
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 †

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
August 27, 2023

OUR ACCOMPANIST

MRS. YVONNE YOST

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GIDEON'S TEMPLE TALK

*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 *“Praise To The Lord The Almighty”* **LBW 543**

*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*”

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "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.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God,

you are always more ready to hear that we are to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us an abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merit of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: Isaiah 51: 1-6 (ESV)

“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD:

look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;

for he was but one when I called him,
that I might bless him and multiply him.

³ For the LORD comforts Zion;
he comforts all her waste places
and makes her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ “Give attention to me, my people,
and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law will go out from me,
and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ My righteousness draws near,
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will judge the peoples;
the coastlands hope for me,
and for my arm they wait.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 138 (ESV) READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;

**² I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks
to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you
have exalted above all things your name and your word.**

³ On the day I called, you answered me;
my strength of soul you increased.

**⁴ All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O LORD,
for they have heard the words of your mouth,**

⁵ and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
for great is the glory of the LORD.

**⁶ For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly,
but the haughty he knows from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life;
you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies,
and your right hand delivers me.

**⁸ The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 11: 33- 12:8 (ESV)

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴ “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” ³⁵ “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. ¹² I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who

contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

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 16th chapter.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. MATTHEW 16: 13-20 (ESV)**

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be

loosed in heaven.”²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

This is Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR RAFE ALLISON

*SERMON HYMN *“Built On A Rock”* LBW 365

***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.

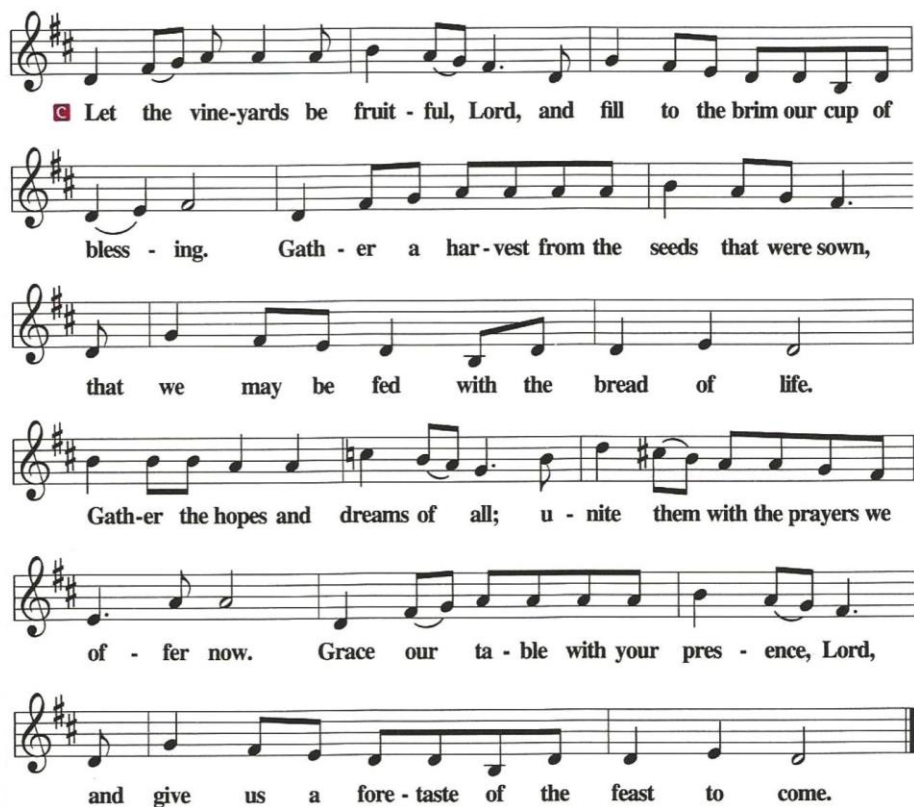
**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

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.

*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

“Blessed Assurance”

WOV 699

*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.

Welcome Gideons! Today is **Rally Sunday** for Cabarrus County Gideons and we are pleased to have representatives with us this morning. There will be a **Temple Talk** at the beginning of the service highlighting the ministry of the Gideons. We will also receive a **Special Offering** to support the Gideons' Bible ministry. Please prayerfully consider a gift to support their work in Christ's name!

The **September Council Meeting** has been **MOVED** from Sunday 9/3 to **Sunday 9/10** due to the holiday weekend.

Bazaar is Getting Close. Please contact Rhonda or Sharon if you have any items to sell at the Church Bazaar. Sneak Preview.. go to the Admin Building and back to historical room window. Flip the Light switch on to view the Historical room. Take a look at our current logged in items. Also, notice how affordable our prices are. Tell everyone to come on **Oct 21, 2023 during the breakfast times 7:00 am to 11:00 am.** The Bazaar will be held in the Admin Building.

Soldiers of the Cross of Christ will be singing on **Monday 8.28.23** 7:00 pm at the Cowboy Church at 7860 Gold Hill Rd Rockwell, NC 28138 (Circle K Rodeo). Please come and join us. Any questions, please contact any of the group members.

HELP WANTED!

Please prayerfully consider volunteering to help with Children’s Chruch. If you would like to participate or have questions, please contact Heather Bell. If you are a current leader or teacher and wish to no longer be involved with the program, please contact Heather as well. Thank you!

Please signup for Homemade desserts for the Car Show on **Saturday, September 16th - Uniced Pound Cakes, Brownies with no nuts, and Cookies – is in the mailroom.** Please bring your unsliced items to the Parish Hall on Friday, September 15th. We are still in need of several desserts and would appreciate your support. If you aren’t able to bake an item, monetary donations can be given to Belinda Campbell next Sunday (8/27/2023) for the purchase of cakes from a local baker.

Weekly Offering Report For: <u>Week No: 34</u> <u>Date: August 20, 2023</u>			
2023 Weekly Needs:	\$3,674.98	YTD Budget Needs:	\$124,949.32
<u>Last Week</u>			
Gen. Tithes Received	\$3,346.00	YTD Gen. Tithes Received	\$122,394.00
Last week (Deficit)	(\$328.98)	YTD (Deficit)	(\$2,555.32)



August 27, 2023

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, Candice Horton; Doris & Frank Kluttz; Carl Pless; Joyce W. Pless; John & Linda Trull; Dot Weast

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; Cody Smith (Friend of Meredith Harrison – complications with pregnancy); Susan Starling; Stephanie Vincent; Connie Walters; Candace Yates; Vickey Belk Young

Serving in the Military

Jonathan Preston

General Prayer Concerns:

All those who have been affected by the fires in Maui.

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

Today - August 27, 2023

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

NEXT SUNDAY

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

Next Sunday's Readings

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 15: 15-21

Psalm 26

Romans 12: 9-21

St. Matthew 16: 21-28