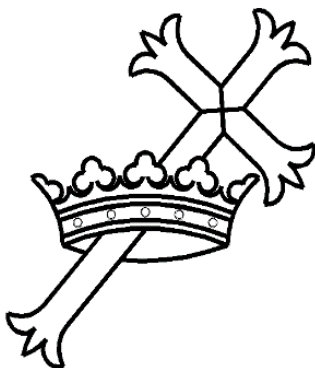


Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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 †

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 21, 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

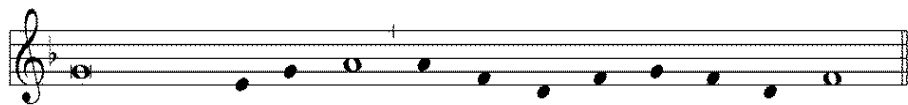
* OPENING HYMN “*You Servants Of God*” LBW 252

*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.

*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**



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Direct our hearts, O Lord, by your merciful reign, because without your help it is impossible to please you. 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'S MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RAMEY

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: Amos 8: 4-7 (ESV)

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy
and bring the poor of the land to an end,

⁵ saying, "When will the new moon be over,
that we may sell grain?

And the Sabbath,

that we may offer wheat for sale,
that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great
and deal deceitfully with false balances,

⁶ that we may buy the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and sell the chaff of the wheat?"

⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
"Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

The Word of God for the people of God!

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 113: 1-9 (ESV)

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

Praise the LORD!

Praise, O servants of the LORD,
praise the name of the LORD!

**² Blessed be the name of the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore!**

**³ From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the LORD is to be praised!**

**⁴ The LORD is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens!**

**⁵ Who is like the LORD our God,
who is seated on high,**

**⁶ who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth?**

**⁷ He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,**

**⁸ to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.**

**⁹ He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.**

Praise the LORD!

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2: 1-15 (ESV)

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man^[a] Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. ⁸ I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; ⁹ likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly

attire,¹⁰ but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.¹¹ Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness.¹² I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.¹³ For Adam was formed first, then Eve;¹⁴ and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.¹⁵ Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

The Word of God for the people of God!

C: Thanks be to God!

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. LUKE 16: 1-15 (ESV)**

He also said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions.² And he called him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’³ And the manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg.⁴ I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to

the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He said, ‘A hundred measures of oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.’ ⁷ Then he said to another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He said, ‘A hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, and write eighty.’ ⁸ The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings. ¹⁰ “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. ¹¹ If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³ No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.” ¹⁴ The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. ¹⁵ And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

P: This is Gospel of our Lord.



SERMON *“Show Me the Money”* Pastor Marty Ramey

*SERMON HYMN *“Beautiful Savior”* LBW 518

***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**



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

***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 memory of Reece and Janie Klutts birthday by their family.

The **Flowers on the stand** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Phyllis Campbell's birthday by Earlene Cox, Karen and Terry Barbee, Leonard and Belinda Campbell and their families.

Church T-shirts are in! Pick up your order from Ashleigh Ennis. Missed out? Ask Ashleigh how to order yours!

Newsletter Articles for **October** are due **TODAY!**

Homecoming is NEXT Sunday, September 28th! We also ask each member to bring a dessert to share at lunch. Thank you!

SHARING SHEPHERDS Brochures and sign-up for the West Virginia Mission are in the mailroom at the front of the church. Assignment and details on the children being provided for will be forthcoming in September. We will collect all gifts in mid-November and travel to West Virginia on Saturday, December 13th, to deliver the gifts and cards to the families. Please give prayerful consideration to helping provide for the least of these, those in great need in an impoverished area of our country. Pastor Marty will be happy to address any questions or concerns you may have: (704) 689-8501.



September 21, 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

Wayne Furr; Chris Goodman; Dorothy Goodman; Harry Goodman;
Norman Goodman; 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

Pastor Charles Barrier; Deena Bost; Pastor Gene Bost;
LeaAnn Buckwell; Pastor Randall Cauble; Pastor Tom Corbell;
Luke Cranford; Vicky Floyd (Friend of Linda Horton – Pulmonary hypertension and a few other diagnosis); David Gandy; Marty Gandy;
David Goforth; Lee Goforth; Barbara Hamilton; Annette Heller;
Candice Horton; Greg Houston; Melissa Krumbien; Gerry Litzinger;
Susie Moore; Karen Morgan; Hank Morris; Lori Pittard (Daughter of Betty Miller – recovery from heart surgery); 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:

Praise List:

- * Tim Aldridge appreciates the prayers during his shoulder surgery recovery.
- * Kelly Odell is recovering from surgery and appreciates the prayers and concern.
- * David Goforth is recovering from surgery at home. He thanks everyone for their prayers and asks for continued prayer for healing and complete recovery.
- * Sally Justice appreciates the prayers during her time in the hospital.

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

Today September 21, 2025

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

NEXT SUNDAY

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

Next Sunday's Readings

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 6: 1-7
Psalm 146: 1-10
1 Timothy 3: 1-13
St Luke 16: 19-31

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