



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

***The Rev. Marty Ramey, Interim Pastor***  
*A NALC Congregation*



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

***Second Sunday In Advent***  
***December 7, 2025***

(\* *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**

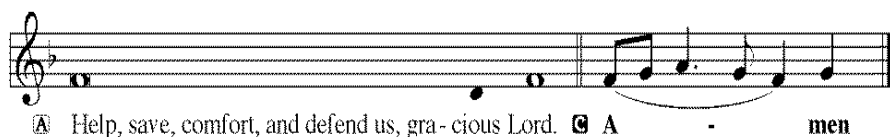
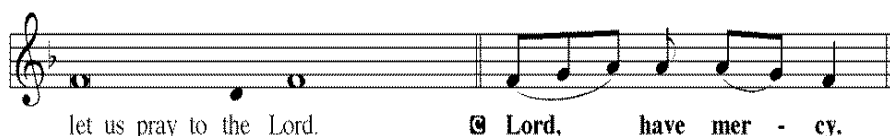
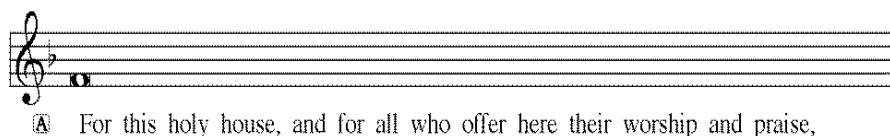
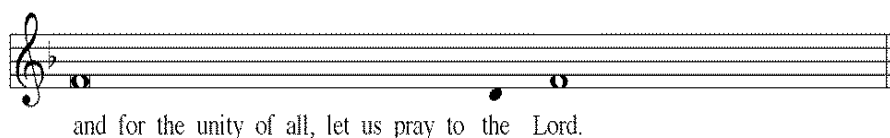
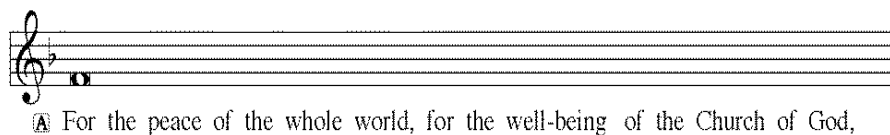
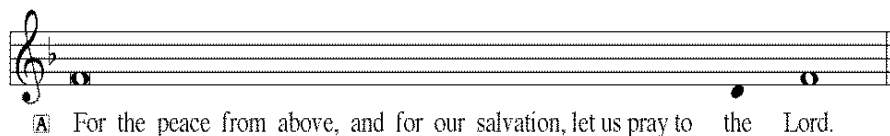
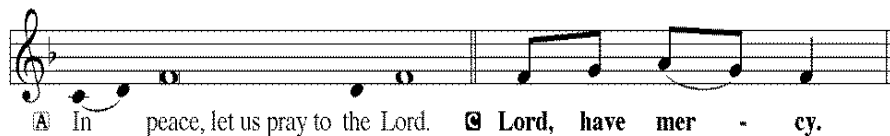
\* OPENING HYMN ***“O Come All Ye Faithful”*** LBW 45

\*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. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son, that by his coming we may be enabled to serve you with pure minds; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

\*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

**WOV 630**

*"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"*

(vs 1&2)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RAMEY

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 11: 1-10 (ESV)**

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup> And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his

mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

The Word of God for the people of God!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**PSALM 72: 1-7 (ESV)**

**READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE**

Give the king your justice, O God,

and your righteousness to the royal son!

**<sup>2</sup> May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice!**

<sup>3</sup> Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness!

**<sup>4</sup> May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
give deliverance to the children of the needy,  
and crush the oppressor!**

<sup>5</sup> May they fear you while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

**<sup>6</sup> May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
like showers that water the earth!**

<sup>7</sup> In his days may the righteous flourish,  
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

**SECOND READING: Romans 15: 4-13 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup> and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." <sup>10</sup> And again it says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." <sup>11</sup> And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." <sup>12</sup> And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." <sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and

peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

The Word of God for the people of God!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



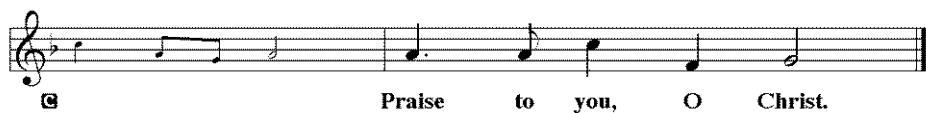
The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.



**\*THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. MATTHEW 3: 1-12 (ESV)**

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”<sup>3</sup> For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”<sup>4</sup> Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup> ‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’”

This is Gospel of our Lord.



SERMON *"The Locust Diet"*

Pastor Marty Ramey

\*SERMON HYMN *"On Jordan's Banks"* LBW 36

ORDER OF INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL 2025

ORDER OF RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL MINISTRY

\*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



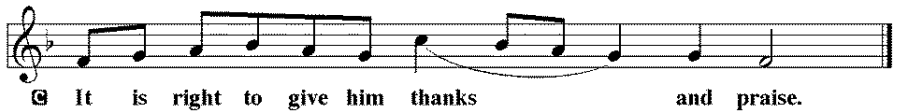
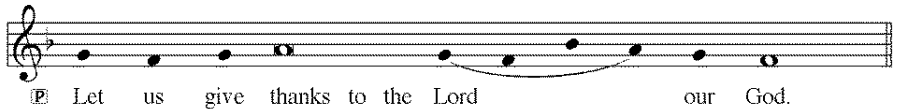


**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**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:



**\* THE EUCHARISTIC & 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:

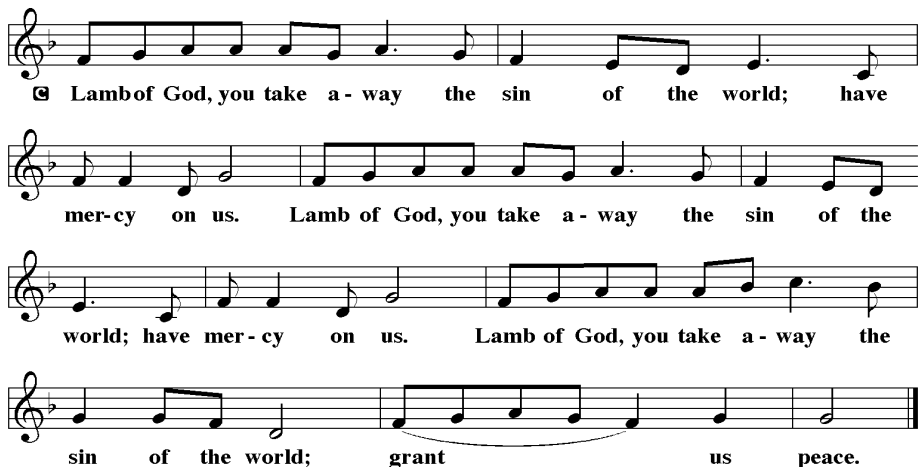
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

**\*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.

**\*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**

**\*DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

*Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license # SB127756.*

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Jubal and Kenly Strube's 5<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by Richard and Jodie Strube.

We would like to thank the outgoing Council members for their work on Council: Belinda Campbell, Kelly Caudle, Cayle Drye and Keith Smith.

**Historical Committee** is taking Family pictures in front of the Christmas tree after worship and Next Sunday **December 14th**. If you'd like to have your photo taken, please meet at the front of the sanctuary immediately after worship.

**Church Christmas Party** after service today in Parish Hall.

**Council Meeting** today after service at 11:00 AM.

**Coltrane LIFE Center** is having a **Christmas Bake Sale** on **Thursday December 11th 8AM until**. We'll have lots of homemade goodies. If you can donate or purchase items we'd appreciate it. Thank you for your support.

The **PBnJ Youth Group** will meet **next** Sunday, December 14 at 3:30 PM. All K-5 Children are welcome to come and join us.

**Toys for Tots** drive ends today. Just think of the smiles on the children's faces this Christmas morning. Thank you for your generosity.

**Poinsettias orders**-are due **TODAY** . The cost this year is \$10. Money should be placed in the offering plate and information about plants should be given to Meredith. Thank you!

The **2026 Flower Calendar** has been placed in the mail room. Please mark any dates that you would like for flowers. The cost is still **\$64** for both vases. If a date you would like is already taken, talk with the person who signed up and split that Sunday. **One vase is \$32.**

If you have any changes on addresses, phone numbers, or email address for the **CCLC 2025 / 2026 Annual Yearbook**, please get those changes to the Historical Comm, Rhonda Drye or Jodie Strube. Committee chairs, event leaders, group leaders please start preparing your year end summaries. Any questions, please contact us.

**YOUTH DIRECTORS** Many thanks to Kristi Drye and Gail Leonard, who has served Cross of Christ as Youth Director for many years. They are resigning from that position as of January 1, 2026. We appreciate their dedication to this ministry. We welcome Jubal and Kenly Strube who will serve as Youth Directors beginning in January 2026.

### **December Stewardship Awareness -**

Generosity and giving are then spending down one's resources, time, energy, talents, treasure and witness for the sake of spreading the Good News to others who need to hear God's gracious gift of salvation — that none shall perish. If our giving is not a sacrifice, then we are probably not giving enough. When we place our "gift" on the offering plate, we are not giving God anything. We are giving God but God's own! We are merely giving God whatever He has already given us. "Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth" (Deuteronomy 8:17-18 nrsv). Everything belongs to God. Our lives, every idea or thought we have, our creativity, ingenuity, intellect, money, all possessions, and, yes, our faith are all given to us by God. And why does God give us these gifts? We are given these gifts because He loves us. And love gives. We are given these gifts to use, enjoy and build God's kingdom.

### ***Advent Week 2 - Prayer for Peace***

*Lord, in a season when every heart should be happy and light, many of us are struggling with the heaviness of life—burdens that steal the joy right out of our stockings. Tragedy arrives as innocent victims suffer, and an inner voice whispers, “Be afraid!” We need your peace, Jesus. We confess that our hearts are too often filled with wonder of a different kind: wondering when the bills will be paid, when the terror will stop, when rest will come. Will it ever? Is the message still true? In a world where worry, not peace, prevails, stir up that good news again. This Advent, make it real in our hearts. Never have we needed Your joy and peace more than now. Thank You for the gift of Jesus, our Immanuel, the Word made flesh. We not only need Your peace and joy; Lord, we crave it. You’ve promised rest for the weary, victory for the battle-scarred, peace for the anxious, and acceptance for the broken hearted—not just at Advent, but every day of every year. Your name is still called “Wonderful,” “Counselor,” “The Mighty God,” “The Everlasting Father,” and “The Prince of Peace.” We know that peace on earth can only come when hearts find peace with You. You are still our Joy. You are still our Peace. You are no longer a babe in the manger. You are Lord of lords and King of kings. And we still celebrate You as Lord—this Christmas and always. Amen*



**December 7, 2025**

***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 prayercccl@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**

Tim Aldridge; Walker Drye; Roy Gray; Dorothy Goodman;  
Harry Goodman; Norman Goodman; Amy Preston;  
John Trull; Linda Trull.

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

**Friends of Cross of Christ**

J.D. Almond; Pastor Charles Barrier; Kathryn Blick; Deena Bost;  
Pastor Gene Bost; Myra Bost; LeaAnn Buckwell; Pastor Randall Cauble; Pastor Tom Corbell; Luke Cranford; Ed Duncan; Vicky Floyd;  
April Funderburke; David Gandy; Marty Gandy; David Goforth;  
Lee Goforth; Barbara Hamilton; Annette Heller; Candice Horton;  
Greg Houston; Jimmy Howard; Melissa Krumbien; Gerry Litzinger;  
Susie Moore; Karen Morgan; Hank Morris; Daniel Pless; Lettie Reid;  
Blake Rogers; Jacob Rodgers; Nick Smith; Susan Starling;  
Veronica Williams; Candace Yates; Vickey Belk Young.

**Serving in the Military**

Eaven Allison (Fairbanks, Alaska)

**General Prayer Concerns:**

Rimer Fire Department

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

**Today December 7, 2025**

Executive Council Meeting	8:30 AM
Sunday Church School	9:00 AM
Holy Communion Service	10:00 AM
Council Meeting	11:00 AM
Church Christmas Party	After Service

**This Week**

**MON - 7 – 8:30 PM Soldiers of Christ Practice**

**NEXT SUNDAY**

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

**Next Sunday's Readings**

*Third Sunday In Advent*

Isaiah 35: 1-10

Psalm 146: 1-10

James 5: 7-11

St. Matthew 11: 2-15

[www.crossofchristlutheranchurch.org](http://www.crossofchristlutheranchurch.org)  
<http://www.facebook.com/CrossofChristLutheranChurchConcord>  
[ClericalTeam@Gmail.com](mailto:ClericalTeam@Gmail.com)  
[prayerccle@gmail.com](mailto:prayerccle@gmail.com)