



4500 Rimer Rd, Concord, NC 28025
Church 704-782-8483

A NALC Congregation



Welcome to worship at Cross of Christ!
In the Cross of Christ I glory †

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 20, 2026

(* *Please stand as you are able*)

PRELUDE

OUR ACCOMPANIST MRS. YVONNE YOST

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

* OPENING HYMN

“Blessed Assurance ”

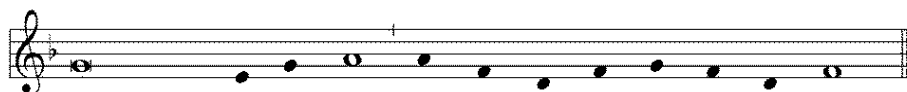
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*APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

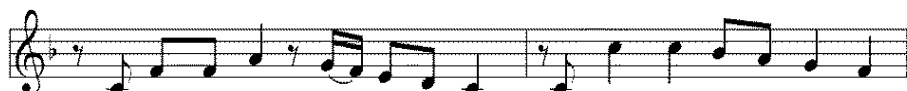
*HYMN OF PRAISE: "*Glory to God*"



♩ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



♩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

***SALUTATION**



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray. Direct our hearts, O Lord, by your merciful reign, because without your help it is impossible to please you. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55: 6-9 (ESV)

⁶ “Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;

⁷ let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;

let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The Word of God for the people of God!

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 27: 1-9 (ESV) READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

**² When evildoers assail me
to eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes,
it is they who stumble and fall.**

**³ Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me,
yet I will be confident.**

**⁴ One thing have I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to inquire in his temple.**

**⁵ For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will lift me high upon a rock.**

**⁶ And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

**⁷ Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!**

**⁸ You have said, "Seek my face."
My heart says to you,
"Your face, LORD, do I seek."**

**⁹ Hide not your face from me.
Turn not your servant away in anger,
O you who have been my help.
Cast me not off; forsake me not,
O God of my salvation!**

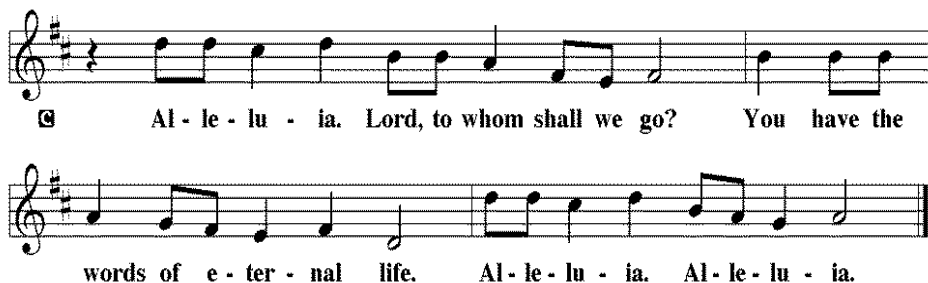
SECOND READING: Philippians 1: 12-14, 19-30 (ESV)

¹² I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴ And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. ²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

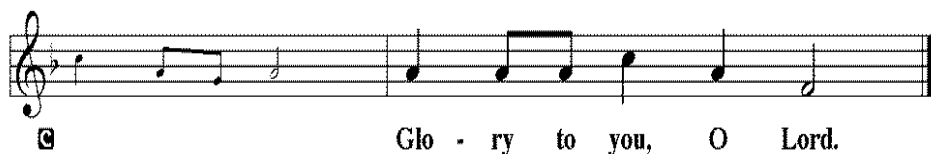
The Word of God for the people of God!

C: Thanks be to God!

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, 20th chapter.

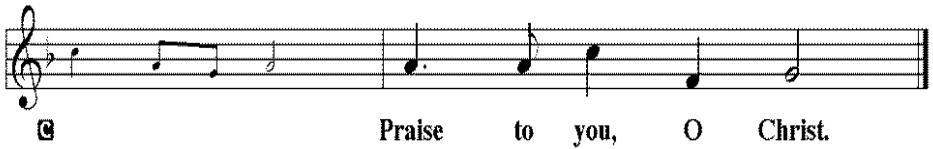


*THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. MATTHEW 20: 1-16 (ESV)

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶ And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸ And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am

doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?" ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last."

P: This is Gospel of our Lord.



SERMON

Pastor George Rhyne

*SERMON HYMN *"I Love To Tell The Story"* (Green) LBW 390

***APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

*RECEIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*THE OFFERTORY



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir -
it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*THE 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

P: 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.

C: Amen

***SENDING HYMN “On Our Way Rejoicing” (Green) LBW 260**

*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

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The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Reece and Janie Kluttz birthdays by their family.

We thank **Pastor Rhyne** for leading our service today.

We thank **Bonnie McDonald** for being our guest speaker today. Homecoming Lunch will include a salad bar, baked potato bar, and roasted corn with desserts.

Congregational meeting is October 4th. We will have two votes: to extend an official call to Pastor Will Dulin and a second vote on the compensation package for Pastor Dulin.

The **Car Show Committee** would like to thank all the workers, trophy sponsors, dessert makers and the crew of the breakfast/lunch for making the Fall Car Show a big success.

PBnJ Youth Group meets next Sunday at 3:30.

October Newsletter Article are due **TODAY**

NOAH (Prayer Shawl) meets tomorrow night at 6:30

Women's Bible study will meet this **Wednesday, September 23rd at 6:30pm** in the Fisher Building. Let Ashleigh Ennis know you'd like to join!

The **PBnJ Youth Group** will be continuing with birthday bags for the Coltrane Life Center participants through the end of the year. Earlier in the year we completed May - August and in August we completed September & October bags. We are in need of the following items to be able to do November & December bags: Word Searches, Coloring Books Ink Pens, Colored Pencils, \$5 Gift Cards to places like Hardee's or Chick Fil A, Individual packs of Kleenex, Small Lotions
Thank you to everyone who has helped with this project. The participants at the LIFE Center are very appreciative of these bags.



September 20, 2026

We ask that you always have an individual's permission before requesting their name be added to our Prayer List.

Please send prayer list request additions or changes to prayercclc@gmail.com by Tuesday 5PM.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people... 1Timothy 2:1

In the Fellowship of Cross of Christ

Chris Goodman; Wayne Peck; Carl Pless, Jr.; Jasper Tidd; Rand Yost

Call Process prayer requests: 1) Cross of Christ Church; 2) Call Committee; 3) Prospective pastors see our profile/video and consider a call here.

Shut-Ins

Bob and Joann Barrier; Brenda Barrier; Norman Goodman; Nell Hatley; John Trull.

Friends of Cross of Christ

Carolyn Campbell; Josh Fabricius; April Funderburke; Lee Gorforth; Candice Horton; Cynthia Horton; Gloria Mann; Alicia McQueen; Hayden Polakowski; Eric Starling; Susan Starling; Andrew Stirewalt; Ruthie O'Brien; Daniel Pless; Jacob Rodgers; Nick Smith; Bob Wilson; Candace Yates

Carolina Mission Region Seminarians: Melanie Corn, Robert Dernbach

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison (Fairbanks, Alaska)

General Prayer Concerns:

- Ongoing Iran war impacts

Praise List:

- Brenda Barrier – she had a positive result from her spinal tap and has a first appointment with the Neurosurgeon on October 5th.

**** Please remember our shut-ins with a visit, phone call, card, or email along with your prayers**

Today September 20, 2026

Homecoming

Sunday Church School 9:00 AM

Family Worship Service 10:00 AM

Meal after service today

This Week

MON: 7 – 8:30 PM Soldiers of the Cross of Christ Practice

MON: 6:30 PM NOAH prayer shawl

WED: 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study

NEXT SUNDAY

9:00 AM Sunday Church School Classes

10:00 AM Family Worship Service

3:30 PM PBnJ Youth group meets

Next Sunday's Readings

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-32

Psalm 25: 1-10

Philippians 2: 1-18

St. Matthew 21: 23-32

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