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# *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 †*

*Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost  
November 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**

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    *“Rejoice The Lord Is King”*    **LBW 171**

\*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 treble staff. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, and the second system covers the second line. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and some melodic lines.

\*SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Lord God,

**so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, always keeping in mind the end of all things and the day of judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of life here and may live with you forever in the world to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

**FIRST READING: Amos 5: 18-24 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why would you have the day of the Lord? It is darkness, and not light, <sup>19</sup> as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. <sup>20</sup> Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? <sup>21</sup> “I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. <sup>22</sup> Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. <sup>23</sup> Take away from me the

noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen.  
<sup>24</sup> But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

**PSALM 70 (ESV) READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE**

Make haste, O God, to deliver me!

O LORD, make haste to help me!

<sup>2</sup> **Let them be put to shame and confusion  
who seek my life!**

**Let them be turned back and brought to dishonor  
who delight in my hurt!**

<sup>3</sup> Let them turn back because of their shame  
who say, "Aha, Aha!"

<sup>4</sup> **May all who seek you  
rejoice and be glad in you!**

**May those who love your salvation  
say evermore, "God is great!"**

<sup>5</sup> But I am poor and needy;  
hasten to me, O God!

You are my help and my deliverer;  
O LORD, do not delay!

**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup> For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will

descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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 25<sup>nd</sup> chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**\*THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. MATTHEW 25: 1-13 (ESV)**

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for

yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup> And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup> Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup> But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup> Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

This is Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

PASTOR RAFE ALLISON

\*SERMON HYMN    *“O Master Let Me Walk With Thee”*    **LBW 492**

**\*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.**

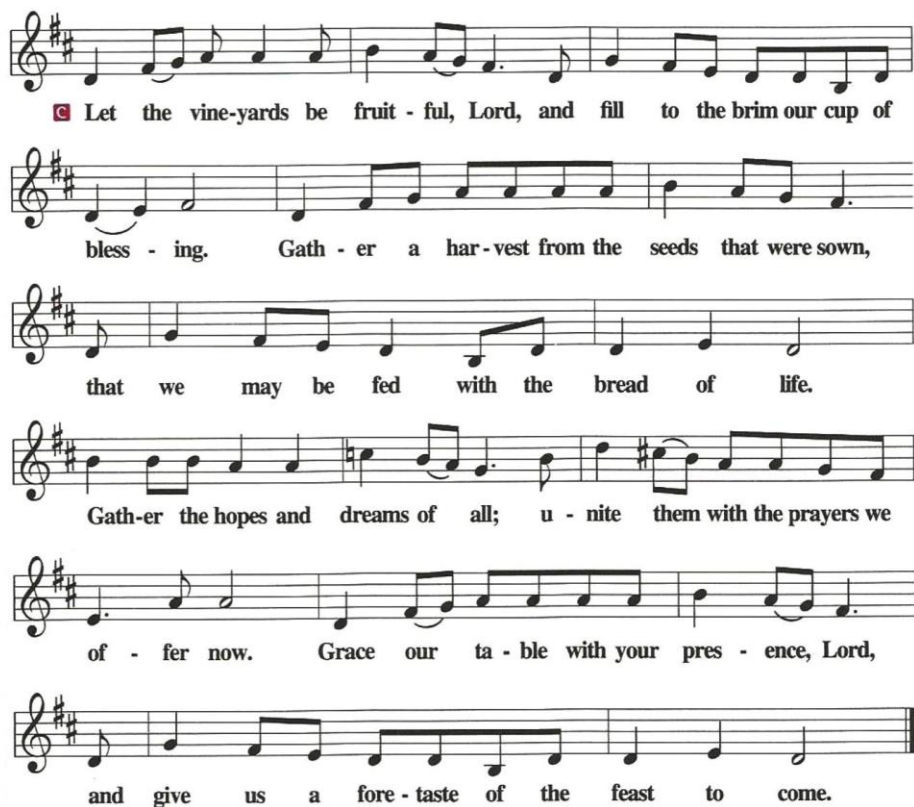
**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**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    *“Blessed Assurance”*    *WOV 699*

\*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 the honor of Veteran's Day and the birthday of the US Marines Corps by Ed Sverko & family.

The Annual Congregation Meeting is **TODAY** after service.

**PBnJ** meets today at 3:30.

**Noah** will meet tomorrow night at 6:30.

Please visit the **Coltrane LIFE Center's** bake sale on Thursday 11.16.23 from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm, 321 Corban Ave SE, Concord, NC 28025  
Remaining Bazaar items and canned goods will also be there.

The **monthly breakfast** is this Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.

The **Outreach Committee** is sponsoring the Toys for Tots this year. The boxes will be at the back of sanctuary. New, unwrapped toys for all ages are needed. **Our church will collect toys thru Dec. 10th.** Just think of the smiles on the children's faces this Christmas morning. Thank you for your generosity.

We will be placing **Poinsettias** in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 24th. If you would like to place one or several in honor or in memory of a loved one, please let Meredith know by Sunday, **December 10th.** The cost this year is **\$9.25.** Money should be placed in the offering plate and information about plants should be given to Meredith. Thank you!

The **2024** Altar Flower Calendar has been placed in the mailroom.

**Weekly Offering Report For: Week No: 45      Date: November 5, 2023**

2023 Weekly Needs:    \$3,674.98      YTD Budget Needs:      \$165,374.10

**Last Week**

General Tithes Received \$3,780.00    YTD Gen. Tithes Received \$161,376.11

Last week Above Needs \$105.02              YTD (Deficit)              (\$3,997.99)



**November 12, 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**

Scott Barringer; Sharon Duncan; John Faggart; Joyce Harkins;  
Tom Harkins (Surgery recovery); Doris Kluttz;  
Frank Kluttz (Northeast Hospital); Carl Pless; John & Linda Trull;  
Dot Weast; Megan Youngblood

**Friends of Cross of Christ**

Veronica Barber and family and fiancée Jeff; David Buckland;  
LeaAnne Buckwell; Delores Carpenter; Steve & Angie Dixon;  
Alisa Erts; Jane Faggart; Pastor Jeff Faggart; Wanda Floyd; Joyce Furr;  
Ralph Furr; David Goforth; Alley Handy; Annette Heller (Mother of  
Ashley Eller, the Daughter in law of James and Anna Bailey –  
Diagnosed with Cancer and has started chemotherapy); Candice Horton;  
Sonny Kluttz; Melissa Krumbien; Brandon Lewis;  
Kaye and Gerry Litzinger; Ensley Morgan; Karen Morgan; Bea Nagel;  
Steve Parker; Ronnie Procter; Lettie Reid; Susan Starling;  
Stephanie Vincent; Connie Walters; Candace Yates;  
Vickey Belk Young.

**Serving in the Military**

Eaven Allison (Okinawa, Japan); Jonathan Preston

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

**Today – November 12, 2023**

Sunday Church School 9:00 AM  
Family Worship Service 10:00 AM  
Annual Congregation Meeting 11:00 AM

**THIS WEEK**

**MON 6:30 PM** NOAH Prayer Shawl Meeting  
**THURS 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM** Coltrane Life Center Bake Sell  
(remaining bazaar items & canned goods available)  
**SAT 7:00 AM-11:00 AM** Monthly Breakfast

**NEXT SUNDAY**

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

**Next Sunday's Readings**

*Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost*

Zephaniah 1: 7-16  
Psalm 90: 1-12  
Thessalonians 5: 1-11  
2 Corinthians 5: 16-25