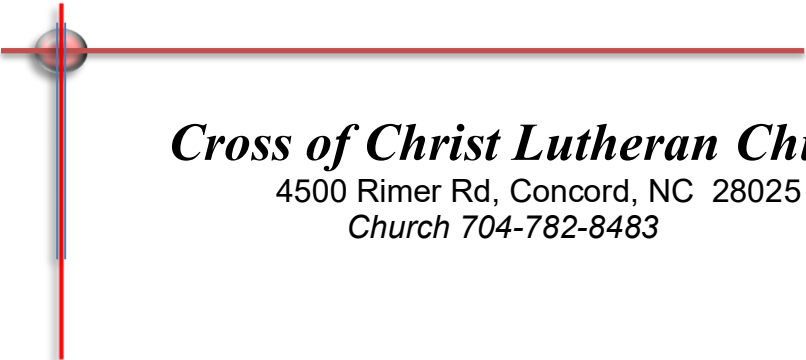
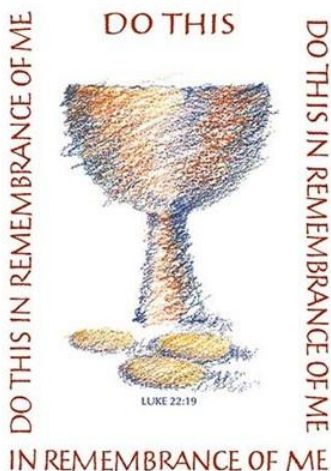




Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

4500 Rimer Rd, Concord, NC 28025
Church 704-782-8483

The Rev. Marty Ramey, Interim Pastor
A NALC Congregation



Welcome to worship at Cross of Christ!
In the Cross of Christ I glory †

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 7, 2025

(* *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.

*HYMN OF PRAISE: “*This is the Feast*”

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ① Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was

slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.


 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. || Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. **¶** Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre-a - tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

☩ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☩ For the Lamb who was
 slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu - ia.
 ☩ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu - ia.

*SALUTATION

☩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O Lord, always lead and follow us with your grace, that we may be still more intent on doing good. 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'S MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RAMEY

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30: 15-20 (ESV)

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

The Word of God for the people of God!

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm 1: 1-6 (ESV)

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

**² but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.**

³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields
its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.

In all that he does, he prospers.

**⁴ The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

**⁶ for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21 (ESV)

Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved fellow worker² and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, ⁶ and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. ⁷ For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you. ⁸ Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, ⁹ yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— ¹⁰ I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. ¹¹ (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) ¹² I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. ¹³ I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. ¹⁵ For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶ no longer as a bondservant^[e] but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. ¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹ I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. ²² At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you. ²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, ²⁴ and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas,

and Luke, my fellow workers. ²⁵ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

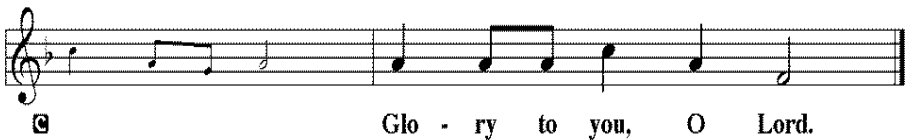
The Word of God for the people of God!

C: Thanks be to God!

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 14th chapter.



***THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. LUKE 14: 25-35 (ESV)**

²⁵ Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, any one

of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.³⁴ “Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? ³⁵ It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

This is Gospel of our Lord.



SERMON *“Where Are the Lamps?”* Pastor Marty Ramey

*SERMON HYMN *“Give To Our God Immortal Praise”* LBW 520

***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



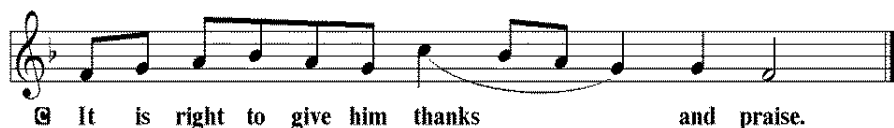
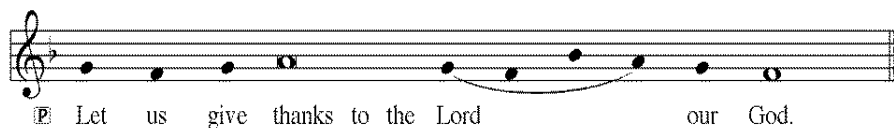
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

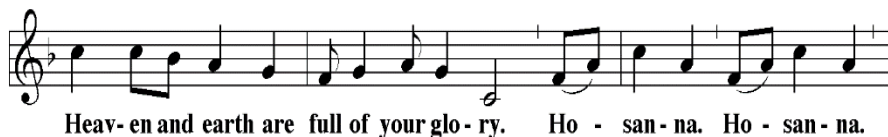
P: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

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

G 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 HYMNS

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"*

G Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re - jice 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

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 *“What A Fellowship”* WOV 780

*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license # SB127756.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Carl and Marie Pless by their family.

Council Meeting has been moved to next **Sunday the 14th**.

It's Fall Car Show planning time for the **Sept 20th** event. Please consider volunteering or sponsoring a trophy. Please see Earlene Cox if you have any questions.

Homecoming will be **Sunday, September 28th**! Postcards have been placed in each member's mailbox—please send one to someone you'd like to invite. We also ask each member to bring a dessert to share at lunch.



September 7, 2025

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 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

Family of Frank Kluttz

Tim Aldridge; Wayne Furr; Chris Goodman; Dorothy Goodman; Harry Goodman; Norman Goodman; John Trull; Linda Trull.

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; Deena Bost; Pastor Gene Bost;

LeaAnn Buckwell; Pastor Randall Cauble; Pastor Tom Corbell;

Luke Cranford; David Gandy; Marty Gandy; David Goforth; Lee Goforth;

Barbara Hamilton; Annette Heller; Candice Horton; Greg Houston;

Sally Justice; Melissa Krumbien; Gerry Litzinger; Susie Moore; Karen Morgan;

Hank Morris; Kelly Odell (Daughter of Betty Archer – Surgery on 9/5/25);

Daniel Pless; Lettie Reid; Blake Rogers; Jacob Rodgers; Nick Smith;

Susan Starling; Veronica Williams; Candace Yates; Vickey Belk Young.

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison (Fairbanks, Alaska)

General Prayer Concerns:

*Victims, families, and community of Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis, MN – 2 deceased, 15 children, and 3 adults wounded in shooting.

Praise List:

*David Goforth (friend of Carl Pless) – David thanks everyone for their prayers concerning treatments that he received in a drug study for treatment of leukemia. His latest scan and biopsy revealed cancer in one kidney and the main blood vein leaving that kidney. David is scheduled for surgery to remove that kidney and as much of that vein as possible on Thursday, September 4th at hospital in Charlotte. He asks for continued prayers for his healing and recovery.

*Tyler Holcomb (Son of a friend of Pastor Ramey) – he is recovering well.

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

Today September 7, 2025

Sunday Church School 9:00 AM

Holy Communion Service 10:00 AM

This Week

MON: 7 – 8:30 PM Soldiers of the Cross of Christ Practice

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

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Ezekiel 34: 11-24

Psalms 119: 169-176

1 Timothy 1: 5-17

St. Luke 15: 1-10

www.crossofchristlutheranchurch.org

<http://www.facebook.com/CrossofChristLutheranChurchConcord>

ClericalTeam@Gmail.com

prayerccle@gmail.com