



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 †

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
August 23, 2026

(* *Please stand as you are able*)

PRELUDE

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: In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for His sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

* OPENING HYMN ***“Built On A Rock ”*** LBW 365

*APOSTOLIC GREETING

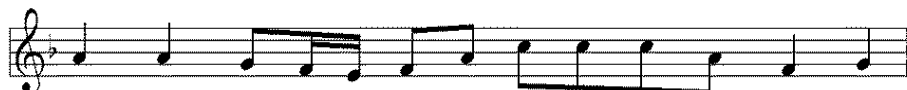
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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: Care for your Church, O Lord, with perpetual mercy. Since we totter and are sure to fall without your grace, remove what will harm us and arrange what will make us whole. 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 51:1-6 (ESV)

“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ² Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. ³ For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴ “Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵ My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

The Word of God for the people of God!

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 138:1-8**(ESV)****READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE**

I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;

**2 I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name
for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted above all things
your name and your word.**

3 On the day I called, you answered me;
my strength of soul you increased.

**4 All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD,
for they have heard the words of your mouth,**

5 and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
for great is the glory of the LORD.

**6 For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly,
but the haughty he knows from afar.**

7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life;
you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies,
and your right hand delivers me.

**8 The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

SECOND READING: Romans 11:33-12:8**(ESV)**

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴ “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” ³⁵ “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. **12** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has

assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

The Word of God for the people of God!

C: Thanks be to God!

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16th chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. MATTHEW 16:13-20 (ESV)**

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give

you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you lose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

P: This is Gospel of our Lord.



SERMON

Larry Barbee

*SERMON HYMN *“Rock Of Ages”* LBW 327

***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 “*Onward Christian Soldiers*” LBW 509**

***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 by our congregation.

We would like to thank Larry Barbee for leading our service today.

September Newsletter Articles are due **TODAY**.

Women's Bible Study

We have just finished our study of Ecclesiastes and will be starting a new study of Philippians on **Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at 6:30pm**. Please see Ashleigh Ennis if you are interested in joining this study so we can get the books. We will continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays each month. Thrivent Action Team monies will be used to purchase the books. We look forward to learning with you!

We will not have Children's Church on **August 30th**.

Council meetings are changed to **September 13th** due to the Labor Day holiday.

Ladies, mark your calendars! Join us for a special **Women's Retreat at TVR, October 2nd–4th**. Come enjoy a weekend of fellowship, encouragement, and time to refresh and reconnect with God and one another. See **Kristi Drye with any questions or to register**.



August 23, 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 prayercccl@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

Brenda Barrier; Wayne Peck; Carl Pless, Jr.; 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 & Joann Barrier; Brenda Barrier; Norman Goodman; Nell Hatley;
John Trull.

Friends of Cross of Christ

Family of Cathy Heminger (Friend of Richard & Jodie Strube)
Carolyn Campbell; Josh Fabricius; April Funderburke; Lee Gorforth;
Nicholas Hildebrandt's Wife and 2 children; Candice Horton; Cynthia Horton;
Gloria Mann; Alicia McQueen; Hayden Polakowski; Eric Starling;
Susan Starling; Ruthie O'Brien; Daniel Pless; Jacob Rodgers; Nick Smith;
Bob Wilson; Candace Yates

Carolina Mission Region Seminarians:
Melanie Corn, Robert Dernbach, Lucas Safrit

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison (Fairbanks, Alaska)

General Prayer Concerns:

- Ongoing Iran war impacts
- Those impacted by the Colombia earthquake
- Those in the path of Hurricane Lala

Praise List:

- Bill Dickens and Jameson Nichols – both have recovered and are doing well.

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

Today August 23, 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

WED: 6:30PM Women's Bible Study

NEXT SUNDAY

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

Next Sunday's Readings

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalm 26:1-12

Romans 12:9-21

St. Matthew 16:21-28