



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 In Lent

March 12, 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

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.

Amen

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.

Most merciful God,

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

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for you and, for his sake, God forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

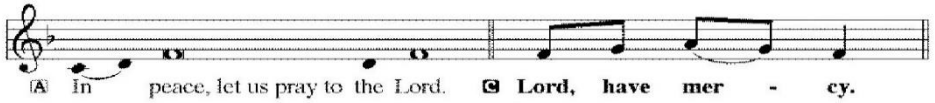
* OPENING HYMN *“Lord Speak To Us, That We May Speak”* LBW 403

***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

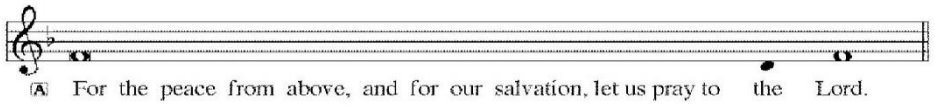
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

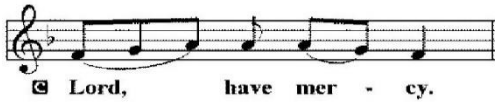
***KYRIE**



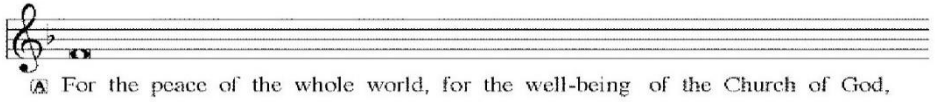
Ⓐ In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ⓐ Lord, have mer - cy.



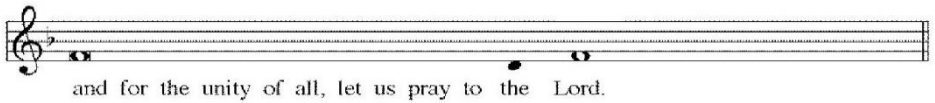
Ⓐ For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



ⓐ Lord, have mer - cy.



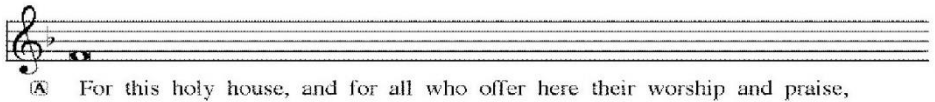
Ⓐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



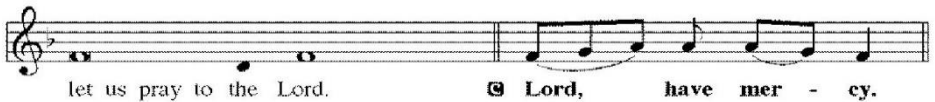
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



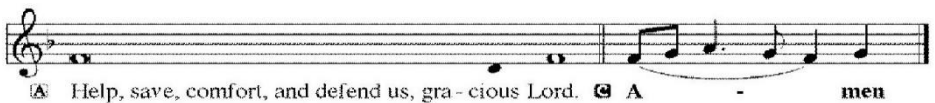
ⓐ Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ 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.

Let us pray. Eternal Lord,
your Kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your Word and obey it, so that we become instruments of your redeeming love; 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: Ezekiel 33: 7-20 (ESV)

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul. ¹⁰“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ ¹¹Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel? ¹²“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness^[a] when he sins. ¹³Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. ¹⁴Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, ¹⁵if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ¹⁶None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live. ¹⁷“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. ¹⁸When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. ¹⁹And when the wicked turns from his

wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by this. ²⁰ Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

PSALM 85

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

LORD, you were favorable to your land;

you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**² You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you covered all their sin.**

³ You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.

**⁴ Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us!**

⁵ Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

**⁶ Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?**

⁷ Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

**⁸ Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.**

⁹ Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

**¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

¹¹ Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

**¹² Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.**

¹³ Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 10: 1-13 (ESV)

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual

Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. ⁶ Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰ nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹² Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

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. Luke, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: St. Luke 13: 1-9 (ESV)

There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other

Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”⁶ And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ ⁸And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”

This is Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR RAFE ALLISON

*SERMON HYMN

“Come To Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

LBW 301

*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



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

**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**

*SENDING HYMN *“When Peace Like A River”* **LBW 346**

Refrain

It is well, with my soul,

It is well, with my soul,

It is well, it is well, with my soul.

*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 memory of Terry and Mary Ann Sifford by Meredith, John, Marianna, Emma and Justin.

The **PBnJ Youth** Group will meet **TODAY** at 3:30 PM.

If you are participating in the **Living Last Supper** on Maundy Thursday please meet Jodie down front **TODAY** for a brief meeting.

Easter Lilies and Geraniums will be placed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. If you would like to order, the cost is **\$14** for Lilies and **\$16** 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 about who you would like to put the flowers in honor or memory of to Meredith Harrison by **March 26th**.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt **Saturday April 1st from 12:30-2:00**. Children ages 2-8 are welcome to join us in hunting eggs, story time, cookie decorating, and a craft! The Easter Bunny will also be hopping around and ready for pictures! Please note the date change!

It's time to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2022. The last date to direct your Dollars is **March 31, 2023**. You can do this online or by calling your Thrivent representative, Gary Samuelson at 704-506-3234. Thrivent Choice Dollars are available to anyone that has life insurance or annuities with Thrivent. Our church is one of the organizations you may direct your Dollars to.

2023 Lenten Study: 6 Marks of Christian Discipleship

Fourth Mark: Wednesday, March 15

Fifth Mark: Wednesday, March 22

Sixth Mark: Wednesday, March 29

**All Service Times are at 7:00PM in the Sanctuary*



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday April 2 Palm/Passion Sunday 10:00 AM
Thursday April 6 Maundy Thursday/Living Last Supper 7:00 PM
Friday April 7 Good Friday Service 7:00 PM
Sunday April 9 Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 AM
Sunday April 9 Easter Morning Breakfast 7:30 AM
Sunday April 9 Easter Holy Communion **9:00 AM**



March 12, 2023

A little reminder about our prayer list.

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

Amanda Faggart; John Faggart; Joyce Harkins; Candice Horton; Doris & Frank Kluttz; Carl Pless; John & Linda Trull; Dot Weast; Bob Yost

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison (Okinawa, Japan)

Friends of Cross of Christ

Family of Barbara Rogers Jones (Pastor Allison's aunt)
Veronica Barber and family and fiancée Jeff; Bettie Bean;
David Buckland; LeaAnne Buckwell; Mary Cox; Steve & Angie Dixon;
Jane Faggart; Pastor Jeff Faggart; Wanda Floyd; Joyce Furr; Ralph Furr;
Brandon Lewis; Kaye and Gerry Litzinger; Ensley Morgan; Steve Parker;
Shelley Potts (Niece of Kelly Caudle – motorcycle accident recovery);
Ronnie Procter; Susan Starling; Connie Walters; Candace Yates (Daughter of Sharon Duncan's Cousin – Returned to the US – treatment for diagnosed lung cancer to be planned); Vickey Belk Young

General Prayer Concerns

The People of Ukraine
Those impacted by earthquakes in Turkey and Syria

Praise List

Vickey Young (cousin of Robin Drye) – she would like to thank everyone for their prayers while she underwent her shoulder replacement surgery and rehab afterwards. She was recently released from therapy and can finally raise her arm over her head. During this time, she broke her foot and it has now healed as well. Please continue to keep Vickey in your prayers as she will be having colon surgery soon.

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

Today – March 12, 2023

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

THIS WEEK

WED: 7:00 PM Lenten service
(in the sanctuary)

SAT: 7-11 AM Monthly Breakfast

NEXT SUNDAY

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

Next Sunday's Readings

Fourth Sunday In Lent

Isaiah 12: 1-6

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5: 16-21

St Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

www.crossofchristlutheranchurch.org

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ClericalTeam@Gmail.com