



# ***Cross of Christ Lutheran Church***

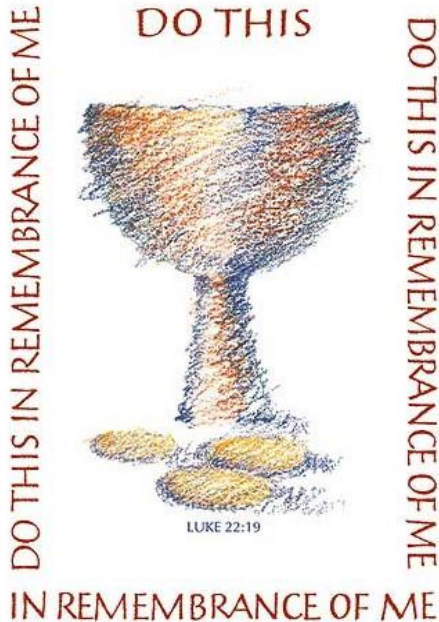
4500 Rimer Rd, Concord, NC 28025

Church 704-782-8483 Parish Hall 704-795-0445

Parsonage 704-786-3643

***The Rev. Rafe Allison, Pastor***

*A NALC Congregation*



*Welcome to worship at Cross of Christ!*

*In the Cross of Christ I glory †*

***Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost***

***September 03, 2023***

OUR ACCOMPANIST

MRS. YVONNE YOST

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**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

\* OPENING HYMN      ***“What A Fellowship”***      **WOV 780**

\*APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE: "Glory to God"



**C** Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



**I** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al - migh - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



**C** Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



**II** 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.

Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.  
 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.  
 Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,  
 and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

# \*SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

# \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God,

**you have given great and precious promises to those who believe.  
 Grant us the perfect faith which overcomes all doubts, through your  
 Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

**FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 15: 15-21 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> O LORD, you know;  
remember me and visit me,  
and take vengeance for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance take me not away;  
know that for your sake I bear reproach.

<sup>16</sup> Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart,  
for I am called by your name,  
O LORD, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup> I did not sit in the company of revelers,  
nor did I rejoice;  
I sat alone, because your hand was upon me,  
for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup> Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable,  
refusing to be healed?  
Will you be to me like a deceitful brook,  
like waters that fail?

<sup>19</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD:  
“If you return, I will restore you,  
and you shall stand before me.  
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,  
you shall be as my mouth.  
They shall turn to you,  
but you shall not turn to them.

<sup>20</sup> And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;  
they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,  
for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,  
declares the LORD.

<sup>21</sup> I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.”

The Word of God for the people of God!  
**Thanks be to God!**

## PSALM 26

## READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

Vindicate me, O Lord,

for I have walked in my integrity,  
and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.

**<sup>2</sup> Prove me, O Lord, and try me;  
test my heart and my mind.**

<sup>3</sup> For your steadfast love is before my eyes,  
and I walk in your faithfulness.

**<sup>4</sup> I do not sit with men of falsehood,  
nor do I consort with hypocrites.**

<sup>5</sup> I hate the assembly of evildoers,  
and I will not sit with the wicked.

**<sup>6</sup> I wash my hands in innocence  
and go around your altar, O Lord,**

<sup>7</sup> proclaiming thanksgiving aloud,  
and telling all your wondrous deeds.

**<sup>8</sup> O Lord, I love the habitation of your house  
and the place where your glory dwells.**

<sup>9</sup> Do not sweep my soul away with sinners,  
nor my life with bloodthirsty men,

**<sup>10</sup> in whose hands are evil devices,  
and whose right hands are full of bribes.**

<sup>11</sup> But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity;  
redeem me, and be gracious to me.

**<sup>12</sup> My foot stands on level ground;  
in the great assembly I will bless the Lord.**

## SECOND READING: ROMANS 12: 9-21 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. <sup>17</sup> Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with

all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” <sup>20</sup> To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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?

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

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: St. Matthew 16: 21-28 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup> And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” <sup>23</sup> But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” <sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a

man give in return for his soul? <sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. <sup>28</sup> Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

This is Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

PASTOR RAFE ALLISON

**\*SERMON HYMN “I Was There To Hear Your Borne Cry” WOV 197**

**\*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 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 also 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:



### **\*EUCHARISTIC 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**

**ADMINISTRATION OF THE HOLY SACRAMENT**



The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G-clef, 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "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, grant us peace." The music is written in a single system with four staves.

**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, grant us peace.**

**COMMUNION HYMNS**

**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 - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God,  
and lead us forth in joy with shouts  
of thanks - giv - ing. 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

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.

**Amen**

\*SENDING HYMN      *“I Love To Tell The Story”*      LBW 390

\*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*POSTLUDE

(\* *Please stand as you are able*)

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The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Nathan and Samantha Bojko’s 2<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary by Richard and Jodi Strube.

The **September Council Meeting** has been moved from Sunday 9/3 to Sunday 9/10 due to the holiday weekend.

Signup for Homemade desserts for the **Car Show** on **Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>** - Uniced Pound Cakes, Brownies with no nuts, and Cookies – is in the mailroom. Please bring your unsliced items to the Parish Hall on **Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>**. We are still in need of several desserts and would appreciate your support. If you aren’t able to bake an item, monetary donations can be given to Belinda Campbell for the purchase of cakes from a local baker.

**Bazaar** – Getting Close. Please contact Rhonda or Sharon if you have any items to sell at the Church Bazaar. **Sneak Preview..** go to the Admin Building and back to historical room window. Flip the Light switch on to view the Historical room. Take a look at our current logged in items. Also, notice how affordable our prices are. Tell everyone to come on **Oct 21, 2023** during the breakfast times **7:00 am to 11:00 am**. The Bazaar will be held in the Admin Building

<b>Weekly Offering Report For:    <u>Week No: 35</u>                      <u>Date: August 27, 2023</u></b>			
2023 Weekly Needs:	\$3,674.98	YTD Budget Needs:	\$128,624.30
<b><u>Last Week</u></b>			
General Tithes Received	\$3,024.00	YTD Gen. Tithes Received	\$125,418.00
Last week (Deficit)	(\$650.98)	YTD (Deficit)	(\$3,206.30)



**September 03, 2023**

*A little reminder about our prayer list.*

*We ask that you always have an individual's permission  
before requesting their name be added to our Prayer List.*

**Contact Pastor Allison or Prayer List Coordinator Belinda Campbell  
to request additions or changes.**

*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**

John Faggart; Joyce Harkins; Tom Harkins, Candice Horton; Doris & Frank  
Kluttz; Carl Pless; Joyce W. Pless; John & Linda Trull; Dot Weast

**Serving in the Military**

Eaven Allison (Okinawa, Japan)

**Friends of Cross of Christ**

Veronica Barber and family and fiancée Jeff; David Buckland;  
LeaAnne Buckwell; Delores Carpenter; Mary Cox;  
Steve & Angie Dixon; Alisa Erts; Jane Faggart; Pastor Jeff Faggart;  
Wanda Floyd; Joyce Furr; Ralph Furr; David Goforth (Friend of Carl  
Pless); Alley Handy; Brandon Lewis; Kaye and Gerry Litzinger;  
Ensley Morgan; Karen Morgan; Steve Parker; Ronnie Procter;  
Lettie Reid: Cody Smith (Friend of Meredith Harrison – complications  
with pregnancy); Susan Starling; Stephanie Vincent; Connie Walters;  
Candace Yates; Vickey Belk Young

**Serving in the Military**

Jonathan Preston

**General Prayer Concerns**

All those impacted by the fires in Maui & hurricane Idalia.

**Praise list**

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

## **Today – September 03, 2023**

9:00 AM      Sunday School  
10:00 AM      Family Worship Service

### **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**

#### ***Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost***

Ezekiel 33: 7-9  
Psalm 32: 1-7  
Romans 13: 1-10  
St Matthew 18: 1-20

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