



Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

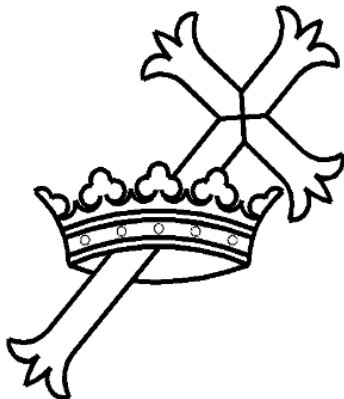
4500 Rimer Rd, Concord, NC 28025

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

Parsonage 704-786-3643

The Rev. Marty Ramey, Interim Pastor

A NALC Congregation



Welcome to worship at Cross of Christ!

In the Cross of Christ I glory †

Fifth Sunday in Easter

April 28, 2024

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 *“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”* LBW 551

*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.

*KYRIE



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

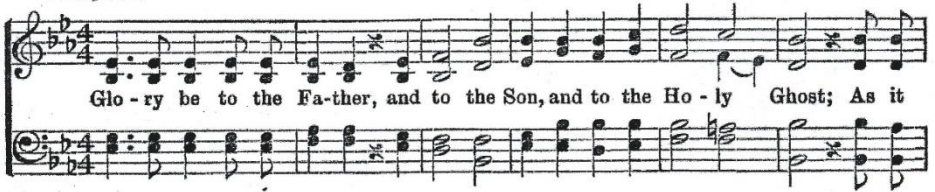


A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . have mer - cy:



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

*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.

*SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O God,

form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: Acts 8: 26-40 (ESV)

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 150

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

Praise the LORD!

Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty heavens!

² **Praise him for his mighty deeds;**

praise him according to his excellent greatness!

³ Praise him with trumpet sound;

praise him with lute and harp!

4 Praise him with tambourine and dance;

praise him with strings and pipe!

5 Praise him with sounding cymbals;

praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD!

SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 4: 1-21 (ESV)

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. ⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, "I love God,"

and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

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. John, 15th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL: St. John 15 1-8 (ESV)**

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

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

*NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

*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.

*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

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 “On Our Way Rejoicing” LBW 260**

***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 Keith and Cathy Smith 22nd wedding anniversary.

Please join the Harrison Family on **Saturday May 4th** in the Parish Hall, 3pm-5pm to celebrate Marianna Harrison's High School Graduation.

The **PbnJ & CSI Youth** groups will meet **NEXT** Sunday at 3:30PM.

Graduates in the congregation will be recognized on Pentecost Sunday May 19th. Congratulations to all our graduates!

CAR AND BIKE SHOW IS MAY 18, 2024. At this time, we are asking for volunteers (Parking, Breakfast and Lunch support, etc). If you are available to help us out, let Belinda Campbell or Earlene Cox know so we can coordinate with the team. Thank you.

TVR camp this summer is **June 17th-22nd**. **\$75** nonrefundable deposits and forms are due by **May 5th**, make checks payable to Cross of Christ Lutheran Church. Place these checks in the offering plate or give to Gail or Kristi. Please see Kristi or Gail for a form.

Weekly Offering Report For: <u>Week No: 16</u> <u>Date: April 21, 2024</u>			
2024 Weekly Needs:	\$3,758.54	YTD Budget Needs:	\$60,136.64
<u>Last Week</u>			
General Tithes Received	\$4,957.55	YTD Gen. Tithes Received	\$61,384.55
Last week Above Needs	\$1,199.01	YTD Above Needs	\$1,247.91



April 28, 2024

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

Stephanie Blackburn; Kristi Drye; Joyce Harkins; Tom Harkins;
Doris Kluttz; Frank Kluttz; John & Linda Trull; Dot Weast;
Megan Youngblood

Call Process prayer requests: 1) Cross of Christ Church; 2) Call Committee; 3) Cross of Christ Video – “Who are we?” – prep activities; 4) Prospective pastors see our profile and consider a call here.

Friends of Cross of Christ

Family of James Shoe (Karen Lyerly's father)

Myra Bost; Pastor Gene Bost; LeaAnn Buckwell; Luke Cranford;
Jane Faggart; Wanda Floyd; David Gandy; David Goforth; Annette Heller;
Candice Horton; Jane Jansen (Friend of Pastor Ramey – Cancer diagnosis);
Melissa Krumbien; Brandon Lewis; Kaye and Gerry Litzinger; Susie Moore;
Karen Morgan; Lettie Reid (Hospital – Lung infection and fluid buildup);
Blake Rogers (Throat cancer); Mickey Rogers; Nick Smith;
Susan Starling; Sally and Phillip Teeter; Candace Yates;
Vickey Belk Young.

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison; Jonathan Preston

General Prayers:

Those in Texas fighting and impacted by the fires
Those in Ohio impacted by recent Tornadoes
Families of those lost in bridge collapse in Baltimore
Extreme humanitarian crisis in Haiti
Families of victims of the terrorist massacre in Moscow

Praise List:

· Marvin Fincher– is doing well and appreciates all the prayers.

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

Today April 28, 2024

Sunday Church School
Family Worship Service

9:00 AM
10:00 AM

NEXT SUNDAY

8:30 AM Executive Council Meeting
9:00 AM Sunday School Classes
10:00 AM Communion Worship Service
11:00 AM Council Meeting

Next Sunday's Readings

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10: 34-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5: 1-8

St. John 15: 9-17

www.crossofchristlutheranchurch.org

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ClericalTeam@Gmail.com