



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 †*

*First Sunday In Lent  
February 22, 2026*

(\* 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: In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for His sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

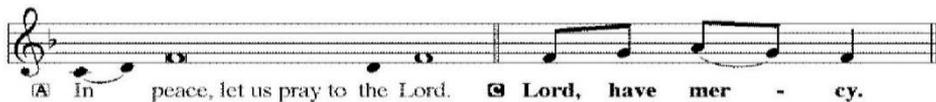
**C: Amen**

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

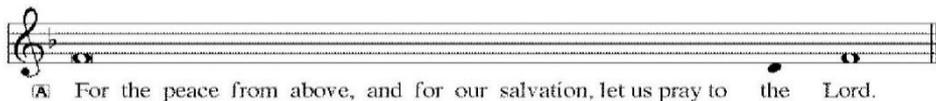
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

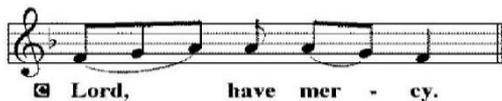
### \*LENTEN KYRIE



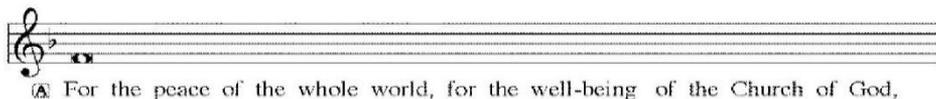
Ⓐ In peace, let us pray to the Lord.    Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.



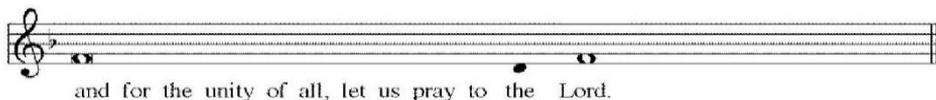
Ⓐ For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.



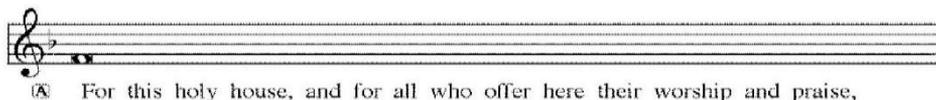
Ⓐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

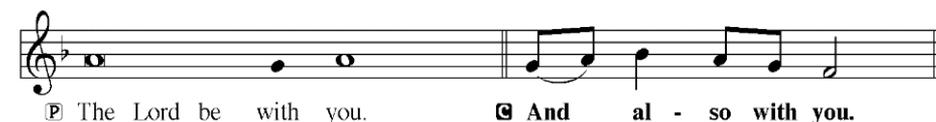


let us pray to the Lord.    Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.    Ⓞ A - men

### \*SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY



Ⓞ The Lord be with you.    Ⓞ And al - so with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O Lord God,

O Lord God, you would have us put no trust in anything we do. Mercifully grant that by your power we may be defended against all adversity; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

### **FIRST READING: GENESIS 3: 1-21 (ESV)**

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"<sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,<sup>3</sup> but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"<sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.<sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."<sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.<sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.<sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.<sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"<sup>10</sup> And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."<sup>11</sup> He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"<sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."<sup>14</sup> The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.<sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise

his heel.” <sup>16</sup> To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” <sup>17</sup> And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your 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.” <sup>20</sup> The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. <sup>21</sup> And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

The Word of God for the people of God!

**Thanks be to God!**

**PSALM 32: 1-7**

**READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE**

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

**<sup>2</sup> Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

<sup>3</sup> For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.

**<sup>4</sup> For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup> I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;  
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”  
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**<sup>6</sup> Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time  
when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters,  
they shall not reach him.**

<sup>7</sup> You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

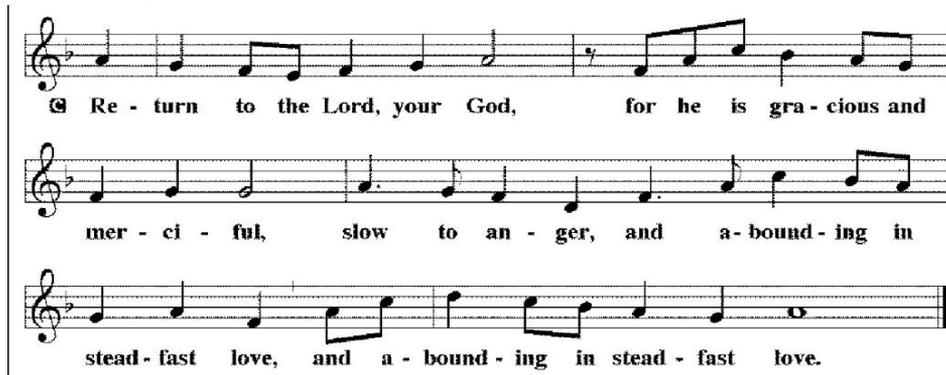
**SECOND READING: ROMANS 5: 12-19 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— <sup>13</sup> for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even

over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.<sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.<sup>16</sup> And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.<sup>17</sup> For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.<sup>18</sup> Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.<sup>19</sup> For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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

**\*LENTEN 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.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. Matthew 4: 1-11 (ESV)**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.<sup>2</sup> And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.<sup>3</sup> And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”<sup>4</sup> But he answered, “It is written, “‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”<sup>5</sup> Then

the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple <sup>6</sup> and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ““He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ““On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.””<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup> And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, ““You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.”” <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

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

SERMON

LARRY BARBEE

\*SERMON HYMN      *“I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus”*      *LBW 460*

\*APOSTLES' CREED

**C: 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



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all his ben-e-fits to me? I will



of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will call on the name of the Lord.



I will take the cup of sal-va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord.



I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all his peo-ple,



in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru-sa-lem.

\*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

\*THE LORD'S 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**

**\*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**

*“Blessed Assurance”*

*WOV 699*

**\*DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

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***First Sunday in Lent***

*This Sunday’s Gospel marks the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry as the Spirit pronounces him “Son of God” and drives him into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. We, too, in our baptism, are pronounced children of God, which means we will face similar trials and temptations as our Lord did. The good news for us is that we will never be alone in our trials; Christ goes before us and remains with us.*

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God in honor of Leonard Campbell and Earlene Cox birthdays by Larry Barbee and family.

We would like to thank Larry Barbee for leading our service today.

The **CSI Youth Group** will meet this afternoon at 3:30.

**March** newsletter articles are due **TODAY**.



This Week at Cross of Christ  
Free Oyster Stew & Potato Soup Night  
Saturday, February 28 • 5:00 PM  
A Completely Free Community Meal

Cross of Christ will host a warm and welcoming Free Oyster Stew & Potato Soup Night this Saturday at 5:00 PM. This free community meal is offered with no cost and no expectations — simply as an act of love during the Lenten season.

Lent invites us into humble service, much like Niam in 1 Kings 4:15, whose quiet work of feeding others sustained the kingdom. Through simple hospitality — a warm bowl of stew, a cup of soup, a place at the table — we shine Christ's light in our community. As Hebrews 13:2 reminds us, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it."

Invite everyone you meet this week. Let this be an opportunity to open our doors so someone may experience the welcome, warmth, and love of Christ.

All are invited. All are welcome.

**February 28 - 5-7 PM**

This is the last Sunday to donate food drive for the Mt. Pleasant Food Bank Non-perishable food items will be collected. Currently greatest needs are peanut butter, canned fruit, canned meat, soup, canned potatoes, canned beans of any kind, and juice. Currently no green beans or corn are needed. Items in plastic, cans, or boxes are preferred. Boxes will be down front on the pulpit side for collection, and beside the fireplace at breakfast. Please help spread the word to your family and friends that attend our breakfast. Thank you.

**Easter Lilies and Geraniums** will be placed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 5th. If you would like to order, the cost is \$15.00 for Lilies and \$15.00 for Geraniums. Please place money in an envelope with how many and which flower you are ordering on it and place the envelope in the offering plate. Please give your information, including which flower(s) you ordered and about who you would like to put the flowers in honor or memory of to Meredith Harrison by **March 22nd**.



February 22, 2026

*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 [prayerccl@gmail.com](mailto:prayerccl@gmail.com) by Tuesday 5 PM.*

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people... 1 Timothy 2:1*

### **In the Fellowship of Cross of Christ**

Roy Gray; Jodie Strube (3 day stay in hospital for heart tests)  
Call Process prayer requests: 1) Cross of Christ Church; 2) Call Committee; 3) Prospective pastors see our profile/video and consider a call here.

### **Shut-Ins**

Bob and Joann Barrier; Brenda Barrier; Norman Goodman;  
Nell Hatley; John Trull.

### **Friends of Cross of Christ**

Family of David Goforth

Roddy Ballard; LeaAnn Buckwell; Addie Drye; Ed Duncan;  
April Funderburke; Lee Gorforth; Candice Horton; Cynthia Horton;  
Alicia McQueen; Susan Starling; Ruthie O'brien (Junior at MPHS  
Friend of Shelbie Bost – Currently in the hospital fighting an  
autoimmune disease); Daniel Pless; Jacob Rodgers; Nick Smith;  
Melanie Thrift (Daughter of Raymond and Kaye Davis – Lung cancer);  
Max Vanderburg; Bob Wilson (Husband of Linda Wilson – Ongoing  
health concerns); Candace Yates

Carolina Mission Region Seminarians: Melanie Corn, Robert Dernbach,  
Lucas Safrit

### **Serving in the Military**

Eaven Allison (Fairbanks, Alaska)

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

**Today – February 22, 2026**

Sunday Church School	9:00 AM
Family Worship Service	10:00 AM
CSI Meeting	3:30 PM

**This Week**

**MON:** 7 – 8:30 PM Soldiers of the Cross of Christ Practice

**WED:** 7PM Women’s Bible Study

**SAT:** 5:00 PM Oyster Stew/Potato soup meal

**NEXT SUNDAY**

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

**Next Sunday's Readings**

*Second Sunday in Lent*

Genesis 12: 1-9

Psalm 121: 1-8

Romans 4: 1-8, 13-17

St. John 3: 1-17