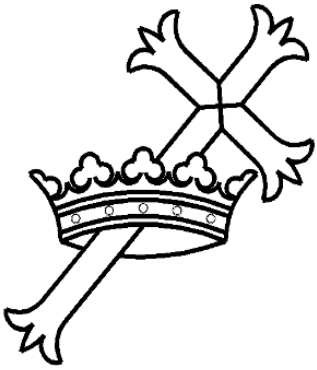
CROSS OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 †

Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost
October 18, 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 ***"God Of Grace And God Of Glory"*** **(Green) LBW 415**

*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"*



*SALUTATION



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God, our refuge and strength, since you yourself are the author of our devotion, graciously consider the devout prayers of your Church. May those things which we ask in faith effectively follow by your grace; 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 45: 1-7 (ESV)

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped,
to subdue nations before him
and to loose the belts of kings,
to open doors before him
that gates may not be closed:
2 "I will go before you
and level the exalted places,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
3 I will give you the treasures of darkness
and the hoards in secret places,
that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
4 For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I name you, though you do not know me.
5 I am the LORD, and there is no other,

besides me there is no God;
I equip you, though you do not know me,
6 that people may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is none besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
7 I form light and create darkness;
I make well-being and create calamity;
I am the LORD, who does all these things.

The Word of God for the people of God!
C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 96: 1-13 (ESV) READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!
2 Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
3 Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!
4 For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.
5 For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
6 Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!
8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!
9 Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth!
10 Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."
11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
12 let the field exult, and everything in it!
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
13 before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10 (ESV)

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. [2] We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, [3] remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. [4] For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, [5] because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. [6] And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, [7] so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. [8] For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. [9] For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, [10] and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

The Word of God for the people of God!

C: Thanks be to God!

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



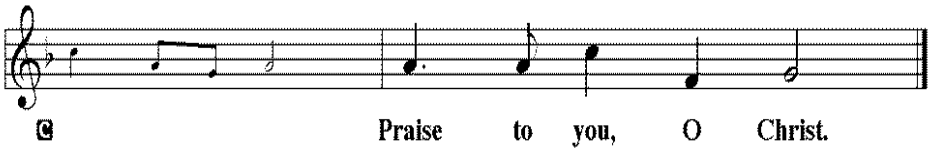
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, 22nd chapter.



***THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. MATTHEW 22: 15-22 (ESV)**

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words.
16 And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying,
"Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully,
and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by
appearances. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to
Caesar, or not?" 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to
the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin for the tax." And they
brought him a denarius. 20 And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and
inscription is this?" 21 They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them,
"Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the
things that are God's." 22 When they heard it, they marveled. And they left
him and went away.

P: This is Gospel of our Lord.



SERMON Pastor George Rhyne

*SERMON HYMN ***"Take My Life, That I May Be"*** **(Green*)* LBW 406**

***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



*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*THE LORD'S PRAYER
C: 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 "*Crown Him With Many Crowns*" (Green) LBW 170**
vs. 1-4

***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 Mary Thomas by the Larry Barbee family.

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

Thank you to the Call Committee, Council, and the Congregation as we worked through the NALC process to find our next great Pastor.

NOAH (Prayer Shawl) will meet tomorrow night at 6:30 PM.

Newsletter Articles are due **next** Sunday, October 25th.

The **Outreach Committee** is sponsoring **Toys for Tots** this year. The boxes will be at the back of the sanctuary on **November 1st**. New, unwrapped toys for all ages are needed. **Our church will collect toys through November 29th**. Also a box will be placed outside the door of Parish Hall at the November breakfast. Just think of the smiles on the children's faces this Christmas morning. Thank you for your generosity.

Fall Festival- November 1st- 3:00 - 5:00 PM

We plan to have hayrides, a straw maze, a petting zoo, crafts, games, a cake walk, food and so much more. We are in need of volunteers to man the games (stations), we also are in need of small treats and or candy to hand out at the games. We plan to have a cake walk, if you would like to donate cakes, cookies, etc. or know of a contact at a grocery store, please let Meredith know. If you want to set up a trunk and do trunk or treating, you are welcome to do this as well. If interested in helping in any way, please see Meredith.

For any Prayer List additions or updates, please remember to email PrayerCCLC@gmail.com. During a period in October, this will be the only way to get updates on the list while Belinda Campbell is out of town. If there are any additional communications to the congregation needed between 10/9/26 and 10/19/26, please reach out to a member of the Executive Council, and they can coordinate the request.

Prayer Request

October 18, 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

Amanda Faggart (fall resulted in a broken bone in her right ankle); Chris Goodman; Wayne Peck; Carl Pless, Jr.; Richard Strube (shots to prepare for nerve ablation); Rand Yost

Shut-Ins

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

Friends of Cross of Christ

Family of Brooke Overcash (friend of Ashleigh Ennis) Lauren Banks; Constance and Baby Dulin; Josh Fabricius; April Funderburke; Shirley Furr; 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: Cody Carpenter, Melanie Corn, Shane Honig, James Price, Kyle Page

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison (Fairbanks, Alaska)

General Prayer Concerns:

- Ongoing Iran war impacts

Praise List:

Pastor Charles Barrier has been given two blood tests and a scan and all indicate that is he cancer free at this time!! His doctors are amazed at his condition and say he really is a miracle and they recognize that his healing is beyond the scope of normal medicine! He is extremely grateful for all the prayers that have gone up for him and requests continued prayers that his body will remain cancer free. All praise to God!

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

Today October 18, 2026

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

This Week

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

NEXT SUNDAY

9:00 AM	Sunday Church School Classes
10:00 AM	Family Worship Service

Next Sunday's Readings

Reformation Sunday

Revelation 14: 6-7
Psalm 46: 1-11
Romans 3: 19-28
St. John 8: 31-36

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