



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

The Rev. Marty Ramey, Interim Pastor
A NALC Congregation



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

First Sunday After Christmas
December 28, 2025

(* 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: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our 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.

C: Amen

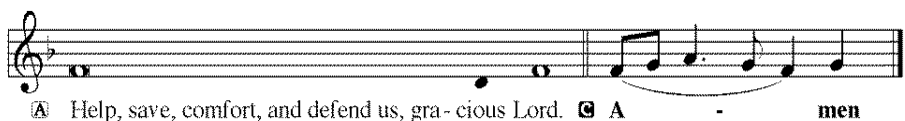
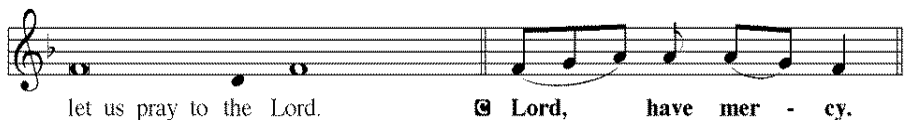
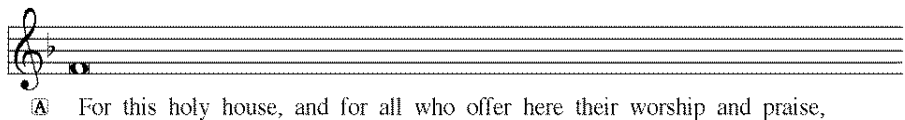
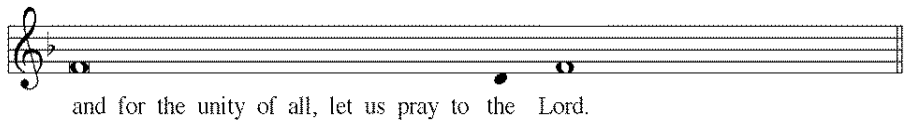
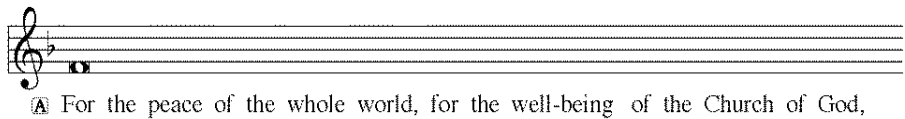
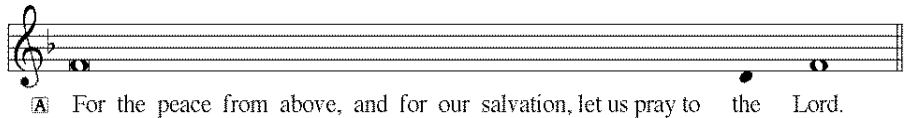
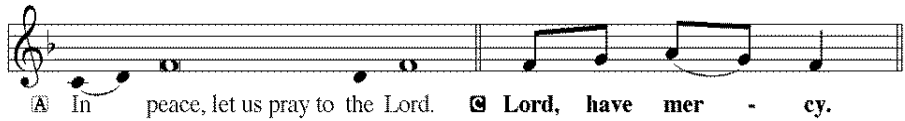
* OPENING HYMN *“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”* LBW 55

***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.

***KYRIE**



*HYMN OF PRAISE: "Glory to God"



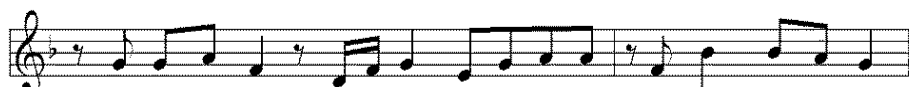
♩ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



♩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

*SALUTATION



♩ The Lord be with you.

♩ And al - so with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature and be born of the Virgin Mary. Grant that we, having been redeemed and made your children by grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RAMEY

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: Isaiah 63: 7-14 (ESV)

I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And he became their Savior.⁹ In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. ¹¹Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit,¹² who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, ¹³who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. ¹⁴Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So you led your people to make for yourself a glorious name.

The Word of God for the people of God!

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalms 111 : 1-10

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**²Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.**

³Full of splendor and majesty is his work,

and his righteousness endures forever.

**⁴ He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.**

⁵ He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

**⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.**

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;

**⁸ they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

⁹ He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!

**¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!**

SECOND READING: Galatians 4: 4-7 (ESV)

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

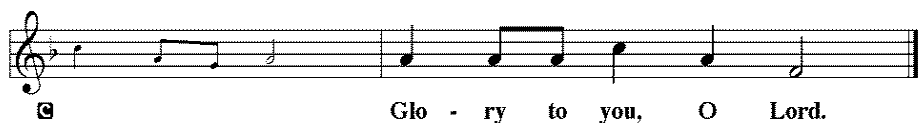
The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



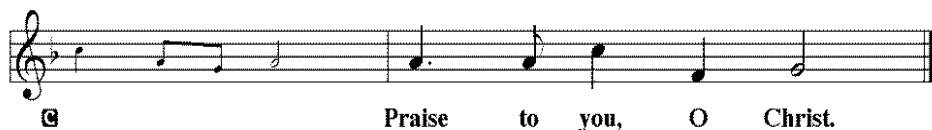
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter.



THE HOLY GOSPEL: St. Matthew 2: 13-23 (ESV)

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.” ¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.” ¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead.” ²¹ And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³ And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

P: This is Gospel of our Lord.



SERMON

“Comfort and Joy”

PASTOR MARTY RAMEY

*SERMON HYMN

“What Child Is This”

LBW 40

***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 worshipped 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**



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.

***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 “Go Tell It On The Mountain” LBW 70**

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

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Altar Flowers have been placed in honor of Pastor Ramey's service to Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, by the church.

We extend our sincere appreciation for Pastor Ramey's dedicated and faithful service to Cross of Christ. We offer our warmest regards and best wishes as she embarks on her next professional endeavor.

Our Christmon tree and advent decorations will be taken down **NEXT Sunday Jan 4th** immediately following service. This process does not take long but does require lots of helpful hands! Thank you in advance for lending a hand! Gail and Kristi

Please see Suzanne Bost for all **new** and **reoccurring** parish hall rentals/events for 2026. Thank you!

Reminder: if you have an announcement or altar flower dedication for the bulletin, **please email Clerical email by 5PM the Wednesday** before the Sunday you need in the bulletin. It's helpful to put in the subject line "for bulletin on (date)" with the date needed. Thank you.

Reminder: the current Prayer list will reset, so all names need to be **resubmitted** if they are requested to be shown starting in 2026.



December 28, 2025

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 prayercclc@gmail.com by Tuesday 5PM.

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

Walker Drye; Roy Gray; Dorothy Goodman; Harry Goodman;
Norman Goodman; Amy Preston; John Trull; Linda Trull.

Call Process prayer requests: 1) Cross of Christ Church; 2) Call Committee; 3) Prospective pastors see our profile/video and consider a call here.

Friends of Cross of Christ

Family of Vicky Floyd (Friend of Linda Horton)
J.D. Almond; Pastor Charles Barrier; Kathryn Blick; Deena Bost;
Pastor Gene Bost; Myra Bost; LeaAnn Buckwell;
Pastor Randall Cauble; Pastor Tom Corbell; Luke Cranford;
April Funderburke; David Gandy; Marty Gandy; David Goforth;
Lee Goforth; Barbara Hamilton; Annette Heller; Candice Horton;
Greg Houston; Jimmy Howard; Melissa Krumbien; Gerry Litzinger;
Susie Moore; Karen Morgan; Hank Morris; Daniel Pless; Lettie Reid;
Blake Rogers; Jacob Rodgers; Nick Smith; Susan Starling;
Veronica Williams; Candace Yates; Vickey Belk Young.

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison (Fairbanks, Alaska)

General Prayer Concerns:

Rimer Fire Department

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

Today – December 28, 2025

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

THURS: Happy New Year

NEXT SUNDAY

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

Next Sunday's Readings

Second Sunday of Christmas

1 Kings 3: 4-15
Psalm 119: 97-104
Ephesians 1: 3-14
St. Luke 2: 40-52

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