



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 †

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 10, 2023

OUR ACCOMPANIST

MRS. YVONNE YOST

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 you, forgive you all your sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

* OPENING HYMN *“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”* **WOV 771**

*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.

*HYMN OF PRAISE: “*Glory Be To The Father*”

Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it
was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men, A - men.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the remaining two lines. The music is written in a traditional hymn style with block chords and simple melodic lines.

*SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of all creation,

you reach out to call people of all nations to your kingdom. As you gather disciples from near and far, count us also among those who boldly confess your Son, Jesus Christ as Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33: 7-9 (ESV)

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not

turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 32: 1-7 (ESV) READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

**²Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

³For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

**⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

⁵I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**⁶Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters,
they shall not reach him.**

⁷You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 13: 1-10 (ESV)

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be

afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. ⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. MATTHEW 18: 1-11 (ESV)**

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”² And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them³ and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.⁴ Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.⁵ “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me,⁶ but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.⁷ “Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!⁸ And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire.⁹ And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.¹⁰ “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.

This is Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR RAFE ALLISON

*SERMON HYMN *“Children Of The Heavenly Father”* **LBW 474**

***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

Let the vine-yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 blessing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown,
 that we may be fed with the bread of life.
 Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
 of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, Lord,
 and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*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 *“Go My Children, With My Blessing”* **WOV 721**

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license # SB127756.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Larry, Susan and Alex Barbee’s birthday by their family.

The **PBnJ Youth** group will meet this afternoon at 3:30 PM. All kindergarten through 5th grade children are invited.

The time is here...IT’S the car/bike show **Sat Sept 16th!!** Come out and enjoy a wonderful country breakfast from **7-10 am** (new ending time for the breakfast this week only). Walk around and see some fabulous vintage cars, trucks and bikes in our parking lot. And please stop by the sneak preview of the Fall Bazaar in the back of the Admin Bldg next to the lady’s restroom. Hot dogs/hamburgers begin at **11-1pm**. Hope to see you all next Saturday.

Please remember to have you Uncut, no icing pound cakes and brownies to the Parish Hall by Friday for the car show.

Weekly Offering Report For: <u>Week No: 36</u> <u>Date: September 3, 2023</u>			
2023 Weekly Needs:	\$3,674.98	YTD Budget Needs:	\$132,299.28
<u>Last Week</u>			
Gen. Tithes Received	\$2,925.00	YTD Gen. Tithes Received	\$128,343.00
Last week (Deficit)	(\$749.98)	YTD (Deficit)	(\$3,956.28)



September 10, 2023

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; Joyce W. Pless; John & Linda Trull; Dot Weast

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison (Okinawa, Japan)

Friends of Cross of Christ

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; David Goforth (Friend of Carl Pless); Alley Handy; Brandon Lewis; Kaye and Gerry Litzinger; Ensley Morgan; Karen Morgan; Steve Parker; Ronnie Procter; Lettie Reid; Susan Starling; Stephanie Vincent; Connie Walters; Candace Yates; Vickey Belk Young

Serving in the Military

Jonathan Preston

General Prayer Concerns:

All those who have been affected by the fires in Maui and hurricane Idalia.

Praise List:

Cody Smith (Friend of Meredith Harrison) - Thank you for the prayers for my friend Cody, her baby was born two weeks ago, the baby weighed 4 pounds and continues to get stronger in the NICU.

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

Today - September 10, 2023

Executive Council Meeting 8:30 AM
Sunday Church School 9:00 AM
Family Worship Service 10:00 AM
Council Meeting After Service

THIS WEEK

SAT: 7-10 AM Monthly Breakfast
 (note ending time this week for breakfast)
 7-1:30 PM Car/Bike Show
 11-1PM Hot Dog/Hamburgers

NEXT SUNDAY

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

Next Sunday's Readings

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 50: 15-21

Psalm 103: 1-12

Romans 14: 1-12

St. Matthew 18: 21-35