



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

A NALC Congregation



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

*Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026*

(* Please stand as you are able)

OUR ACCOMPANIST

MRS. YVONNE YOST

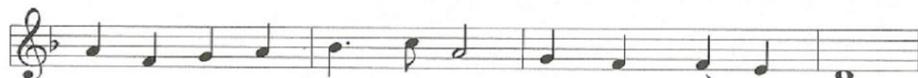
THE SERVICE BEGINS IN SILENCE

***INVOCATION**

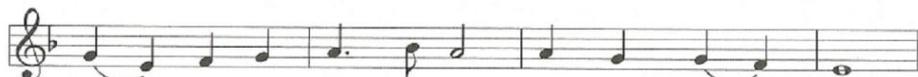
P: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

C: Amen

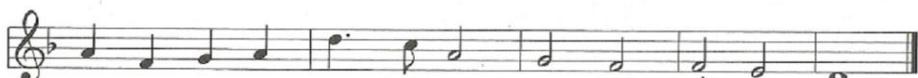
***KYRIE**



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:

***LENTEN ADDRESS**

P: Brothers and Sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but turn to him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love – the disciplines of Lent – help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

***CONFESSION**

P: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Most holy and merciful God:

C: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

P: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives,

C: We confess to you, Lord.

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

C: We confess to you, Lord.

P: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

C: We confess to you, Lord.

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us,

C: We confess to you, Lord.

P: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C: Accept our repentance, Lord.

P: For all false judgments, for our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

C: Accept our repentance, Lord.

P: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

C: Accept our repentance, Lord.

P: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

Amen

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

You may come forward during this time to receive the ashes.

As each in turn receives the ashes the Pastor says:

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” (Gen. 3:19)

After all have returned to their places, the service continues:

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

P: By the Cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,

C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

* HYMN

“Savior When In Dust”

LBW 91

***Prayer Of The Day**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

FIRST READING: JOEL 2: 12-19

²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. ¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. ¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

Here ends the reading.

Psalm 51: 1-19

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

²**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!**

³For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your
sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your
judgment.**

⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

⁶**Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**

⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

¹⁴ **Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.**

¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶ **For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.**

¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

¹⁸ **Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
build up the walls of Jerusalem;**

¹⁹ then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole
burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Second READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10 (ESV)

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. **6** Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³ We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴ but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶ by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy

Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

Here ends the reading.

***THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

***THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21 (ESV)**

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ²“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by

others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁶ “And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor George Rhyne

*SERMON HYMN *“Chief Of Sinners”* LBW 306

RECEIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*THE OFFERTORY

The musical score is written on four staves of a single melodic line in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "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."

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.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C: 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**

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

***THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God; you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will and accomplished our salvation.

In the night in which He was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, 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.”

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving Passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again, we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, not as we ought, but as we are able; and we implore you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving, and, with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine; that we and all who

share in the body and blood of your Son may be filled with heavenly peace and joy, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be sanctified in soul and body, and have our portion with all your saints. All honor and glory are yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, now and forever.

C: Amen

*** THE LORDS 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

COMMUNION HYMNS

WOV 740 & 709

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: Our crucified and risen Lord, Jesus Christ who has now bestowed upon you his holy Body & Blood, by which He has made full satisfaction for all your sins, strengthen & preserve you in the true faith unto everlasting life. Peace be with you.

C: Amen

***CONCLUDING PRAYER**

P: Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of Baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

In the name of the Father, and of ✠ the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

*SENDING HYMN *“Dear Lord and Father Of Mankind”* **LBW 506**

*** THE PREDICTION OF THE PASSION**

P: Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem...

And the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, who will condemn him to death...

And they will hand him over to the Gentiles who will mock him and scourge him, and finally, they will crucify him...

But on the third day, he will rise.

We Depart in Silence

Why the Ashes on Ash Wednesday?

We put ashes on our foreheads in Lent to remember that we are sinners in need of God's grace and mercy.

When our first parents, Adam and Eve, lived in the Garden of Eden they enjoyed the perfect love and perfect communion with the Lord. God instructed them not to eat from the tree in the middle of the garden. But Satan, the enemy, twisted God's words and created doubt in their minds. They wondered, "Does God really have our best interests at heart? Can we really trust Him or is He holding out some special secret or power from us?"

The first couple believed the lie. They ate against God's clear instructions. They wanted to be like the Creator, to control their own lives rather than be obedient to God. This was the first sin-and every human since Adam and Eve has committed similar sins because we want to be in charge of our own lives rather than be faithful to God.

God searched for couple after they had sinned. He knew they were ashamed and He covered them. But because of their disobedience they were cast from the garden and would spend their lives working the land and toiling for their needs. To the woman God pronounced pain in childbirth. To the serpent God cursed him to slither on the ground and eat dirt. And to Adam God said, "By the sweat of our face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust and to dust you shall return."

When ashes are rubbed on our forehead on Ash Wednesday, we hear these words, "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return".

These ashes are a sign of our sin, but also of God's forgiveness. When God forgives us, it's like he cleans our hearts from dirt and soot caused by sin.

Ashes were used in the old days to clean- strange idea isn't it? But it's true! Ash plus water makes a soap-like paste. The ashes on our foreheads are also a symbol that we will someday die. To understand that we have to remember the story of Adam and Eve.

God made Adam out of dust when He breathed life into Adam's body. When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden by eating the fruit from the tree that God told them to stay away from, God sent them away and death became real. They would no longer live forever with God in that perfect garden. They would have to go out on their own and farm the fields for food and build their own shelter.

Ashes remind us of our sin, but they remind us of God's promise in Jesus Christ that we will live eternally with Him. We can trust that God's promises are true!