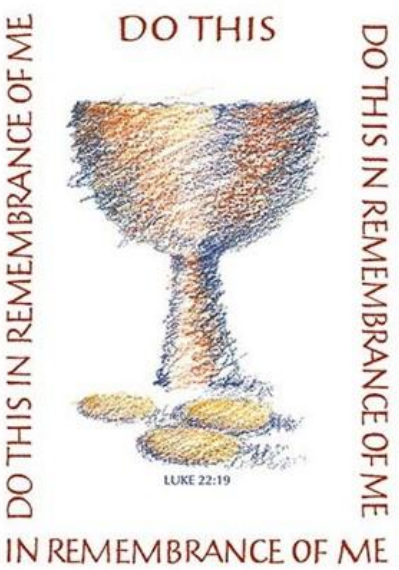
CROSS OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 †

Reformation Sunday
October 25, 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

*** PROCESSIONAL HYMN *"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (*Green) LBW 229**

*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.

*Kyrie



*HYMN OF PRAISE: *"This is the Feast"*





*SALUTATION



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O Lord God, heavenly Father, pour out your Holy Spirit upon your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your grace and truth, protect and comfort them in all temptation, defend them against all enemies of your Word, and bestow upon the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ, 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: Revelation 14: 6-7 (ESV)

6 Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. 7 And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

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

Psalm 46: 1-11 (ESV) **READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE**

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth give way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
3 though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.
4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.
6 The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
7 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
8 Come, behold the works of the Lord,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.
9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.
10 "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!"
11 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

SECOND READING: Romans 3: 1-28 (ESV)

Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? **2** Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. **3** What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? **4** By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, "That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged."**5** But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) **6** By no means! For then how could God judge the world? **7** But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? **8** And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.**9** What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, **10** as it is written:"None is righteous, no, not

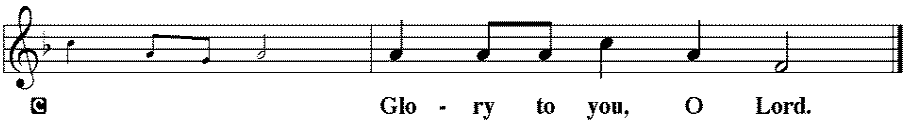
one; **11** no one understands; no one seeks for God. **12** All have turned aside;
together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."
13 "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.""The venom
of asps is under their lips."**14** "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness."
15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; **16** in their paths are ruin and misery,
17 and the way of peace they have not known." **18** "There is no fear of God
before their eyes." **19** Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those
who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world
may be held accountable to God. **20** For by works of the law no human being
will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.**21** But
now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although
the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— **22** the righteousness of God
through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: **23** for
all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** and are justified by his grace
as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, **25** whom God put
forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show
God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former
sins. **26** It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be
just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**27** Then what becomes of
our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but
by the law of faith. **28** For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works
of the law.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



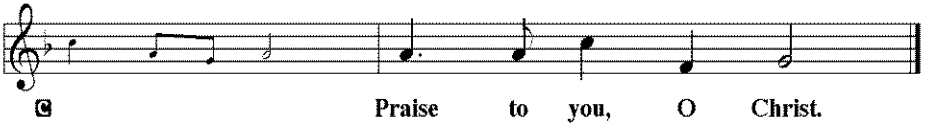
The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th chapter.



***THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST JOHN 8: 31-36 (ESV)**

31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." 33 They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?" 34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

This is Gospel of our Lord.



Sermon Pastor George Rhyne

*SERMON HYMN ***"The Church's One Foundation "*** ***(*****Green*****)*** **LBW 369**

*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

*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

RECEIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
*THE OFFERTORY

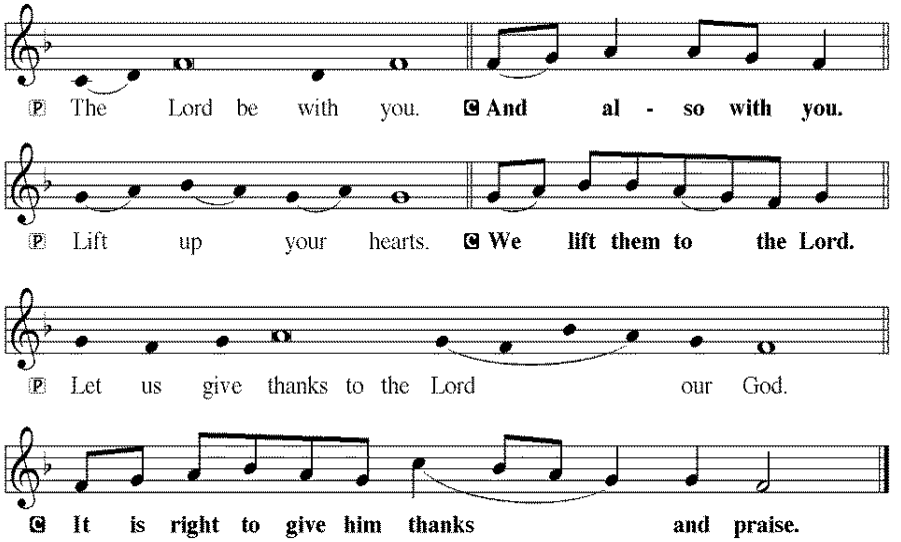


*OFFERTORY PRAYER

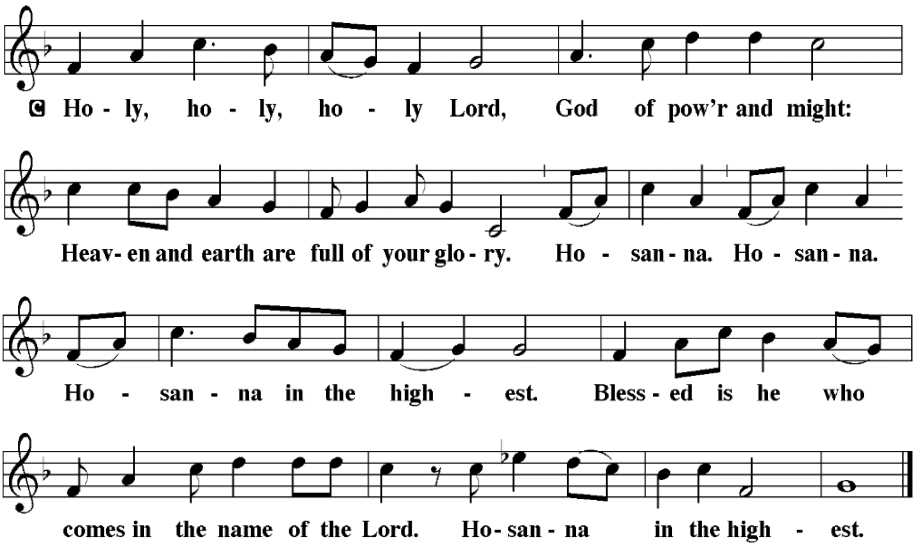
P: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first give us ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



P: It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him
should not perish, but have eternal life.
We give thanks to you
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

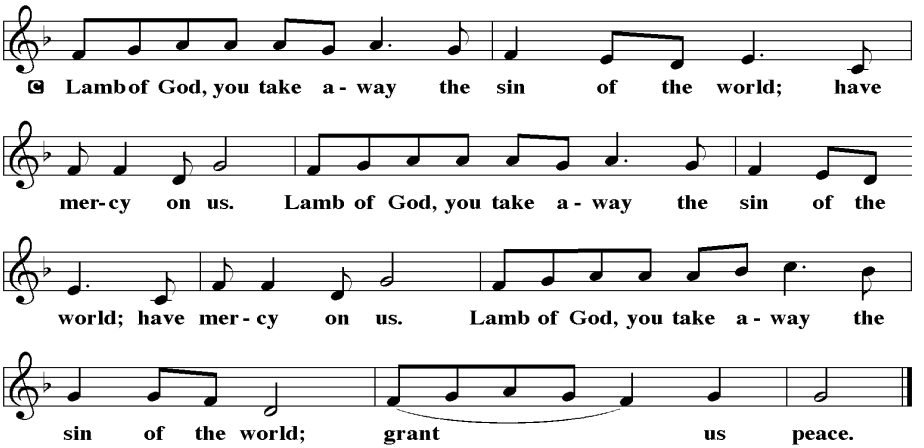
C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

*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

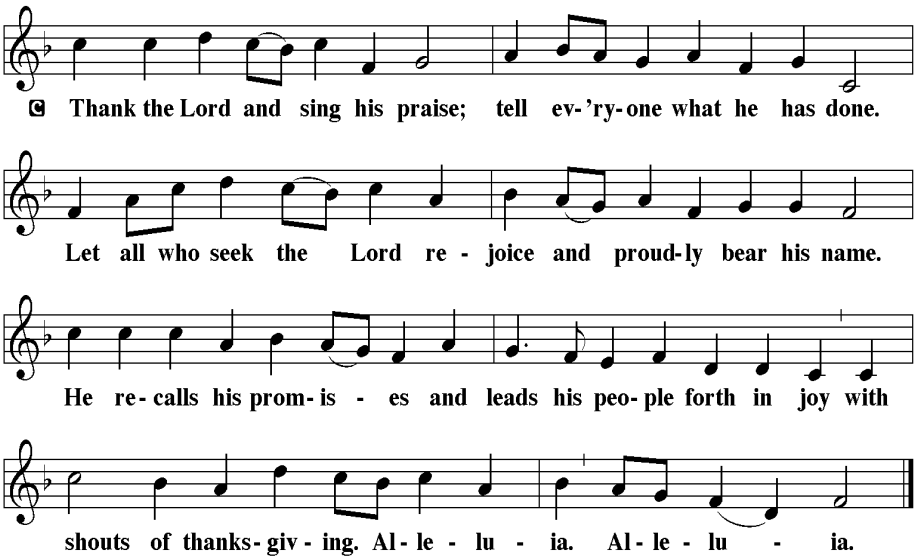
ADMINISTRATION OF THE HOLY SACRAMENT



COMMUNION HYMNS **(BLUE) WOV 740 & 709**

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING
P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: Amen

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE: *"Thank the Lord"*



POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: 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** "Lift High The Cross"*** **(GREEN) LBW 377**

*DISMISSAL
P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

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"A joyous heart is an offering pleasing to God. For there is no sacrifice lovelier and more pleasing than a cheerful heart, joyful in the Lord."
Martin Luther

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in honor Dixie and Holden's birthday by Sharon Duncan.

We would like to thank Pastor George Rhyne for leading our service today.

Congratulations to Jacob and Alex Pless on their marriage last Saturday, October 17, 2026.

Time change is on Saturday night. Please remember to move your clocks **BACK 1** hr—and enjoy the extra hour of sleep!

Fall Festival is TODAY- 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church Annual Congregation Meetings
The **First** congregational nominating meeting to be held on **Nov. 1, 2026,** before service. The **Second** Congregational meeting to be held on **Nov. 8, 2026,** following service. May God continue to bless us at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church! These are the nomination names: Betty Archer, Melvin Bost, Susan Caudle, Rusty Drye, Roy Gray, Emily Pless, and Kalena Tripp. The current members who are coming off Council at the end of this year are: Kim Aldridge, Heather Bell, Chris Pless, Henry Pless.

Newsletter Articles are due **TODAY.**

Women's Bible study will meet this **October 28th at 6:30pm** in the Fisher Building. Let Ashleigh Ennis know you'd like to join!

The **Outreach Committee** is sponsoring **Toys for Tots** this year. The boxes are in back of the sanctuary today. 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.

During November, Cross of Christ will be collecting nonperishable food items for the Mt. Pleasant Food Ministries. These items will provide much needed nourishment for families in the Mt. Pleasant school district.

Suggested Items include:

• Canned meats (chicken, luncheon meat, tuna, beef stew, chili
• Canned fruit (mandarin oranges, pineapple, fruit cocktail, peaches, pears, applesauce)
• Canned beans (black, green, pintos, refried, lima, baked, navy, pork n beans, black eyed peas, sweet peas, etc.)
• Canned vegetables (carrots, mixed vegetables, tomatoes, corn, greens etc.)
• Canned potatoes (white or sweet)
• Canned soups (tomato, chicken noodle, vegetable, cream of, chunky soups)
• Canned pasta • Dry beans • Jello/pudding instant • Oatmeal • Grits
• Rice 1lb • Egg noodles • Spaghetti noodles • Pasta
• Boxed Mac and cheese • Jiffy mix • Juice 64oz • Pancake mix
• Pancake syrup • Corn Meal 2 lbs. • Flour 2 lbs. • Sugar 2 lbs. • Cereal
• Crackers • Peanut butter • Jelly

Prayer Request

October 25, 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 Faggert (fall resulted in a broken bone in the 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;
Gabby Monty (Granddaughter of Keith & Cathy Smith – Ovarian Cyst that has possibly burst; Surgery risk due to ileostomy);
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

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

Today October 25, 2026
Reformation Sunday

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: 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study

NEXT SUNDAY

8:30 AM	Executive Council Meeting
9:00 AM	Sunday Church School Classes
10:00 AM	Family Worship Service
11:00 AM	Council Meeting

Next Sunday's Readings

All Saints Sunday

Revelation 7: 2-17
Psalm 149: 1-9
1 John 3: 1-3
St. Matthew 5: 1-12

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