



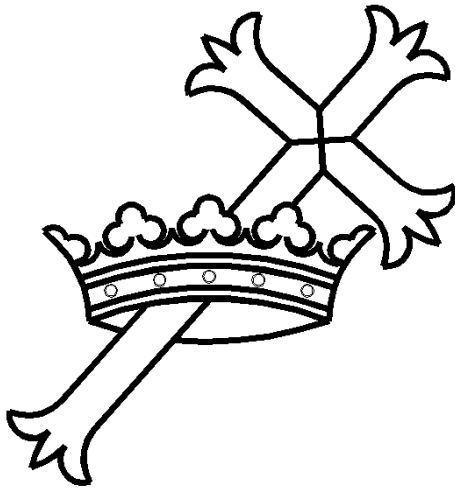
Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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 †

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

July 16, 2023

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 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.

Amen

* OPENING HYMN

“Praise And Thanksgiving”

LBW 409

*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 Be To The Father"

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it

was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system continues the melody and accompaniment.

*SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Holy God,
you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding.
Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 40: 19-23 (ESV)

- ¹⁹ An idol! A craftsman casts it,
and a goldsmith overlays it with gold
and casts for it silver chains.
- ²⁰ He who is too impoverished for an offering
chooses wood that will not rot;
he seeks out a skillful craftsman
to set up an idol that will not move.
- ²¹ Do you not know? Do you not hear?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;
²³ who brings princes to nothing,
and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 65: 1-13

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion,
and to you shall vows be performed.

² **O you who hear prayer,
to you shall all flesh come.**

³ When iniquities prevail against me,
you atone for our transgressions.

⁴ **Blessed is the one you choose and bring near,
to dwell in your courts!**

**We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
the holiness of your temple!**

⁵ By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness,
O God of our salvation,
the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas;

⁶ **the one who by his strength established the mountains,
being girded with might;**

⁷ who stills the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
the tumult of the peoples,

⁸ **so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth
are in awe at your signs. You make the going out of the morning
and the evening to shout for joy.**

⁹ You visit the earth and water it;
you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
you provide their grain,
for so you have prepared it.

¹⁰ **You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its ridges,
softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.**

¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

¹² **The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,**

¹³ the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8: 12-17 (ESV)

¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

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 13th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: St. Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23 (ESV)

³⁵ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears,^[a] let him hear.”

¹⁸ “Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no

root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³ As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

This is Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

LARRY BARBEE

*SERMON HYMN

"For The Beauty Of The Earth"

LBW 561

*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



bles - 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.

*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*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**

*BENEDICTION

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord almighty order our days and our deeds in peace.

Amen

*SENDING HYMN *“Praise To The Father”* **LBW 517**

*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 memory of Efford Bost by his family.

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

AUGUST newsletter articles are due **NEXT Sunday**.

The **PbnJ and CSI youth** groups will be going to the Coltrane Life Center on Wednesday for a meet and greet with their pen pals. Please meet at church at 10:00AM.

Jubal Strube is looking for donations of **point and shoot digital cameras** for his art classes. If you have one that you would like to donate, you may them give to Jubal or Jodie Strube. Thank you.

We collected **6 units** of blood last Sunday which will help up to **18 local** patients. Thank you, Jodie and One Blood.

Weekly Offering Report For: <u>Week No: 28</u> <u>Date: July 9, 2023</u>			
2023 Weekly Needs:	\$3,674.98	YTD Budget Needs:	\$102,899.44
<u>Last Week</u>			
Gen. Tithes Received	\$3,562.00	YTD Gen. Tithes Received	\$100,314.00
Last week (Deficit)	(\$112.98)	YTD (Deficit)	(\$2,585.44)



July 16, 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 (upcoming procedure on 7/19); Candice Horton; Doris & Frank Kluttz; Carl Pless; Carson Seagraves; John & Linda Trull; Dot Weast; Rand Yost.

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; Alley Handy; Brandon Lewis; Kaye and Gerry Litzinger; Ensley Morgan; Karen Morgan; Steve Parker; Ronnie Procter; Lettie Reid, Susan Starling; Connie Walters; Candace Yates; Vickey Belk Young

Serving in the Military

Jonathan Preston

General Prayer Concerns:

Praise List:

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

Today – July 16, 2023

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

This Week

MON: 6:30 PM Prayer Shawl

NEXT SUNDAY

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

Next Sunday's Readings

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Isaiah 44: 6-8

Psalms 119: 57-64

Romans 8: 18-27

St Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

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