



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 †

Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023

OUR ACCOMPANIST

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

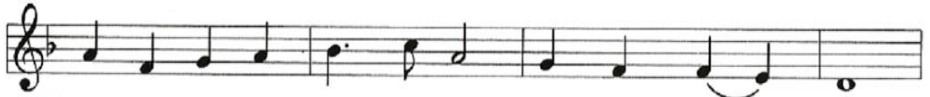
“Come Thou Almighty King” LBW 522

*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.

*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:

*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 ever shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men.

*SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Holy God,

by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world, rescuing us from the hopelessness of death. Grant your faithful people a share in the joys that are eternal; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: Acts 2: 14a, 36-41 (ESV)

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” ³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 116: 1-14 (ESV)

Read Responsively by Verse

I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my pleas for mercy.

**² Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

³ The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.

**⁴ Then I called on the name of the LORD:
“O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”**

⁵ Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
our God is merciful.

**⁶ The LORD preserves the simple;
when I was brought low, he saved me.**

- ⁷ Return, O my soul, to your rest;
for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.
- ⁸ **For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling;**
- ⁹ I will walk before the LORD
in the land of the living.
- ¹⁰ **I believed, even when I spoke:
“I am greatly afflicted”;**
- ¹¹ I said in my alarm,
“All mankind are liars.”
- ¹² **What shall I render to the LORD
for all his benefits to me?**
- ¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD,
- ¹⁴ **I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.**

SECOND READING: 1Peter 1: 17-25 (ESV)

¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. ²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴ for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the

Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

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. Luke, the 24th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. LUKE 24: 13-35 (ESV)**

¹³ That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” ¹⁹ And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third

day since these things happened. ²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” ²⁵ And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. ²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

This is Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR RAFE ALLISON

*Sermon Hymn

“O God Our Help”

LBW 320

***NICENE CREED**

**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**

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 *“Now All The Vault”* **LBW 143**

*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 by the congregation.

May Newsletter Articles are due **TODAY**.

If you are a High School or College Graduate, please submit your write up for the May newsletter **TODAY**.

Community Outreach Committee: Spaghetti Meal with salad, garlic bread, tea and pound cake on **May 6th, 5-7 PM** or we run out in the Parish Hall. Please invite your friends and neighbors.

HOLD THE DATE-MAY 20, 2023 is the Spring Car & Truck Show in conjunction with our monthly breakfast with the addition of lunch. At this time, we are asking for volunteers (Parking, Breakfast and Lunch support, etc). If you are available to help us out, let Belinda Campbell or Earlene Cox know so we can coordinate with the team. We will have baskets, at the exit doors, as you leave the Church **TODAY** for donations for desserts and other items as needed. If you want to have your donation recorded on your Church record, use one of the envelopes at your pews, and just write "Car Show Donation" on it. Thank you again for your help with this Car Show.

The Rite of Confirmation will be celebrated on **Pentecost Sunday, May 28**. Our confirmands are Kaylee Barbee and Caydee Holder. We pray God's continued blessing and guidance be with them!

Graduates in the congregation will be recognized and congratulated on Sunday of the Holy Trinity, **June 4**. Congratulations to all our graduates!

I am excited to announce that after two long months of work, the tennis and basketball facilities at Cross of Christ are finally finished and open for use! The courts have had deep cracks pressure washed out and old concrete filler and plants removed, cracks refilled and painted over, tennis court and part of basketball court resurfaced and painted, all court lines repainted, new pickleball lines painted on the tennis courts, new backboards with breakaway rims and nets installed, new tennis net and scorecard, new trash can and two new benches added to the area. Overall approximately \$3100.00 was donated and used to renovate the facility (the average cost of resurfacing one tennis court alone in NC is \$7000.00).

Upon presentation of the project, I received a perfect score on my Senior Project and I'd like to thank everyone who donated and supported my work over the last few months. Special thanks to those who helped me with the fundraising meal, donated money, and Wayne Furr for donating materials, helping with all the work and for guiding me through this process. **The courts are secured with a combination lock at this time and the code is 4500 (4500 is the church address).** Please reset the lock each time you use the facilities in order to keep things intact and in working order. Thank you again for all of your support and I hope everyone will enjoy the use of these courts for years to come!

Kensi Bell

Weekly Offering Report For: Week No: 16 Date: April 16, 2023
2023 Weekly Needs: \$3,674.98 YTD Budget Needs: \$58,799.68

Last Week

General Tithes Received \$3,540.00 YTD Gen. Tithes Received \$55,308.00
Last week (Deficit) (\$134.98) YTD (Deficit) (\$3,491.68)



April 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

Chris Bost (Heart procedure); John Faggart; Joyce Harkins; Candice Horton; Doris & Frank Kluttz; Betty Miller; Carl Pless; John & Linda Trull; Dot Weast; Bob Yost; Rand and Yvonne Yost

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison (Okinawa, Japan)

Friends of Cross of Christ

Veronica Barber and family and fiancée Jeff; David Buckland; LeaAnne Buckwell; Judy Coble (Friend of Susan Caudle – Hip replacement surgery scheduled for 5/31/2023, currently experiencing a lot of pain); Mary Cox; Steve & Angie Dixon; Jane Faggart; Pastor Jeff Faggart; Wanda Floyd; Joyce Furr; Ralph Furr; Brandon Lewis; Kaye and Gerry Litzinger; Ensley Morgan; Karen Morgan; Steve Parker; Shelley Potts; Ronnie Procter; Susan Starling; Connie Walters; Candace Yates; Vickey Belk Young

General Prayer Concerns

The People of Ukraine

Those impacted by earthquakes in Turkey and Syria

Praise List:

*Amanda Faggart – prayers were appreciated during the recent surgery recovery

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

Today April 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

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1Peter 2: 19-25

St. John 10: 1-10