



# *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!*

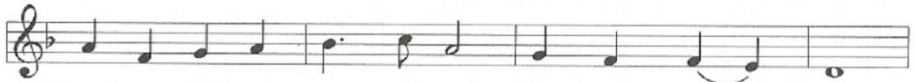
*In the Cross of Christ I glory †*

*Ash Wednesday*

*February 22, 2023*

*THE SERVICE BEGINS IN SILENCE***\*INVOCATION**


**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen  
Amen**

**\*KYRIE**


**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . have mer - cy:



**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.  
Christ, . . . have mer - cy:



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . have mer - cy:

**\*LENTEN ADDRESS**

Brothers and Sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but turn to him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love – the disciplines of Lent – help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

## **\*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

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

Most holy and merciful God:

**We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault 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, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives,

**we confess to you, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

**we confess to you, Lord.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**we confess to you, Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us,

**we confess to you, Lord.**

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgments, for our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

**accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,  
**accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.  
**Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**  
**Amen**

### **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*You may come forward during this time to receive the ashes.*

Psalm 51 is sung... as each in turn receives the ashes as the Pastor says:  
*"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Gen. 3:19)*

*After all have returned to their places, the service continues:*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
**that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the Cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,  
**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.  
**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**

\* **HYMN**

***"Savior, When in Dust"***

**LBW 91**

\***OPENING PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God:

**you hate nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

**FIRST READING: JOEL 2: 12-19**

<sup>2</sup>“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup> and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. <sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God? <sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. <sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

Here ends the reading.

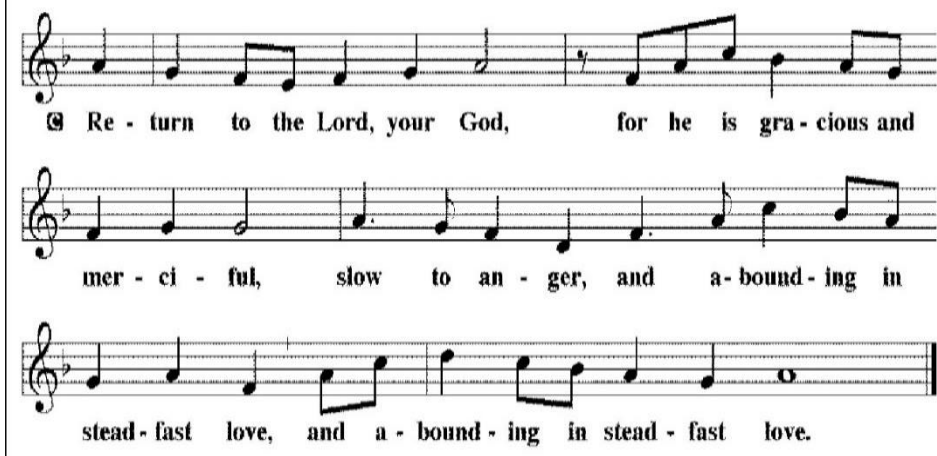
**Second READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 (ESV)**

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. **6** Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. <sup>3</sup>We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy

Spirit, genuine love; <sup>7</sup>by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

Here ends the reading.

**\*THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th Chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**\*THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. MATTHEW 6:1-6,16-21 (ESV)**

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. <sup>2</sup>“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>5</sup>“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by

others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>16</sup> “And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>19</sup> “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

PASTOR RAFE ALLISON

\*SERMON HYMN

*“Dear Lord And Father Of Mankind”*

**LBW 506**

RECEIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

\*THE OFFERTORY



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -  
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the  
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

**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.**

\*THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God; you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will and accomplished our salvation.



In the night in which He was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, 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.”*

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving Passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again, we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, not as we ought, but as we are able; and we implore you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving, and, with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine; that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son may be filled with heavenly peace and joy, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be sanctified in soul and body, and have our portion with all your saints.

All honor and glory are yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, now and forever. **Amen**

**\*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

### **\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

Our crucified and risen Lord, Jesus Christ who has now bestowed upon you his holy Body & Blood, by which He has made full satisfaction for all your sins, strengthen & preserve you in the true faith unto everlasting life. Peace be with you.

**Amen**

### **\*CONCLUDING PRAYER**

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of Baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

### **\*THE SENDING**

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

***We Depart in Silence***

