



# ***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 †*

***Nineth Sunday After Pentecost***

***Youth Sunday***

***July 30, 2023***

PRELUDE

“GOD BLESS AMERICA”

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**Amen**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

\* OPENING HYMN

“Come As You Are”

Come out of sadness  
From wherever you've been  
Come broken hearted  
Let rescue begin  
Come find your mercy  
Oh sinner come kneel  
Earth has no sorrow  
That heaven can't heal  
Earth has no sorrow  
That heaven can't heal

So lay down your burdens  
Lay down your shame  
All who are broken  
Lift up your face  
Oh wanderer come home  
You're not too far  
So lay down your hurt  
Lay down your heart  
Come as you are  
There's hope for the hopeless  
And all those who've strayed  
Come sit at the table  
Come taste the grace  
There's rest for the weary  
Rest that endures  
Earth has no sorrow  
That heaven can't cure  
So lay down your burdens  
Lay down your shame  
All who are broken  
Lift up your face  
Oh wanderer come home  
You're not too far  
Lay down your hurt lay down your heart  
Come as you are  
Come as you are  
Fall in his arms  
Come as you are  
There's joy for the morning  
Oh sinner be still  
Earth has no sorrow  
That heaven can't heal  
Earth has no sorrow  
That heaven can't heal  
So lay down your burdens  
Lay down your shame  
All who are broken  
Lift up your face  
Oh wanderer come home  
You're not too far  
So lay down your hurt  
Lay down your heart  
Come as you are (sing 4 times)

\*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.**

\*SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Lord God,

**use our lives to touch the world with your love. Stir us, by your Spirit, to be neighbor to those in need, serving them with willing hearts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**FIRST READING: COLOSSIANS 1:1-14 (ESV)**

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, <sup>2</sup>To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. <sup>3</sup>We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup>since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, <sup>5</sup>because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, <sup>6</sup>which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, <sup>7</sup>just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf <sup>8</sup>and has made known to us your love in the Spirit. <sup>9</sup>And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup>so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; <sup>11</sup>being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. <sup>13</sup>He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the

kingdom of his beloved Son,<sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The Word of God for the people of God!  
**Thanks be to God!**

**Psalm 3**

**READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE**

O LORD, how many are my foes!

Many are rising against me;

**<sup>2</sup> many are saying of my soul,**

**“There is no salvation for him in God.”**

**<sup>3</sup> But you, O LORD, are a shield about me,**  
my glory, and the lifter of my head.

**<sup>4</sup> I cried aloud to the LORD,**  
**and he answered me from his holy hill.**

**<sup>5</sup> I lay down and slept;**  
I woke again, for the LORD sustained me.

**<sup>6</sup> I will not be afraid of many thousands of people**  
**who have set themselves against me all around.**

**<sup>7</sup> Arise, O LORD!**

Save me, O my God!

For you strike all my enemies on the cheek;  
you break the teeth of the wicked.

**<sup>8</sup> Salvation belongs to the LORD;**  
**your blessing be on your people!**

**SECOND READING: Selections from Romans (ESV)**

**Justification: Romans 3:23-24, 5:9, 5:18, 8:30**

<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,; <sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. <sup>18</sup> Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

### **Sanctification: Romans 6:22-23, 15:14-16**

<sup>22</sup> But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>14</sup> I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. <sup>15</sup> But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God <sup>16</sup> to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

### **Glorification: Romans 8:16-17, 8:30**

<sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

The Word of God for the people of God!

**Thanks be to God!**

### **A Reading from Malachi, the 1st Chapter**

#### **Malachi 1:1-11 (ESV)**

The oracle of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi. <sup>2</sup> “I have loved you,” says the LORD. But you say, “How have you loved us?” “Is not Esau Jacob's brother?” declares the LORD. “Yet I have loved Jacob <sup>3</sup> but Esau I have hated. I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert.” <sup>4</sup> If Edom says, “We are shattered but we will rebuild the ruins,” the LORD of hosts says, “They may build, but I will tear down, and they will be called ‘the wicked country,’ and ‘the people with whom the LORD is angry forever.’” <sup>5</sup> Your own eyes shall see this, and you shall say, “Great is the LORD beyond the border of Israel!” <sup>6</sup> “A son honors

his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, ‘How have we despised your name?’ <sup>7</sup> By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, ‘How have we polluted you?’ By saying that the LORD's table may be despised. <sup>8</sup> When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the LORD of hosts. <sup>9</sup> And now entreat the favor of God, that he may be gracious to us. With such a gift from your hand, will he show favor to any of you? says the LORD of hosts. <sup>10</sup> Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand. <sup>11</sup> For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts.

The Word of God for the people of God!

**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*“Jesus Loves Me”* sung by PBnJ Youth Group  
*TESTIMONIES FROM TEEN VALLEY RANCH*

\*SERMON HYMN

*"Good Good Father"*

Oh, I've heard a thousand stories of what they think You're like  
But I've heard the tender whisper of love in the dead of night  
And You tell me that You're pleased and that I'm never alone  
You're a good, good Father

It's who You are, it's who You are, it's who You are  
And I'm loved by You

It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

Oh, and I've seen many searching for answers far and wide  
But I know we're all searching for answers only You provide  
'Cause You know just what we need before we say a word  
You're a good, good Father

It's who You are, it's who You are, it's who You are  
And I'm loved by You

It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

Because You are perfect in all of Your ways  
You are perfect in all of Your ways  
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us  
You are perfect in all of Your ways

Oh, You're perfect in all of Your ways

You are perfect in all of Your ways to us

Oh, it's love so undeniable

I, I can hardly speak

Peace so unexplainable

I, I can hardly think

As You call me deeper still

As You call me deeper still

As You call me deeper still into love, love, love

You're a good, good Father

It's who You are, it's who You are, it's who You are  
And I'm loved by You

It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

And You're a good, good Father

It's who You are, it's who You are, it's who You are  
And I'm loved by You

It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

You're a good, good Father

It's who You are, it's who You are, it's who You are  
And I'm loved by You

It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

(You're a good, good Father)

You are perfect in all of Your ways (it's who You are, it's who You are, it's who  
You are)

(And I'm loved by You)

You are perfect in all of Your ways (it's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am)



**\*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

**\*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Let us pray:

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,  
**for in your wisdom you have formed us.**

You feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

**We bless you and praise your name forever.**

You set free those who are bound.

**We bless you and praise your name forever.**

You raise up those whose courage falters.

**We bless you and praise your name forever.**

You provide for our every need.

**Accept our grateful praises.**

You have called us from all peoples.

**We rejoice and bless your name forever.**

You bless your people with peace.

**We bless you and praise your loving grace.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,

**for in your wisdom you have formed us. Amen.**

**\*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**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, you may abound in hope.

*(Romans 15:13)*

\*SENDING HYMN    *"It Is Finished"*    **By Matt Papa**

Once and for all, Once and for all  
You offered up your life  
For one and all, For one and all  
The perfect sacrifice  
Atoning blood was shed  
Love conquered when You said  
It is finished, It is done  
To the world Salvation comes  
Hallelujah, we're alive!  
Hell was silent when you cried:  
It is finished, It is finished  
Who is this King, Who is this King  
So mighty and so strong  
He is the One, He is the One  
The earth has waited for  
God's remedy for sin  
With mercy for all men  
It is finished, It is done  
To the world Salvation comes  
Hallelujah, we're alive!  
Hell was silent when you cried:  
It is finished, It is finished  
The earth shook and trembled  
The sun bowed it's head  
The veil of the temple was open for men  
As Jesus went down in the cold of the grave  
Defeated the darkness when He overcame  
The keys of the Kingdom were placed into hands  
Of children and priests and of fishers of men  
Through all generations His voice will be heard  
Creation resounds the victorious words!  
It is finished, it is done  
To the world Salvation comes  
Hallelujah, we're alive!  
Hell was silenced when you cried:  
It is finished  
It is done  
Now completed, the work of Love  
Hallelujah, He's alive!  
Join the song of the ransomed Bride  
It is finished  
It is finished  
It is finished!

\*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*POSTLUDE

*At Calvary*

by Casting Crowns

(\* *Please stand as you are able*)

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The **Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God in honor of Emma Harrison's 15th birthday by her family.

Welcome to **Youth Sunday!** The youth that went to Teen Valley Ranch Youth Camp will share testimonies from their experience. Thanks to the youth for leading the worship service today and sharing with us.

**NO** Children's Church today.

Church Council meets **NEXT** Sunday after service.

The **PBnJ Youth** Group will meet **NEXT** Sunday, August 6th at 3:30 PM.

**Church Council has called a Congregation Meeting for Sunday, August 13** immediately following worship. The sole agenda item for this meeting will be to consider a council-approved plan to make much-needed repairs/improvements to our sound and video systems.

The **Fall Bazaar** is just around the corner. Please be completing your crafts and can some produce for the bazaar. Thank you.

**Outreach Committee** is asking for your help again. The **MP Food Ministry** is in need of personal hygiene products. Needed **REGULAR** sized items are: Shampoo, conditioners, deodorants for male and female, shower gel, toothbrushes, toothpaste, body lotion and female products. This drive will go thru **Sunday August 13<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you again for your support.

<b>Weekly Offering Report For: <u>Week No: 30</u>      <u>Date: July 23, 2023</u></b>			
2023 Weekly Needs:	\$3,674.98	YTD Budget Needs:	\$110,249.40
<b><u>Last Week</u></b>			
General Tithes Received	\$2,400.00	YTD Gen. Tithes Received	\$105,659.00
Last week (Deficit)	(\$1,274.98)	YTD (Deficit)	(\$4,590.40)



July 30, 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**

John Faggart; Joyce Harkins; Tom Harkins, Candice Horton; Doris & Frank Kluttz; Carl Pless; John & Linda Trull; Dot Weast; Rand Yost.

**Serving in the Military**

Eaven Allison (Okinawa, Japan)

**Friends of Cross of Christ**

Family of Ric Perry (Brother-In-Law of Karen Faggart)

Family of Rusty Smith

Veronica Barber and family and fiancée Jeff; David Buckland;

LeaAnne Buckwell; Delores Carpenter; Mary Cox;

Steve & Angie Dixon; Alisa Erts; Jane Faggart; Pastor Jeff Faggart;

Wanda Floyd; Joyce Furr; Ralph Furr; Alley Handy; Brandon Lewis;

Kaye and Gerry Litzinger; Ensley Morgan; Karen Morgan; Steve Parker;

Ronnie Procter; Lettie Reid (Recovering from leg surgery and rehabilitation to start soon), Susan Starling; Connie Walters;

Candace Yates; Vickey Belk Young

**Serving in the Military**

Jonathan Preston

**General Prayer Concerns:**

**Praise List:**

· Carson Seagraves (and his Family) – We appreciate the prayers during the knee surgery and recovery.

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

**Today – July 30, 2023**

**Youth Sunday**

Sunday Church School 9:00 AM

Family Worship Service 10:00 AM

**NEXT SUNDAY**

8:30 AM Executive Council Meeting

9:00 AM Sunday Church School Classes

10:00 AM Holy Communion Service

11:00 AM Council Meeting

3:00 PM PBnJ Meeting

**Next Sunday's Readings**

*Tenth Sunday After Pentecost*

Isaiah 55: 1-5

Psalms 136: 1-9

Romans 9: 1-13

St Matthew 14: 13-21

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