

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

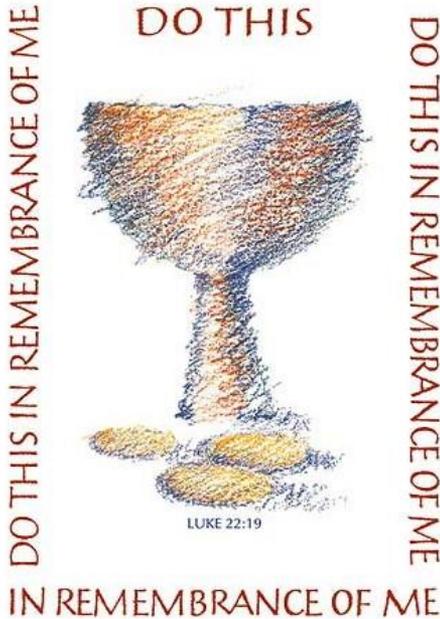
4500 Rimer Rd, Concord, NC 28025

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 †

Third Sunday After Epiphany

January 22, 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 *“Open Now They Gates Of Beauty”* **LBW 250**

*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-t-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.



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
II 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.



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,



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

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Almighty God,
you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority.
Anoint us with the power of your Spirit, that we, too, may bring good
news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to
the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: NEHEMIAH 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10 (ESV)

And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate.
And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that

the LORD had commanded Israel. ² So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. ³ And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. ⁶ And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸ They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. ⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 19: 7-14

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;

the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

⁸ **the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;**

the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

⁹ the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;

the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.**

¹¹ Moreover, by them is your servant warned;

in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² **Who can discern his errors?**

Declare me innocent from hidden faults.

¹³ Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;

let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless,

and innocent of great transgression.

**¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 12: 12-31A (ESV)

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.¹⁴For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unrepresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

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. Luke, the 4th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: St. Luke 4: 16-30 (ESV)

¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²² And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” ²³ And he said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, “Physician, heal yourself.” What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.” ²⁴ And he said, “Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. ²⁵ But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, ²⁶ and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. ²⁷ And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.” ²⁸ When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. ²⁹ And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was

built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. ³⁰ But passing through their midst, he went away.

This is Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR RAFE ALLISON

*SERMON HYMN

“Love Divine”

LBW 315

*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

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of



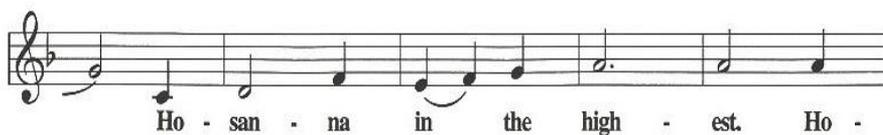
pow-er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. 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. 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**

ADMINISTRATION 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, 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 - 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 *"Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer"* LBW 343**

***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 by the congregation.**

Historical Committee will have a quick meeting in the admin building conference room immediately following the Church Service TODAY.

The **Sound Committee** is in need of volunteers to help run the sound system for services. Please contact Richard Strube if you can help in this need.

February Newsletter Articles are due **TODAY.**

The **PbNJ & CSI Youth Groups** will be meeting jointly on **February 12th.** At their meeting they will be preparing Cancer Care Packs. If you would like to donate items we are in need of the following items: Socks with Grips, Small Lotions, Small Hand Sanitizers, Hard Candy, Chap sticks and individual packs of Kleenex. You can give your items to Meredith Harrison or place them in the box in the mailroom. We would like to have the items by Sunday, February 5th. Thank you in advance.

HELP WANTED! Due to impending additions to our Sunday School families (yay, babies!), we are in need of new Sunday School teachers for the Pre School and High School classes and volunteers to help with Children's Church as lead teachers. These positions may be shared if you and a friend (or friends) would like to work together or you can be the only teacher. Please see Heather Bell or Rusty Drye if you have other questions and/or are interested in being a teacher for Sunday School or Pre School.



January 22, 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; Candice Horton; Doris & Frank Kluttz;
Gail Leonard; Carl Pless; Richard Strube; John & Linda Trull; Dot Weast;
John Weast; Bob Yost

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison (Okinawa, Japan)

Friends of Cross of Christ

Family of Ronnie Boger (Roy Gray's Boss)

Family of Doris McCarn (Mother of Lyndsey Pless)

Veronica Barber and family and fiancée Jeff; LeaAnne Buckwell; Mary Cox;
Steve & Angie Dixon; Jane Faggart; Pastor Jeff Faggart; Wanda Floyd;
Joyce Furr; Ralph Furr; Chip Krimminger (Brother of Jodie Strube – total knee
replacement on 1/17/2023); Mary Kunze; Brandon Lewis;
Kaye and Gerry Litzinger; Ensley Morgan; Steve Parker; Ronnie Procter;
Susan Starling; Connie Walters; Vickey Belk Young

General Prayer Concerns

The People of Ukraine

Praise List

* Brady Krimminger – Nephew of Jodie Strube – My tumor has shrunk by 60%
but is still inoperable. Thank you for the prayers and please continue as I still
take monthly treatments.

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

Today – January 22, 2023

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

NEXT SUNDAY

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

Next Sunday's Readings

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Jeremiah 1: 4-10

Psalm 71: 1-11

1 Corinthians 12: 31b-13: 13

St Luke 4: 31-44