

# *Cross of Christ Lutheran Church*

4500 Rimer Rd, Concord, NC 28025

Church 704-782-8483 Parish Hall 704-795-0445

Parsonage 704-786-3643

*The Rev. Rafe Allison, Pastor*

A NALC Congregation



*Welcome to worship at Cross of Christ!*

*In the Cross of Christ I glory †*

*Fifth Sunday In Lent  
March 26, 2023*

## GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## \*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the <sup>†</sup> Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

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.

**Amen**

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.*

Most merciful God,

**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**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for you and, for his sake, God forgives you all your 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.

**Amen**

\* OPENING HYMN “*Oh That The Lord Would Guide My Ways*” LBW 480

## \*APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

## \*KYRIE

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. C Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. C A - men

## \*SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you. C And al - so with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, our redeemer,  
**in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope in the world. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 43: 16-21 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> Thus says the LORD,

    who makes a way in the sea,

    a path in the mighty waters,

<sup>17</sup> who brings forth chariot and horse,

    army and warrior;

they lie down, they cannot rise,

    they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

<sup>18</sup> “Remember not the former things,

    nor consider the things of old.

<sup>19</sup> Behold, I am doing a new thing;

    now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness

    and rivers in the desert.

<sup>20</sup> The wild beasts will honor me,

    the jackals and the ostriches,

for I give water in the wilderness,

    rivers in the desert,

to give drink to my chosen people,

<sup>21</sup>   the people whom I formed for myself

that they might declare my praise.

**PSALM 126**

**READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE**

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,

    we were like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup> Then our mouth was filled with laughter,

    and our tongue with shouts of joy;

then they said among the nations,

“The LORD has done great things for them.”

<sup>3</sup> The LORD has done great things for us;

    we are glad.

<sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, O LORD,

    like streams in the Negeb!

<sup>5</sup> Those who sow in tears

shall reap with shouts of joy!

**<sup>6</sup>He who goes out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
bringing his sheaves with him.**

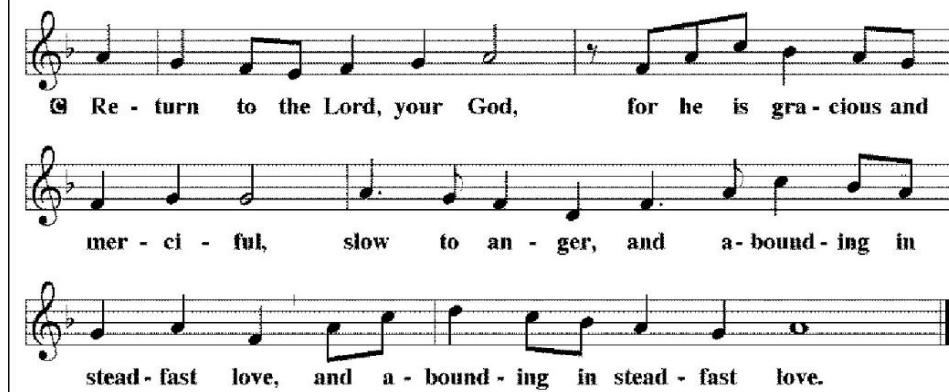
#### SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 3: 8-14 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup>Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—<sup>10</sup>that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of God for the people of God!

**Thanks be to God!**

#### \*LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The musical notation consists of three staves of music in common time with a treble clef. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below the notes. The lyrics are:

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a- bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: St. Luke 20: 9-20 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> And he began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. <sup>10</sup> When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>11</sup> And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>12</sup> And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. <sup>13</sup> Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.’ <sup>14</sup> But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.’ <sup>15</sup> And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? <sup>16</sup> He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When they heard this, they said, “Surely not!” <sup>17</sup> But he looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written: “‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’? <sup>18</sup> Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.” <sup>19</sup> The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people. <sup>20</sup> So they watched him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch him in something he said, so as to deliver him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor.

This is Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

PASTOR RAFE ALLISON

\*SERMON HYMN

***“Beneath The Cross Of Jesus”***

**LBW 107**

\*NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

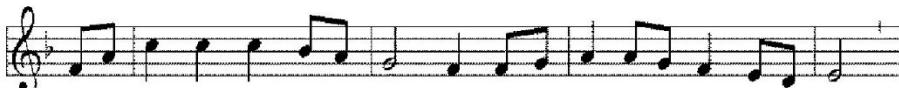
and the life of the world to come. Amen

RECEIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

## \*THE OFFERTORY



¶ What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all his ben-e-fits to me? I will  
of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will call on the name of the Lord.



I will take the cup of sal-va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord.



I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all his peo-ple,



in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru-sa-lem.

## \*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

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.

Amen

\*SENDING HYMN    *"Take My Life"*    LBW 406

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*POSTLUDE

(\* Please stand as you are able)

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The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and honor of Richard and Jodie Strube's 38<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**Orders for Easter Lilies and Geraniums are due TODAY.**

### **Living Last Supper Drama Practice dates/ times:**

Quartet only March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7PM

Drama only on April 2 after service.

Dress Rehearsal for ALL, Wed April 5<sup>th</sup> 7PM.

It's time to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2022. The last date to direct your Dollars is **March 31, 2023**. You can do this online or by calling your Thrivent representative, Gary Samuelson at 704-506-3234. Thrivent Choice Dollars are available to anyone that has life insurance or annuities with Thrivent. Our church is one of the organizations you may direct your Dollars to.

**Annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday April 1st from 12:30-2:00.** Children ages 2-8 are welcome to join us in hunting eggs, story time, cookie decorating, and a craft! The Easter Bunny will also be hopping around and ready for pictures! Please note the **date change!**

The **PbnJ and CSI** Youth groups will be going to play BINGO at the life center in April 12th at 10:30 am. Please let the leaders know if you can attend. Also, we are in need of word searches and ink pens to be used as prizes. Thank you.

**Weekly Offering Report For: Week No: 12 Date: March 19, 2023**

2023 Weekly Needs: \$3,674.98      YTD Budget Needs  
\$44,099.76

**Last Week**

General Tithes Received \$3,345.00 YTD General Tithes Received  
\$40,923.00

Last week (Deficit) (\$329.98)

YTD (Deficit) (\$3,176.76)

**2023 Lenten Study: 6 Marks of Christian Discipleship**

Sixth Mark: Wednesday, March 29

*\*All Service Times are at 7:00PM in the Sanctuary*



**HOLY WEEK  
WORSHIP  
SCHEDULE**

Sunday April 2 Palm/Passion Sunday 10:00 AM

Thursday April 6 Maundy Thursday/Living Last Supper 7:00 PM

Friday April 7 Good Friday Service 7:00 PM

Sunday April 9 Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 AM

Sunday April 9 Easter Morning Breakfast 7:30 AM

Sunday April 9 Easter Holy Communion **9:00 AM**

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES**



**March 26, 2023**

*A little reminder about our prayer list.*

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

**Contact Pastor Allison or Prayer List Coordinator Belinda Campbell to request additions or changes.**

*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**

Amanda Faggart; John Faggart; Joyce Harkins; Candice Horton; Doris & Frank Klutzz; Betty Miller (upcoming medical procedures and decisions); Carl Pless; John & Linda Trull; Dot Weast; Bob Yost

### **Serving in the Military**

Eaven Allison (Okinawa, Japan)

### **Friends of Cross of Christ**

Veronica Barber and family and fiancée Jeff; David Buckland; LeaAnne Buckwell; Mary Cox; Steve & Angie Dixon; Jane Faggart; Pastor Jeff Faggart; Wanda Floyd; Joyce Furr; Ralph Furr; Brandon Lewis; Kaye and Gerry Litzinger; Ensley Morgan; Karen Morgan (Friend of Kristi Drye – Breast cancer diagnosis); Steve Parker; Shelley Potts; Ronnie Procter; Susan Starling; Connie Walters; Candace Yates; Vickey Belk Young

### **General Prayer Concerns**

The People of Ukraine  
Those impacted by earthquakes in Turkey and Syria

### **Praise List**

\* Bettie Bean – Mother of Belinda Campbell and Barbara Seagraves – Thank you for your prayers during the recent knee replacement surgery and recovery.

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

## **Today – March 26, 2023**

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| Sunday Church School   | 9:00 AM  |
| Family Worship Service | 10:00 AM |

### **THIS WEEK**

**WED:** 7:00 PM Lenten service  
**THURS:** 7:00PM Quartet Practice  
**SAT:** 12:30-2:00 PM Annual Easter Egg hunt

### **NEXT SUNDAY**

|          |                              |
|----------|------------------------------|
| 8:30 AM  | Executive Council Meeting    |
| 9:00 AM  | Sunday Church School Classes |
| 10:00 AM | Holy Communion Service       |
| 11:00 AM | Last Supper Drama Practice   |
| 11:00 AM | Council Meeting              |

### **Next Sunday's Readings**

*Palm/Passion Sunday*

Deuteronomy 32: 36-39

Psalm 118: 19-29

Philippians 2: 5-11

St Luke 21: 1- 23:56

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