



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 †

Fifth Sunday in Easter

May 7, 2023

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 ***“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.

*KYRIE



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

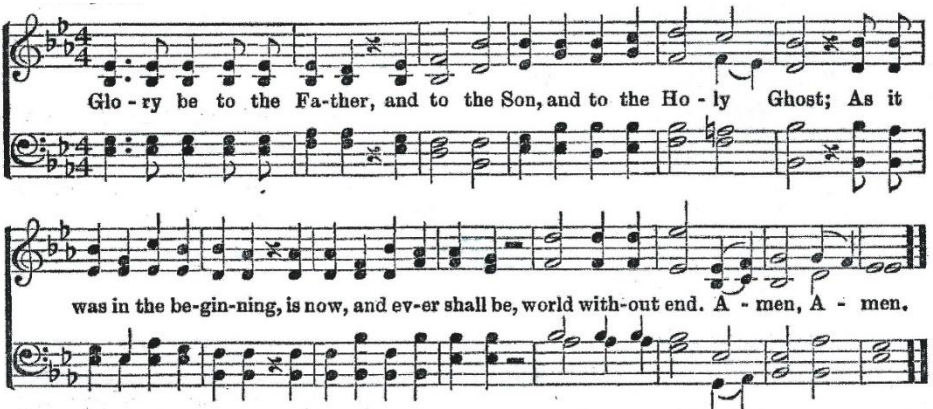


A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . have mer - cy:



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. Holy 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 DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶ These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. ⁷ And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. ⁸ And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. ² And Stephen said: “Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, ⁵¹ “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵² Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³ you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.” ⁵⁴ Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 146

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

² **I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³ Put not your trust in princes,
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

⁴ **When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;
on that very day his plans perish.**

⁵ Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,

⁶ **who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,
who keeps faith forever;**

⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸ **the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**

**The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹ The LORD watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰ **The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, to all generations.**

Praise the LORD!

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 2: 2-10 (ESV)

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷ So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸ and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are

God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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, 14th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL: St. John 14: 1-14 (ESV)**

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’ ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. ¹²“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes

in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

This is Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR RAFE ALLISON

*Sermon Hymn

“Jesus Shall Reign”

LBW 530

*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



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** *“All Hail The Power Of Jesus Name”* **LBW 328**
vs 1-4

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

(* *PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE*)

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Altar Flowers are given today in Thanksgiving to our gracious God and in celebration of Pastor Rafe & Teresa Allison's 40th wedding anniversary.

The PbnJ youth group will meet at **3:30 PM** this afternoon.

Everyone is invited to attend Alexis Barbee Senior High School Graduation Party in the Parish Hall on **Saturday, May 13th 2-5 pm. Drop in** - Come help us celebrate her as she will attend East Carolina University in the Fall.

What is a Prayer Shawl? Prayer Shawls are knitted, crocheted, woven, quilted or machine-stitched lap blankets (shawls) that vary in size, shape, color and pattern, and are infused with prayer as a comforting reminder that God loves each of us and that He is always with us. We are exploring the option of expanding to include shawls made from fabric. This is a great opportunity for those who do not knit or crochet to help expand this ministry. **Our next meeting is May 15th at 6:30 PM in the admin blg.**

HOLD THE DATE-MAY 20, 2023 is the Spring Car & Truck Show in conjunction with our monthly breakfast with the addition of lunch. 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. If you want to have your donation recorded on your Church record, use one of the envelopes at your pews, and just write "Car Show Donation" on it. Thank you again for your help with this Car Show.

The **Rite of Confirmation** will be celebrated on **Pentecost Sunday, May 28**. Our confirmands are **Kaylee Barbee** and **Caydee Holder**. We pray God's continued blessing and guidance be with them! We will have a meal after service to welcome them and our New Members, **Connie Bailey** and **Randall Shaffer** this year. Please join us for the meal.

Graduates in the congregation will be recognized and congratulated on Sunday of the Holy Trinity, **June 4**. Congratulations to all our graduates!

Congratulations to Kensi Bell on her high school graduation. We are recognizing Kensi today as she will not be able to be with us on June 4. That Sunday she will be attending beginning-of-season counselor training at Teen Valley Ranch where she will be doing ministry this summer! Kensi will be attending NC State University in the Fall where she will be part of the Thomas Jefferson Scholars Program, a double-major program in which she will be pursuing degrees in Biological Engineering as well as Science, Technology, and Society. Congratulations to Kensi and thank you for serving in Christ's name!

Weekly Offering Report For: <u>Week No: 18</u> <u>Date: April 30, 2023</u>			
2023 Weekly Needs:	\$3,674.98	YTD Budget Needs:	\$66,149.64
<u>Last Week</u>			
General Tithes Received	\$4,414.00	YTD Gen. Tithes Received	\$63,118.00
Last week Above Needs	739.02	YTD (Deficit)	(\$3,031.64)



May 7, 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; Candice Horton; Doris & Frank Kluttz; Betty Miller; Carl Pless; John & Linda Trull; Dot Weast; Bob Yost

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison (Okinawa, Japan)

Friends of Cross of Christ

Veronica Barber and family and fiancée Jeff; David Buckland; LeaAnne Buckwell; Judy Coble (Friend of Susan Caudle – Hip replacement surgery scheduled for 5/31/2023, currently experiencing a lot of pain); Mary Cox; Steve & Angie Dixon; Alisa Erts (Friend of Kristi Drye – Pancreatic cancer diagnosis received); Jane Faggart; Pastor Jeff Faggart; Wanda Floyd; Joyce Furr; Ralph Furr; Brandon Lewis; Kaye and Gerry Litzinger; Ensley Morgan; Karen Morgan; Steve Parker; Shelley Potts; Ronnie Procter; Susan Starling; Connie Walters; Candace Yates; Vickey Belk Young (Cousin of Robin Drye – recent colon surgery recovery)

General Prayer Concerns

Praise List:

- Chris Bost – appreciates the prayers for recovery from the recent heart procedure.
- Rand and Yvonne Yost – Rand and Yvonne Yost give thanks and praise to God, and thanks to our Pastor and Congregation for the many Prayers and acts of kindness shown during our recent accident and continuing recovery.

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

Today May 7, 2023

Executive Meeting	8:30 AM
Sunday Church School	9:00 AM
Family Worship Service	10:00 AM
Council Meeting	11:00 AM

NEXT SUNDAY

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

Next Sunday's Readings

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17: 16-31

Psalm 66: 8-20

1Peter 3: 13-22

St. John 14: 15-21