



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 †

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 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

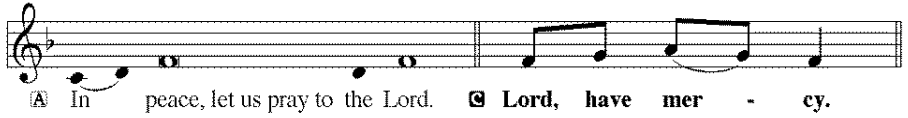
* OPENING HYMN “*The Church’s One Foundation*” LBW 369

***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

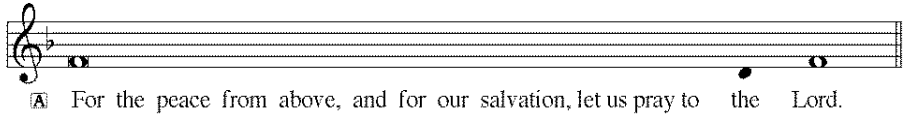
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***KYRIE**



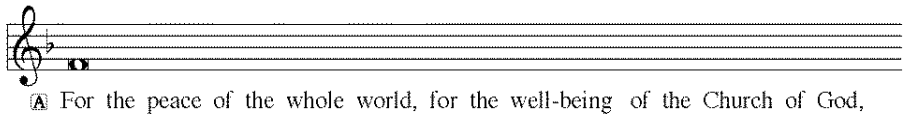
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



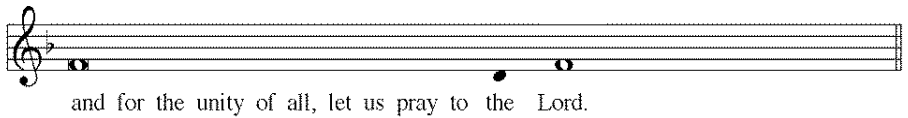
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



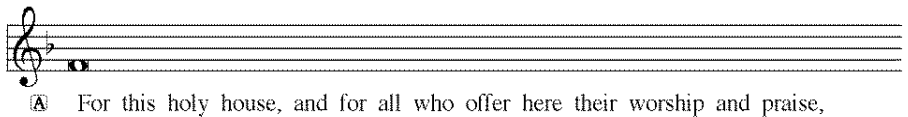
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



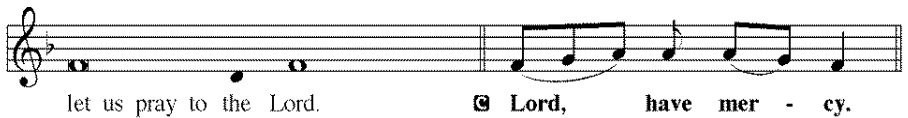
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



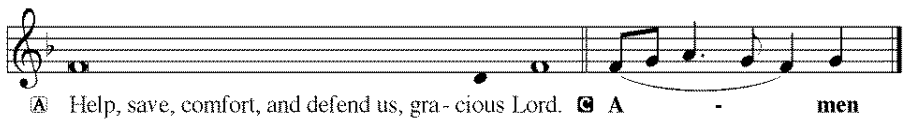
C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

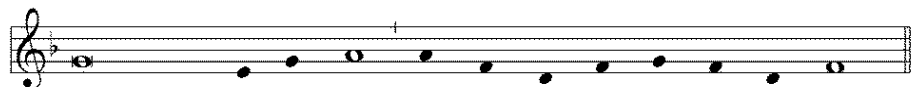


let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

*HYMN OF PRAISE: "Glory to God"



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God, you make the minds of the faithful to be of one will. Grant that your people would love what you command and desire what you promise, that, among the manifold changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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: Acts 6: 1-9; 7:2, 51-60 (ESV)

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.² And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables."³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."⁵ And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.⁶ These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.⁷ And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.⁸ And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.⁹ Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen.² And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran,⁵¹ "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.⁵² Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered,⁵³ you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."⁵⁴ Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him.⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of

God. ⁵⁶ And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

The Word of God for the people of God!

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 146: 1-10 (ESV) READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

² I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³ Put not your trust in princes,

in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

⁴ When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;

on that very day his plans perish.

⁵ Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the LORD his God,

⁶ who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,

who keeps faith forever;

⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed,

who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸ the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are

bowled down; the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹ The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the

fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰ The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.

Praise the LORD!

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 2: 2-10 (ESV)

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable

to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷ So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸ and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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. John, the 14th chapter.

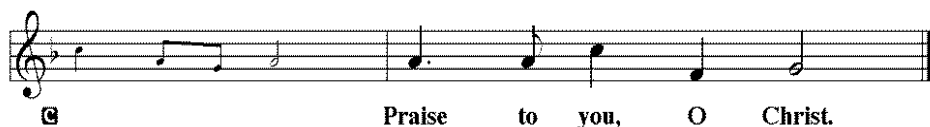
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 14: 1-14 (ESV)**

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen

him.”⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.”⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.¹² “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.¹⁴ If you ask me^[e] anything in my name, I will do it.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.



Sermon

Rev. George Rhyne

*SERMON HYMN *“Beautiful Savior”* LBW 518

*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

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

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 “On Our Way Rejoicing” LBW 260**

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

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The **Altar Flowers** are given in honor of Caydee Holder and Emma Harrison's graduation from high school on May 21st by their Families.

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

The May 16th Car, Truck, and Bike: If you would like to help with the breakfast/lunch/car show on May 16th, we need help with sponsorship of trophies, donations and parking attendants. Please contact Belinda or Earlene.



May 3, 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 at 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

Betty Archer (Hip surgery recovery); James Bailey (Rotator cuff surgery on 5/4/26); Melvin Bost; Jane Faggart

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

Friends of Cross of Christ

Family of LeaAnn Buckwell

Addie Drye; April Funderburke; Lee Gorforth; Candice Horton; Cynthia Horton; Jameson Nichols; Alicia McQueen; Eric Starling (Husband of Susan Starling – Baptist Hospital – Infection affecting much of his body); Susan Starling; Daniel Pless; Jacob Rodgers; Nick Smith; Melanie Thrift; Max Vanderburg; 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
- Prayers for additional rain

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

Today May 3, 2026

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

This Week

MON: 7-8:30 PM Soldiers of Cross of Christ Practice

NEXT SUNDAY

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

Next Sunday's Readings

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17: 16-31

Psalm 66: 8-20

1 Peter 3: 13-22

St. John 14:15-21