to Christ!*

*O grant me wisdom from above,  
To pray for peace and cling to love,  
And teach me humbly to receive  
The sun and rain of Your sovereignty.  
Each strand of sorrow has a place  
Within this tapestry of grace;  
So through the trials I choose to say:  
"Your perfect will in Your perfect way."*

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*Please stand*

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

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

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 2:40–52

*(Jesus is found sharing His wisdom in the temple.)*

<sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

<sup>41</sup> Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. <sup>43</sup> After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. <sup>44</sup> Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

<sup>49</sup> "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>51</sup> Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

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

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

## HYMN OF THE WORD

410 Within the Father's House

1 Within the Father's house  
The Son has found His home,  
And to His temple suddenly  
The Lord of life has come.  
The doctors of the Law  
Gaze on the wondrous child  
And marvel at His gracious words  
Of wisdom undefiled.

2 Yet not to them is giv'n  
The mighty truth to know,  
To lift the earthly veil that hides  
Incarnate God below.  
The secret of the Lord  
Escapes each human eye,  
And faithful pond'ring hearts await  
The full epiphany.

Δ 3 Lord, visit Thou our souls  
And teach us by Thy grace  
Each dim revealing of Thyself  
With loving awe to trace  
Till we behold Thy face  
And know as we are known  
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Coequal Three in One.

*Text: Public domain*

## 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.**

### **OFFERING**

*"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"*

setting by John A. Behnke

*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**

**850 God of Grace and God of Glory**

- 1 God of grace and God of glory,  
On Your people pour Your pow'r;  
Crown Your ancient Church's story;  
Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
For the facing of this hour,  
For the facing of this hour.**
  
- 2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us  
Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us  
Free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
For the living of these days,  
For the living of these days.**
  
- 3 Cure Your children's warring madness;  
Bend our pride to Your control;  
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
Rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal,  
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.**

*(continued on next page)*

**4 Save us from weak resignation  
To the evils we deplore;  
Let the gift of Your salvation  
Be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
Serving You whom we adore,  
Serving You whom we adore.**

*Text: Public domain*

## **POSTLUDE**

*“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”*

Norman Dello Joio

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:

Isaiah 43:1-7; Romans 6:1-11; Luke 3:15-22

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:	Adam Rouse	
Liturgists:	5:00 p.m.	Ellory Glenn
	8:30 a.m.	Ellory Glenn
	11:00 a.m.	James Marriott
Lectors:	8:30 a.m.	Denise Koch
	11:00 a.m.	Ken Gerler
Singers:	Denise Koch	
	Lynda Christian	
Acolytes:	8:30 a.m.	Jonah Meyer
	11:00 a.m.	Jayden Hill
Organist & Accompanist:	Ryan Meyer	

## Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran

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(314) 741-3737      [www.chapelofthecross.org](http://www.chapelofthecross.org)  
Email: [office@chapelofthecross.org](mailto:office@chapelofthecross.org)

### 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](http://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*