



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. Marty Ramey, Interim Pastor

A NALC Congregation



Welcome to worship at Cross of Christ!

In the Cross of Christ I glory †

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

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

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.

Amen

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.

Most merciful God,
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

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.

Amen

PLEASE BE SEATED

INTRODUCTION

PASTOR MARTY RAMEY

READERS – KELLY CAUDLE AND HEATHER BELL

THE HANGING OF THE GREENS

PLACING OF THE WREATHS

PLACING OF THE CROWN OF THORNS

ENTRANCE OF THE GREENS

PLACING OF THE HOLLY

THE EVERGREEN TREE

PLACING OF THE PINE CONES

PLACING OF THE MISTLETOE

PLACING OF THE POINSETTIA

THE COLOR GREEN

ENTRANCE OF GOD'S WORD

THE BLOOD OF JESUS

THE CROSS OF CHRIST

ETERNAL EVERLASTING

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

MARTIN LUTHER DECORATES THE FIRST TREE

READING OF THE LEGEND OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

WOV 630

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (vs 1)

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33: 14-16

(ESV)

¹⁴“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

Psalm 25: 1-10

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

² O my God, in you I trust;

let me not be put to shame;

let not my enemies exult over me.

³ Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;

they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴ Make me to know your ways, O LORD;

teach me your paths.

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all the day long.

⁶ Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,

for they have been from of old.

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,

for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

⁸ Good and upright is the LORD;

therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹ He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰ **All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13 (ESV)

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— ⁶ even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸ who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.


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

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 21st chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

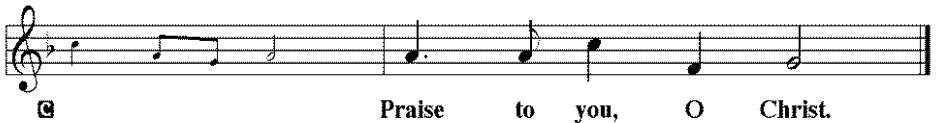


Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: St. Luke 21: 25-36 (ESV)

²⁵ “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶ people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ²⁹ And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰ As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴ “But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

This is Gospel of our Lord.



SERMON

“I’ll Be Back”

PASTOR MARTY RAMEY

*SERMON HYMN

“Lo, How A Rose Is Blooming”

LBW 58

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS 2025

***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**

***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

RECEIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*THE OFFERTORY



C Let the vine-yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. 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,

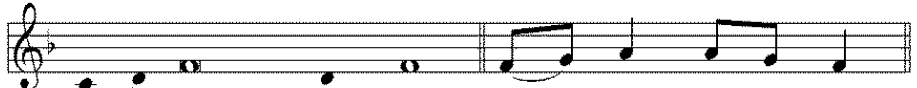


and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

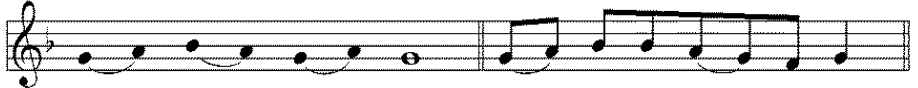
*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful Father,
we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given 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

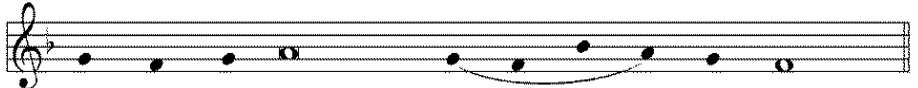
*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



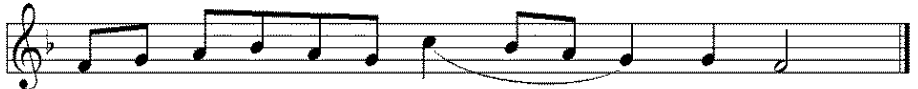
☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ And al - so with you.



☐ Lift up your hearts. ☑ We lift them to the Lord.



☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



☑ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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



☑ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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.

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**

**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**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE HOLY SACRAMENT

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

WOV 740 & 709

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE: *“Thank the Lord”*

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.
 Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.
 He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with
 shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

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.

Amen

***BENEDICTION**

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen

SENDING HYMN *“All Earth Is Hopeful” WOV 629

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

(* *Please stand as you are able*)

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Advent Week 1 - Prayer for Hope

Father God, every word in scripture points to the gift of hope that we have because of Christ Jesus. The Christmas story wasn't the beginning of that message of hope because the Old Testament is full of glimpses of your plan to redeem your people and restore them into a relationship with you, but we are able to truly begin to see and understand just how great your love for us is when we read the story of Jesus' birth in scripture. Help us to see that you are with us. Nothing is too difficult, too messy, or too dirty for you. Jesus came to give us the gift of eternal life through the salvation that only you, our Heavenly Father, can give when we believe on your Son, repent of our sins, and confess Jesus as our Lord and Savior. That first Christmas, you gave us the gift of hope wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Thank you, Father, for your immeasurable gift. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and honor of Jubal and Kenly Strube's 4th wedding anniversary by their family.

Council Meeting today after service.

Remember if you have a Thrivent product the Action team accounts reset in January so apply for your Action Teams projects and funds for 2024.

Come join us this Saturday, **December 7 at 7 PM**, as we Sing in the Seasons of Advent and Christmas. This will be a wonderful night full of music as you join in with our choirs to sing some of your favorite Christmas Carols and hear the scripture declare the meaning of the Christmas Season, the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Light refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall following the service.

The **Congregation Christmas Party/meal** is **NEXT** Sunday following service.

The **2025 Altar Flower** calendar is in the mailroom.

Next Sunday is last time to bring toys for **Toys for Tots** this year. The boxes are at the back of the sanctuary. New, unwrapped toys for all ages are needed. Just think of the smiles on the children's faces on Christmas morning. Thank you for your generosity.

We will be placing **Poinsettias** in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 22nd. If you would like to place one or several in honor or in memory of a loved one, please let Meredith know by Sunday, **December 15th**. The cost this year is **\$9.50**. Money should be placed in the offering plate and information about plants should be given to Meredith. Thank you!

If you have any changes on addresses, phone numbers, or email address for the **CCLC 2024 / 2025 Annual Yearbook**, please get those changes to the Historical Comm, Rhonda Drye or Jodie Strube. Committee chairs, event leaders, group leaders please start preparing your year-end summaries. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Weekly Offering Report For: <u>Week No: 47</u> <u>Date: November 24, 2024</u>			
2024 Weekly Needs:	\$3,758.54	YTD Budget Needs:	\$176,651.38
<u>Last Week</u>			
General Tithes Received	\$2,010.00	YTD Gen. Tithes Received	\$171,094.91
Last week (Deficit)	(\$1,748.54)	YTD (Deficit)	(\$5,556.47)



December 1, 2024

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

Kay Barbee (Going home from the hospital with Hospice care Friday – please continue to keep the family in your prayers); Phyllis Campbell; Chuck Drye; Robin Drye; Dorothy Goodman; Harry Goodman; Tom Harkins; Doris Kluttz; Frank Kluttz; Jerry Pless (Cataract surgery on 12/2); Jodie Strube; John & Linda Trull; Dot Weast

Call Process prayer requests: 1) Cross of Christ Church; 2) Call Committee; 3) Prospective pastors see our profile/video and consider a call here.

Friends of Cross of Christ

Pastor Charles Barrier (Started Chemo and Radiation treatments on Tuesday); Atlas Baucom; Pastor Gene Bost; LeaAnn Buckwell; Jerry Cain; Luke Cranford; Brynn Fesler; Wanda Floyd; David Gandy; David Goforth; Annette Heller; Candice Horton; Greg Houston; Melanie Hudson (Mass on the brain); Faye Huneycutt; Jane Jansen; Clare Justice; Melissa Krumbien; Kaye and Gerry Litzinger; Susie Moore; Karen Morgan; Lettie Reid; Blake Rogers; Mickey Rogers; Nick Smith; Susan Starling; Phillip Teeter; Candace Yates; Vickey Belk Young.

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison (Fairbanks Alaska)

General Prayer Concerns:

All those impacted by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton

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

Today – December 1, 2024

Executive Meeting	8:30 AM
Sunday Church School	9:00 AM
Holy Communion Service	10:00 AM
Council Meeting	11:00 AM

NEXT SUNDAY

- 9:00 AM Sunday Church School Classes
10:00 AM Family Worship Service
After service Church Christmas meal/party

Next Sunday's Readings

Second Sunday of Advent

- Malachi 3: 1-7
Psalm 66: 1-12
Philippians 1: 2-11
St. Luke 3: 1-20