

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

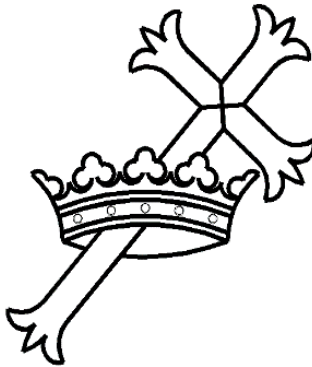
4500 Rimer Rd, Concord, NC 28025

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 †

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost
July 23, 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 *“Love Divine”* LBW 315

*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.

*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.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the staves. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system continues the melody and accompaniment.

*SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of glory, Father of love,

peace comes from you alone. Send us as peacemakers and witnesses to your kingdom, and fill our hearts with joy in your promises of salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: Isaiah 44: 6-8 (ESV)

⁶ Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:

“I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷ Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.

Let him declare and set it before me,
since I appointed an ancient people.

Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.

⁸ Fear not, nor be afraid;

have I not told you from of old and declared it?

And you are my witnesses!

Is there a God besides me?

There is no Rock; I know not any.”

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 119: 57-64 (ESV)

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

⁵⁷ The Lord is my portion;

I promise to keep your words.

⁵⁸ **I entreat your favor with all my heart;**

be gracious to me according to your promise.

⁵⁹ When I think on my ways,

I turn my feet to your testimonies;

⁶⁰ **I hasten and do not delay**

to keep your commandments.

⁶¹ Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me,

I do not forget your law.

⁶² **At midnight I rise to praise you,**

because of your righteous rules.

⁶³ I am a companion of all who fear you,

of those who keep your precepts.

⁶⁴ **The earth, O Lord, is full of your steadfast love;**

teach me your statutes!

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8: 18-27 (ESV)

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation

waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

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. Matthew, the 13th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. MATTHEW 13: 24-30, 36-43 (ESV)**

²⁴He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ ²⁸He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.” ³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

This is Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

***SERMON HYMN “*My Hope Is Built*” LBW 293**

***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



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**

“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”

LBW 343

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

*** Please stand as you are able)**

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The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in honor of the birthday of Kay Barbee by Larry Barbee and family.

Newsletter Articles for August are due today

Outreach Committee is asking for your help again. The MP Food Ministry is in need of personal hygiene products. Needed items are: **Shampoo, conditioners, deodorants for male and female, shower gel, toothbrushes, toothpaste, body lotion and female products.**

This drive will start this **Sunday the 23rd thru Sunday August 13th.**

Thank you again for your support!

Jubal Strube is looking for donations of **point and shoot digital cameras** for his art classes. You can give to Jubal or Jodie Strube. Thank you!

Youth Sunday Is July 30th.

Weekly Offering Report For: <u>Week No: 29</u> <u>Date: July 16, 2023</u>			
2023 Weekly Needs: \$3,674.98		YTD Budget Needs: \$106,574.42	
<u>Last Week</u>			
General Tithes Received \$2,945.00		YTD Gen. Tithes Received \$103,259.00	
Last week (Deficit) (\$729.98)		YTD (Deficit) (\$3,315.42)	



July 23, 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; Tom Harkins (recovery from procedure on 7/19); Candice Horton; Doris & Frank Kluttz; Carl Pless; Carson Seagraves; John & Linda Trull; Dot Weast; Rand Yost.

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison (Okinawa, Japan)

Friends of Cross of Christ

Family of Rusty Smith

Veronica Barber and family and fiancée Jeff; David Buckland; LeaAnne Buckwell; Delores Carpenter; Mary Cox; Steve & Angie Dixon; Alisa Erts; Jane Faggart; Pastor Jeff Faggart; Wanda Floyd; Joyce Furr; Ralph Furr; Alley Handy; Brandon Lewis; Kaye and Gerry Litzinger; Ensley Morgan; Karen Morgan; Steve Parker; Ronnie Procter; Lettie Reid (Recovering from leg surgery and rehabilitation to start soon), Susan Starling; Connie Walters; Candace Yates; Vickey Belk Young

Serving in the Military

Jonathan Preston

General Prayer Concerns

Praise List:

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

Today - July 23, 2023

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

NEXT SUNDAY

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

Next Sunday's Readings

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 7: 6-9

Psalm 125

Romans 8: 28-39

St. Matthew 13: 44-52