

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

NALC

4500 Rimer Rd, Concord, NC 28025
Church 704-782-8483 Parish Hall 704-795-0445
Parsonage 704-786-3643

The Rev. Rafe Allison, Pastor



Welcome to worship at Cross of Christ!

In the Cross of Christ I glory †

*Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve
December 24, 2021*

OUR ACCOMPANIST PRELUDE

MRS. YVONNE YOST

***PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST**

Many ages after God created the heavens and the earth,
when man and woman were formed
in God's own image;
long after the great flood,
when God set the rainbow in the clouds
as a sign of the covenant;
Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;
Thirteen centuries after Moses led God's people to freedom;
Eleven centuries from the time of Ruth and the judges;
A Thousand years from the anointing of David as king;
in the sixty-fifth week as Daniel's prophecy takes note;
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the founding
of the city of Rome;
the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus;
in the sixth age of the world,
all earth being at peace:
Jesus Christ, eternal God, Son of the Eternal Father,
willing to hallow the world by his coming in mercy,
was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea.
Today is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.
Alleluia, Christ is born! Glory to the newborn king!

GATHERING HYMN

"Joy to the World"

LBW 39

*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

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

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

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

*HYMN OF PRAISE "Angels We Have Heard on High" LBW 289

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light.

Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9: 2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of God for the people of God!
Thanks be to God!

PSALM 96

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

- Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth!
- ² **Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.**
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!
- ⁴ **For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.**
- ⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.
- ⁶ **Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**
- ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!
- ⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!**
- ⁹ Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth!
- ¹⁰ **Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."**
- ¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
- ¹² **let the field exult, and everything in it!**
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
- ¹³ before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.

SECOND READING: Titus 2: 11-14 (ESV)

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

The Word of God for the people of God!
Thanks be to God!

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: St. Luke 2: 1-20 (KJV)

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. ²(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) ³And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) ⁵To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ⁶And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. ⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. ¹⁵And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. ¹⁶And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹But Mary kept all these

things, and pondered *them* in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR RAFE ALLISON

*SERMON HYMN

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

LBW 41

*RESPONSE TO THE WORD

In Christ you have heard the Word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation.

We believe in Him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

Living together in trust and in hope, we confess our faith:

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

Build yourselves up on you most holy faith;

pray in the Holy Spirit

20)

Keep yourselves in the love of God;

look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

21)

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

Everything old has passed away;

behold, everything has become new!

5:17)

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

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.

Amen

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*THE OFFERTORY

(Jude

(Jude

(2Corinthians

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.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful Father,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given 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

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est.

***EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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.

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**

**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 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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

"AWAY IN A MANGER"

LBW 67

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
 strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE: "Thank the Lord"

Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God,
and lead us forth in joy with shouts
of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

Amen

*BENEDICTION

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen

*CANDLELIGHTING

*SENDING HYMN

"Silent Night, Holy Night" LBW 65

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

(* *Please stand as you are able*)

Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license # SB127756.

Christmas Eve Prayer

*Father, you have favored us with the greatest gift ever given—
Your only begotten Son, light of true light, God of true God.
May we never take this, Your gift, for granted.
May our songs of praise never fade.
And may we treasure it in our hearts always and forever.
Bless all of us gathered here in worship as well as our loved
ones at home. May peace and joy ring in our hearts and
reverberate through our communities tonight and always
in the name of Jesus the new-born King we pray.
Amen.*

A Thrivent Action Team project helped to purchase the items to make the Christmas pokes this year. Thank you Larry Barbee and family for heading up this project.

Today – December 24, 2021

Christmas Eve Candle Light

Communion Service 9:00 PM

This Week

Saturday: *MERRY CHRISTMAS !!!*

Christ IS Born!!!

NEXT SUNDAY

9:00 AM Sunday Church School Classes

10:00 AM Family Worship Service

Next Sunday's Readings

First Sunday in Christmas

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Micah 5: 2-5a

Luke 2: 1-7

Luke 2: 8-16

Matthew 2: 1-12

St. John 1: 1-14



www.crossofchristlutheranchurch.org

<http://www.facebook.com/CrossofChristLutheranChurchConcord>

ClericalTeam@Gmail.com