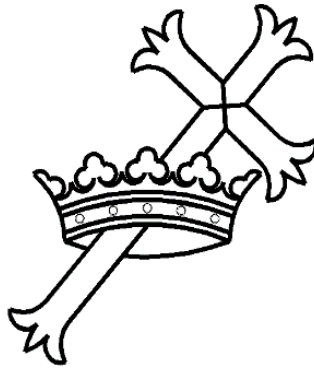




Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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 †

Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2026

(* *Please stand as you are able*)

PRELUDE

OUR ACCOMPANIST

MRS. YVONNE YOST

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

*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 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.

C: Amen

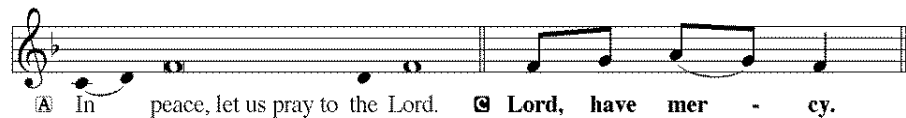
* OPENING HYMN *“My Hope Is Built”* **LBW 293**

*APOSTOLIC GREETING

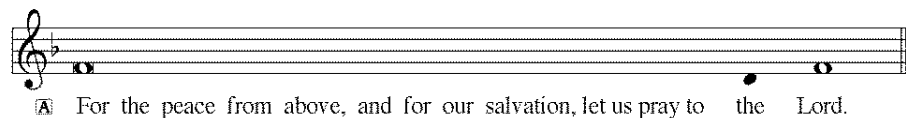
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**


*KYRIE



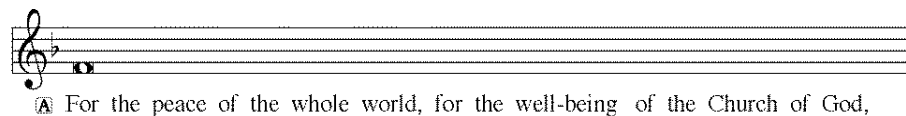
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



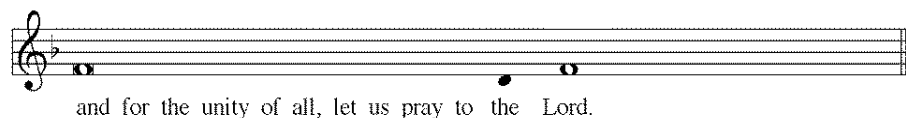
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



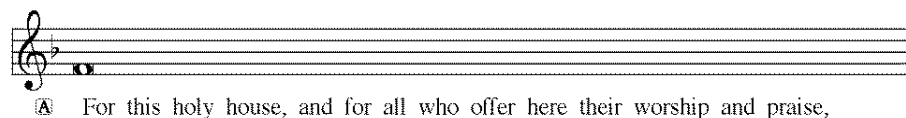
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



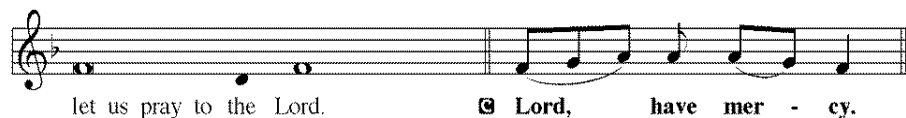
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



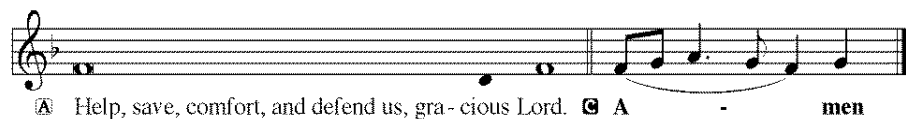
C Lord, have mer - cy.



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

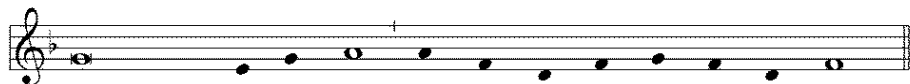


let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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

*HYMN OF PRAISE: "Glory to God"



♩ 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



♩ The Lord be with you.

♩ And al - so with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O King of Glory and Lord of countless angels, in triumph you ascended to the highest heaven. Abandon us not to be orphans, but keep your Father's promise to send your Spirit of truth. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: Acts 1: 12-26 (ESV)

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. ¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶ "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ¹⁸ (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹ And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰ "For it is written in the Book of Psalms, "May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it"; and "Let another take his office." ²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." ²³ And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

The Word of God for the people of God!

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 68: 1-10 (ESV)

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered;

and those who hate him shall flee before him!

² As smoke is driven away, so you shall drive them away;

as wax melts before fire, so the wicked shall perish before God!

³ But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God;

they shall be jubilant with joy!

⁴ Sing to God, sing praises to his name;

lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts;

his name is the LORD; exult before him!

⁵ Father of the fatherless and protector of widows

is God in his holy habitation.

⁶ God settles the solitary in a home;

he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,

but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

⁷ O God, when you went out before your people,

when you marched through the wilderness,

⁸ the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain,

before God, the One of Sinai, before God, the God of Israel.

⁹ Rain in abundance, O God, you shed abroad;

you restored your inheritance as it languished;

¹⁰ your flock found a dwelling in it;

in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 4: 12-19; 5:6-11 (ESV)

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" ¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while

doing good. ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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 17th chapter.



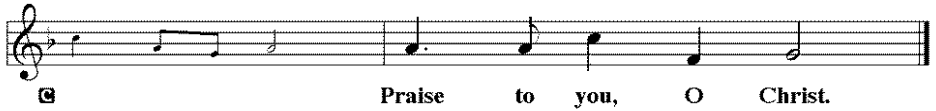
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. JOHN 17: 1-11 (ESV)**

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. ⁶ “I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸ For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know

in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

P: This is Gospel of our Lord.



Sermon

Larry Barbee

*SERMON HYMN *“I Love To Tell The Story”*

LBW 390

*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

Create 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

*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 and in honor of Kaylee and Taylor Barbee’s birthdays by Larry Barbee & family.

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

Graduates in the congregation will be recognized and congratulated today. **Congratulations** to Delana Elizabeth Drye, Emma Grace Harrison and Caydee Lynn Holder our 2026 graduates!

The **PBnJ Youth** will meet this afternoon at 3:30 PM. All children in kindergarten through 5 grades are invited to attend.

CSI Youth meets **NEXT** Sunday at 3:30 PM.

June Newsletter Articles are due **NEXT Sunday**.

VBS is right around the corner. **VBS - 2026**

July 6-10

6:00-8:30

Ages 2 - 5th Grade

If you would like to help, please get in touch with Meredith Harrison.

After Jesus ascended into heaven to sit at God’s right hand, the eleven remaining disciples regrouped to carry on the mission of Christ on earth. Jesus’ prayer for them was that they would be one — that their unity would be their defining quality as a group and would serve them well in the mission at hand. They must choose who will replace Judas among them; it must be one who shares the same Spirit.



May 17, 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 prayerccl@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; James Bailey; Joann Barrier; Melvin Bost; Roy Gray
(Knee replacement surgery recovery)

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

Friends of Cross of Christ

April Funderburke; Lee Gorforth; Candice Horton; Cynthia Horton;
Jameson Nichols; Alicia McQueen; Eric Starling; Susan Starling;
Daniel Pless; Jacob Rodgers; Nick Smith; Melanie Thrift;
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 17, 2026

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

Next Sunday's Readings

Eight Sunday of Easter

Numbers 11: 24-30

Psalm 25: 1-15

Acts 2: 1-21

John 7: 37-39