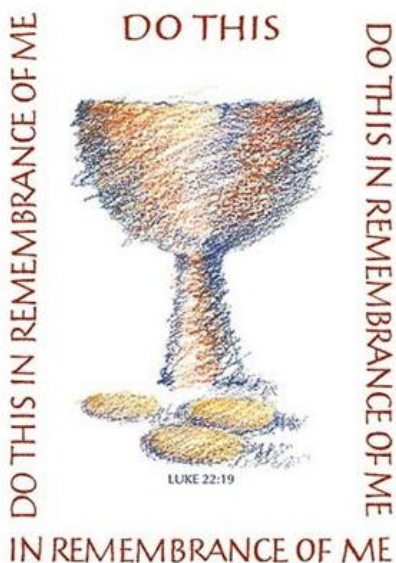




4500 Rimer Rd, Concord, NC 28025
Church 704-782-8483

A NALC Congregation



Welcome to worship at Cross of Christ!
In the Cross of Christ I glory †

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 6, 2026

(* *Please stand as you are able*)

PRELUDE

OUR ACCOMPANIST MRS. YVONNE YOST

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

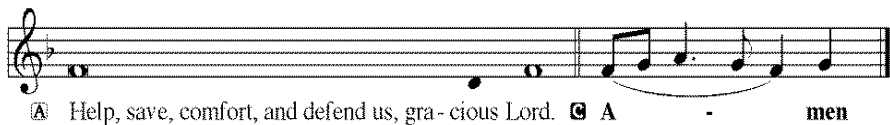
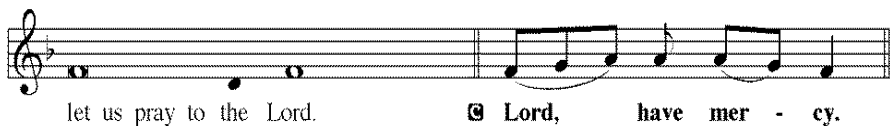
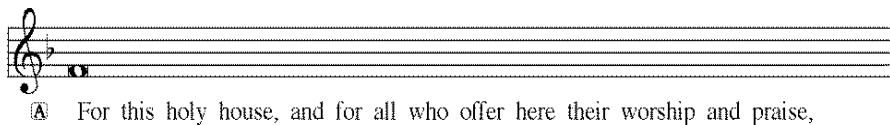
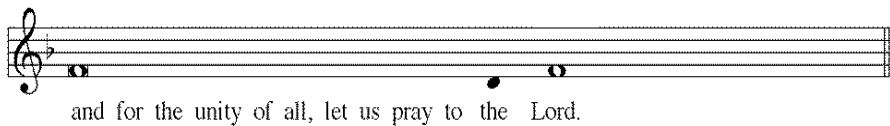
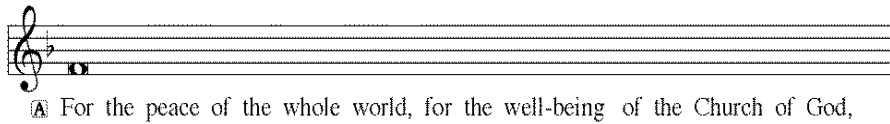
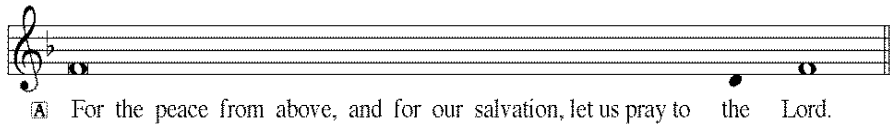
* OPENING HYMN “*Come Thou Fount*” (Green) LBW 499

***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

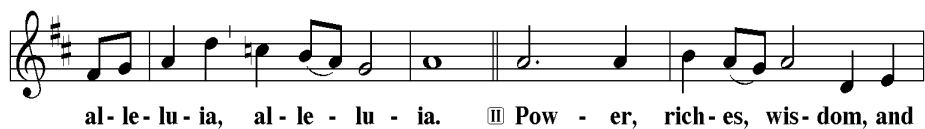
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***Kyrie**



*HYMN OF PRAISE: "This is the Feast"



☩ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☩ For the Lamb who was
 slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.
 ☩ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

*SALUTATION

☩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al-so with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O Lord, always lead and follow us with your grace, that we may be still more intent on doing good. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33: 7-9 (ESV)

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn

from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

The Word of God for the people of God!

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm 32: 1-7 (ESV)

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

**² Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

³ For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

**⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

⁵ I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**⁶ Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters,
they shall not reach him.**

⁷ You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

SECOND READING: Romans 13: 1-10 (ESV)

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴ for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.⁵ Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending

to this very thing.⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.⁹ For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

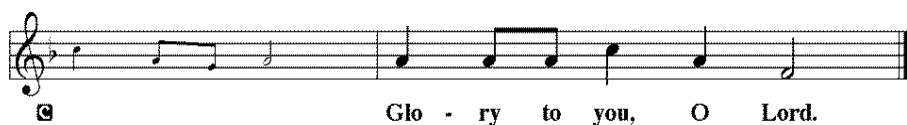
The Word of God for the people of God!

C: Thanks be to God!

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

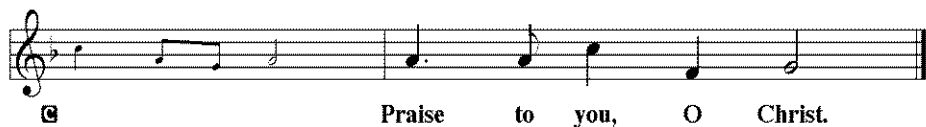


***THE HOLY GOSPEL: MATTHEW 18:1-20 (ESV)**

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”² And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them³ and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.⁴ Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.⁵ “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me,⁶ but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.⁷ “Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!⁸ And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is

better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire.⁹ And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.¹⁰ “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.¹² What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray?¹³ And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray.¹⁴ So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.¹⁵ “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed^[1] in heaven.¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

This is Gospel of our Lord.



Sermon

Pastor Carl Hynes

*SERMON HYMN “*Children Of The Heavenly Father*” (Green) LBW 474

*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 the dreams of all; u - nite them with the



prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



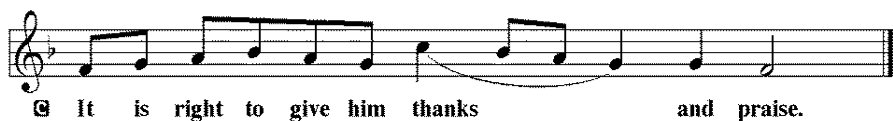
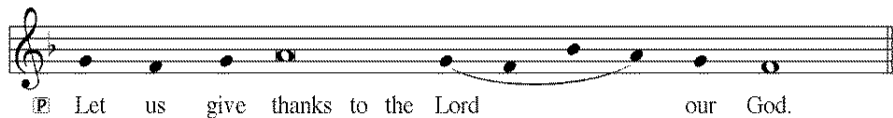
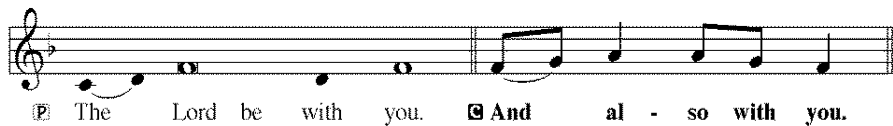
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first give 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**



P: It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: 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.

C: 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.

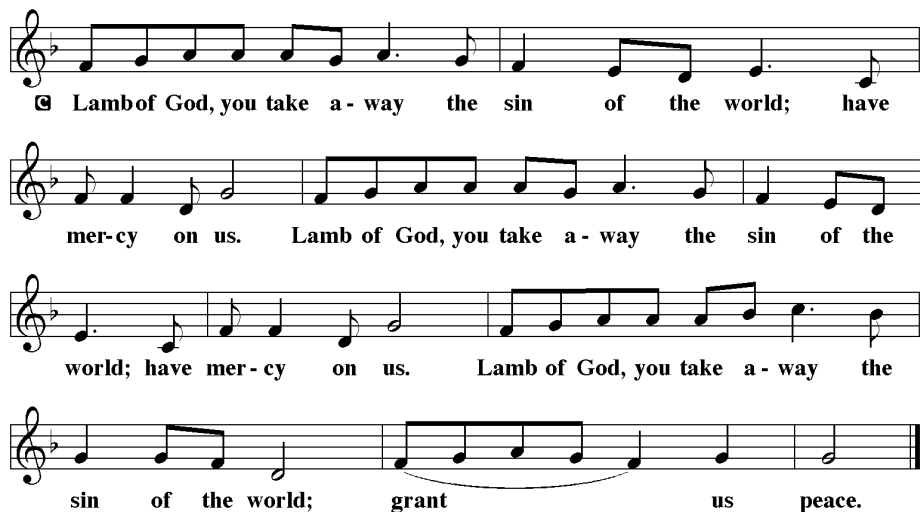
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: 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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

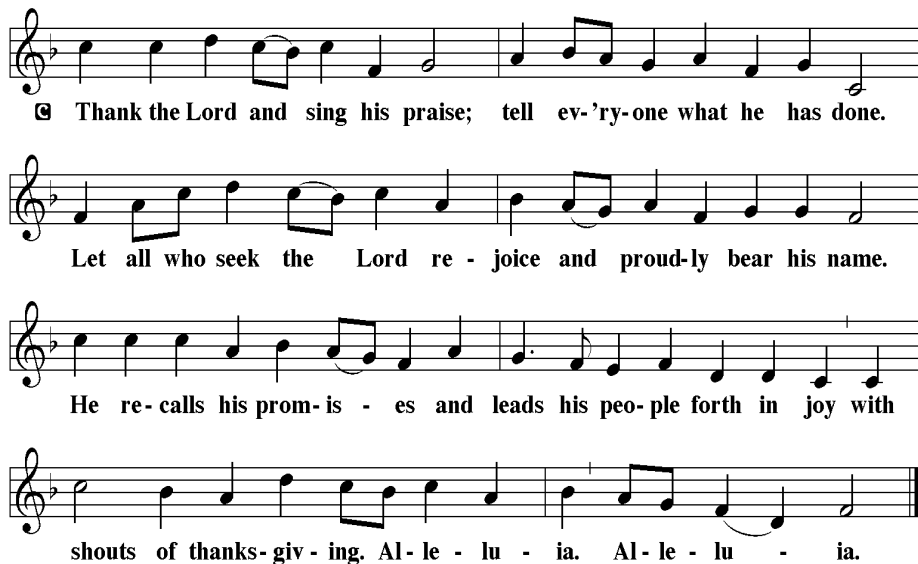
(BLUE) WOV 740 & 709

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE: *"Thank the Lord"*



☐ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.
 Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.
 He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with
 shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: 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.

C: Amen

*BENEDICTION

P: 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.

C: Amen

*SENDING HYMN *“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”* (BLUE) WOV 771

*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

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The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Samantha and Nathan Bojko anniversary by Jodie and Richard Strube.

We would like to thank Pastor Carl Haynes for leading our service today.

Next Sunday, you are cordially invited to join us for a special worship service and fellowship as we welcome a prospective new pastoral candidate to our church community.

Date: Sunday, September 13, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM– Worship Service led by Pastor Will Dulin

· 11:15 AM – Church Fellowship Meal/ Meet and Greet

Please join us after the service for a complimentary meal in the fellowship hall. This will be a wonderful opportunity to break bread, converse, and get to know Pastor Will Dulin and his wife, Constance, as we discern the future of our ministry together. We look forward to worshipping and fellowshiping with you!

The **Council** meeting scheduled for 9/13/26 immediately following the service **will be rescheduled**.

Women's Bible study will meet this **Wednesday, September 9th at 6:30pm** in the Fisher Building. Let Ashleigh Ennis know you'd like to join!

Homecoming is Sunday, **September 20th**. Bonnie McDonald will be the guest speaker during the Sunday School hour. Following the service there will be a meal in the Parish Hall. **Please plan on bringing a dessert you can share.**

Women's retreat registration for the **Oct 2nd – 4th** can be communicated to Kristi Drye if you are able to attend.



September 6, 2026

We ask that you always have an individual's permission before requesting their name be added to our Prayer List. Please send prayer list request additions or changes to prayercclc@gmail.com by Tuesday 5PM.

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

Chris Goodman (recovering from a hospital stay for multiple blood clots in his lung, gout, and a possible torn meniscus); Wayne Peck; Carl Pless, Jr.; Jasper Tidd (Mouth surgery under anesthesia on 9/4/26); Rand Yost

Call Process prayer requests: 1) Cross of Christ Church; 2) Call Committee; 3) Prospective pastors see our profile/video and consider a call here.

Shut-Ins

Bob and Joann Barrier; Brenda Barrier; Norman Goodman;
Nell Hatley; John Trull.

Friends of Cross of Christ

Carolyn Campbell; Josh Fabricius; April Funderburke; Lee Gorforth;
Candice Horton; Cynthia Horton; Gloria Mann; Alicia McQueen; Hayden Polakowski; Eric Starling; Susan Starling; Andrew Stirewalt (foot pain & testing); Ruthie O'Brien; Daniel Pless; Jacob Rodgers; Nick Smith; Bob Wilson; Candace Yates
Carolina Mission Region Seminarians: Melanie Corn, Robert Dernbach, Lucas Safrit

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison (Fairbanks, Alaska)

General Prayer Concerns:

- Ongoing Iran war impacts
- Flooding impacts in Nepal

Praise List

* Brenda Barrier – Ronnie and Brenda would like to thank everyone for the prayers, calls, and concerns. Last Monday, Brenda had her first procedure. They removed fluid from the pocket of water in the middle of her brain thru a spinal tap withdrawal of fluid. Brenda came thru wonderful. She has been walking, talking, and other issues clearing up daily now. This is the best she has been in 4 years. The recheck came back great as well. For long term, there will be one more procedure to complete. Please keep her and the family in your prayers.

* Nicholas Hildebrant's Wife and 2 children – everyone has been released from the hospital and returned home to continue their recovery. The Faggart family appreciates the thoughts and prayers.

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

Today September 6, 2026

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

This Week

MON: 7 – 8:30 PM Soldiers of the Cross of Christ Practice

WED: 6:30PM Women's Bible Study

NEXT SUNDAY

9:00 AM Sunday Church School Classes

10:00 AM Family Worship Service

11:00 AM Meal/Meat and Greet Pastor Dulin

Next Sunday's Readings

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Genesis 50: 15-21

Psalms 103: 1-12

Romans 14: 1-12

St. Matthew 18: 21-35

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