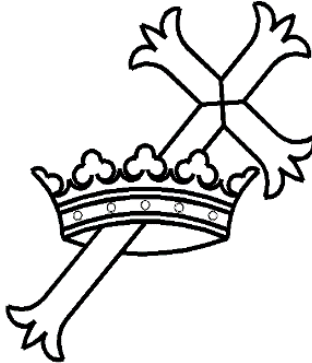




Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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 †

Fifth Sunday Of Easter
May 18, 2025

(* *Please stand as you are able*)

PRELUDE

OUR ACCOMPANIST MS. MARSHA JOHNSON

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 and repent, 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 *“Lift High The Cross”*

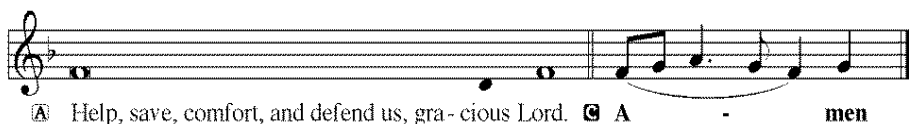
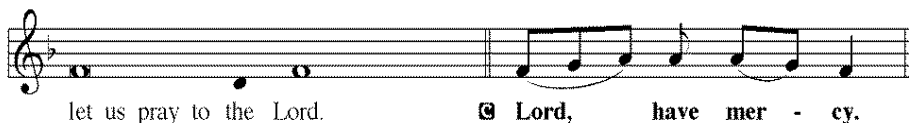
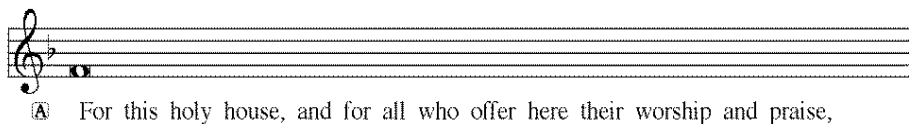
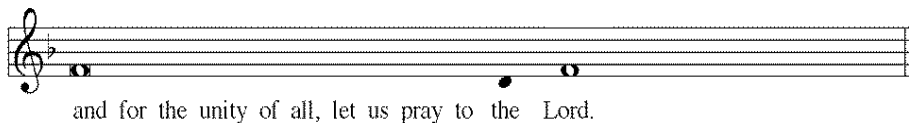
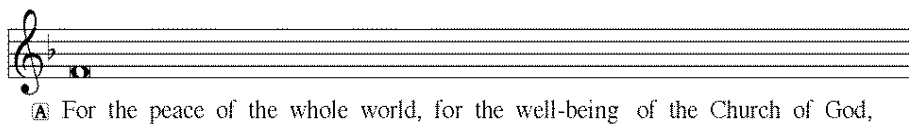
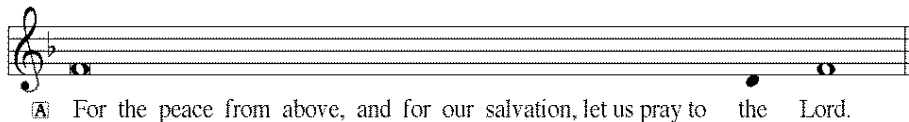
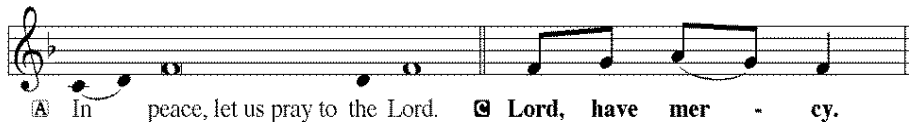
LBW 377

***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**



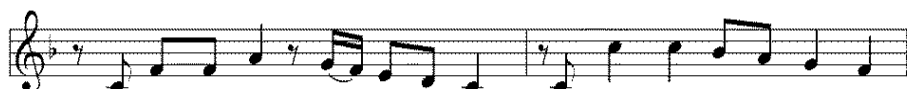
*HYMN OF PRAISE: "*Glory to God*"



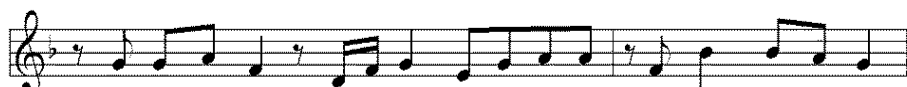
♩ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



♩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

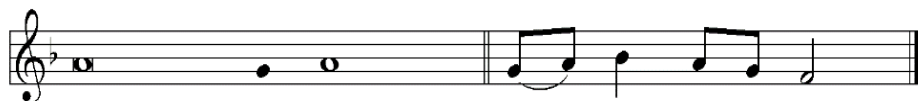


you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

*SALUTATION



♩ The Lord be with you.

♩ And al - so with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: 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.

C: Amen

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RAMEY

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: Acts 11: 1-18 (ESV)

Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, ³ “You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.” ⁴ But Peter began and explained it to them in order: ⁵ “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. ⁶ Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. ⁷ And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸ But I said, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹ But the voice answered a second time from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, do not call common.’ ¹⁰ This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. ¹¹ And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. ¹² And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’ ¹⁵ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?” ¹⁸ When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified

God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

The Word of God for the people of God!

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 150 (ESV)

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: REVELATION 21: 1-7 (ESV)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” ⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷ The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

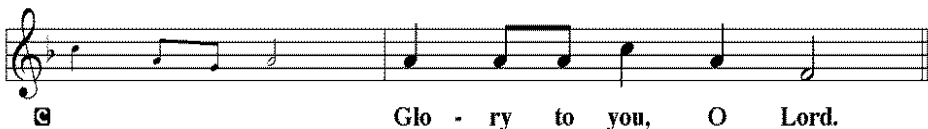
The Word of God for the people of God!

C: Thanks be to God!

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



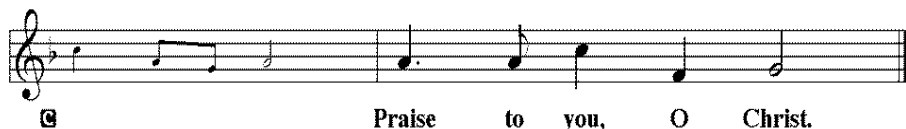
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, 16th chapter.



***THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. JOHN 16: 12-22 (ESV)**

¹²“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁶“A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.” ¹⁷So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father’?” ¹⁸So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” ¹⁹Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’?” ²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²²So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

P: This is Gospel of our Lord.



SERMON *"Are We There Yet?"* Pastor Marty Ramey

***SERMON HYMN *"My Faith Looks Up To Thee"* LBW 479**

***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

*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.

*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

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 “Oh, For A Thousand Tongues To Sing” LBW 559**

***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 and appreciation of PBNJ and CSI youth members and their leaders by the Betty and Richard Archer.

The PBNJ and CSI Youth Groups will be meeting jointly **TODAY** to celebrate the 10th Birthday of the PBNJ Youth Group. We will be playing kickball and other “field” day events. We will have hotdogs to eat. Current and past members are invited to join us on this day for a fun-filled afternoon. This will be a family event!

JUNE newsletter articles are due next Sunday.

VBS will be held June 5-7, 2025 this year. It will be from 6 to 8 on Thursday and Friday and 9 to 1 on Saturday. This year's theme is ROAD TRIP: On the Go with God! VBS is for ages 2 through 5 grade. If you would like to help see Meredith Harrison. You can register your child, grandchild, neighbor etc, see Meredith.

Our service project at **VBS** this year is making dog toys for the animal shelter and MP vet office. **We are in need of denim jeans.** If you can help see Meredith. Thank you

Weekly Offering Report For: <u>Week No: 19</u> <u>Date: May 11, 2025</u>			
2025 Weekly Needs:		\$3,989.43	YTD Budget Needs: \$75,799.17
<u>Last Week</u>			
General Tithes Received		\$2,760.00	YTD Gen. Tithes Received \$64,956.24
Last week	(Deficit)	(\$1,229.43)	YTD (Deficit) (\$10,842.93)



May 18, 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 prayerccle@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

Kay Barbee; Joey Barrier (Biopsies to be scheduled soon);

Karen Faggart (Broke her wrist, will possibly need surgery); Dorothy Goodman; Harry Goodman; Norman Goodman;

Doris Kluttz; Frank Kluttz; John Trull; Linda Trull; 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.

Friends of Cross of Christ

Families of Linda and Ron Brumble (Sister and Brother-in-law of Pastor Marty – died in a car accident in Mississippi; arrangements pending)

Pastor Charles Barrier; Pastor Gene Bost; LeaAnn Buckwell; Jerry Cain;

Bill Carpenter; Pastor Randall Cauble; Luke Cranford; Brynn Fesler;

David Gandy; Marty Gandy; David Goforth; Lee Goforth;

Annette Heller; Candice Horton; Greg Houston; Melissa Krumbien;

Kaye and Gerry Litzinger; Susie Moore; Karen Morgan; Hank Morris;

Daniel Pless (surgery to repair broken bones on his left hand, there is no nerve damage); Lettie Reid; Blake Rogers; Steve Sifford;

Nick Smith; Susan Starling; Veronica Williams; Candace Yates;

Vickey Belk Young.

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison (Fairbanks, Alaska)

Praise List:

* Yvonne Yost – appreciates all the Prayers, cards, flowers, pillow, visits, texts, calls and other acts of kindness, during the past difficult weeks. May God bless each of you!

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

Today May 18, 2025

Sunday Church School 9:00 AM

Family Worship Service 10:00 AM

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

Sixth Sunday Of Easter

Acts 16: 9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21: 9-14, 21-27

St. John 16: 23-33

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