

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

NALC

4500 Rimer Rd, Concord, NC 28025
Church 704-782-8483 Parish Hall 704-795-0445
Parsonage 704-786-3643

The Rev. Rafe Allison, Pastor



Welcome to worship at Cross of Christ!

In the Cross of Christ I glory †

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Youth Sunday
September 11, 2022

PRELUDE *I Have This Hope* by 10th Ave North

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessing of Our Sunday School Teachers & Students

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION & 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 us , forgive us all our sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

***OPENING HYMN** *Great Are You Lord* by One Sonic Society

You give life, You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore
Every heart that is broken
Great are You, Lord
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise, we pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only
Great are You, Lord
You give life, You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore
Every heart that is broken
Great are You, Lord
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise, we pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise, we pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only
All the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing
Great are You, Lord
All the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing
Great are You, Lord
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise, we pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise, we pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only
Great are You, Lord

***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.

***SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. God of all creation,

you reach out to call people of all nations to your kingdom. As you gather disciples from near and far, count us also among those who boldly confess your Son, Jesus Christ as Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43: 1-7 (ESV)

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. ⁵Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. ⁶I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, ⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 82: 1-8

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

God has taken his place in the divine council;
in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:

² **"How long will you judge unjustly
and show partiality to the wicked?"**

³ Give justice to the weak and the fatherless;
maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.

⁴ **Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked."**

⁵ They have neither knowledge nor understanding,
they walk about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

⁶ **I said, "You are gods,
sons of the Most High, all of you;**

⁷ nevertheless, like men you shall die,
and fall like any prince."

⁸ **Arise, O God, judge the earth;
for you shall inherit all the nations!**

SECOND READING: JOHN 15: 5-17 (ESV)

⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants,^[a] for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*SPOKEN*)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go. Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to 1 Peter the 2nd chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL: 1 Peter 2: 1-10 (ESV)**

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. ² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."⁷ So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," ⁸ and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

SERMON

TESTIMONIES FROM TEEN VALLEY RANCH

*SERMON HYMN "At Calvary" by Casting Crowns

Years I spent in vanity and pride,
Caring not my Lord was crucified,
Knowing not it was for me He died
At Calvary
By God's word at last my sin I learned,
Then I trembled at the law I'd spurned,
Till my guilty soul imploring turned;
To calvary

There Your mercy and Your grace was free,

There Your pardon multiplied to me,
There my burdened soul found liberty;
At calvary

Now I've giv'n Jesus everything,
Now I gladly own him as my king,
Now my raptured soul can only sing
Of calvary

There Your mercy and Your grace was free,
There Your pardon multiplied to me,
There my burdened soul found liberty
At calvary
Yeahh
At calvary
Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan!
Oh, that grace that brought it down to man!
Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span;
At calvary
Yeeaahh

There Your mercy and Your grace was free,
There Your pardon multiplied to me,
There my burdened soul found liberty
At calvary
There your mercy and your grace was free,
There your pardon multiplied to me,
There my burdened soul found liberty
At calvary
There my burdened soul found liberty
At calvary

*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 (*Spoken*)

Let the vineyards be fruitful Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessings. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams for all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, Lord, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

*PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray:

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,
for in your wisdom you have formed us.

You feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

We bless you and praise your name forever.

You set free those who are bound.

We bless you and praise your name forever.

You raise up those whose courage falters.

We bless you and praise your name forever.

You provide for our every need.

Accept our grateful praises.

You have called us from all peoples.

We rejoice and bless your name forever.

You bless your people with peace.

We bless you and praise your loving grace.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,
for in your wisdom you have formed us.

Amen.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, you may abound in hope.
(Romans 15:13)

Amen

***SENDING HYMN "Good Good Father" by Chris Tomlin**

Oh, I've heard a thousand stories of what they think You're like
But I've heard the tender whisper of love in the dead of night
And You tell me that You're pleased and that I'm never alone

You're a good, good Father
It's who You are, it's who You are, it's who You are
And I'm loved by You
It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

Oh, and I've seen many searching for answers far and wide
But I know we're all searching for answers only You provide
'Cause You know just what we need before we say a word
You're a good, good Father
It's who You are, it's who You are, it's who You are
And I'm loved by You
It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

Because You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us
You are perfect in all of Your ways
Oh, You're perfect in all of Your ways
You are perfect in all of Your ways to us

Oh, it's love so undeniable
I, I can hardly speak
Peace so unexplainable
I, I can hardly think
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still
As You call me deeper still into love, love, love

You're a good, good Father
It's who You are, it's who You are, it's who You are
And I'm loved by You
It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

And You're a good, good Father
It's who You are, it's who You are, it's who You are
And I'm loved by You
It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am

You're a good, good Father
It's who You are, it's who You are, it's who You are
And I'm loved by You
It's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am
(You're a good, good Father)

You are perfect in all of Your ways (it's who You are, it's who You are, it's who
You are)
(And I'm loved by You)
You are perfect in all of Your ways (it's who I am, it's who I am, it's who I am)

***DISMISSAL**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
The Lord almighty order our days and our deeds in peace.
Amen

***POSTLUDE *Praise You In the Storm by Casting Crowns*
(* Please stand as you are able)**

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The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Carl and Marie Pless by their family.

Welcome to **Youth Sunday!** The youth that went to Teen Valley Ranch Youth Camp will share testimonies from their experience. Thanks to the youth for leading the worship service today and sharing with us.

NO Children's Church today.

Church Council meets **TODAY** after service.

The **PBnJ** Youth and **CSI** will meet this afternoon at 3:30 PM.

We have 2022 Car Show T-Shirts for sale, \$20 each. If you would like one, see Rhonda or Kristi.

We will have plates at all doors again today for monetary gifts for the upcoming Car Show, breakfast and lunch next Saturday, September 17th. These monies will be used for desserts and other items. If you would like for your donation to be recorded on the Church records, use the envelopes on the back of the pew.



September 11, 2022

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... 1 Timothy 2:1

In the Fellowship of Cross of Christ

Marilyn Barringer; Kevin Blackburn; Stephanie Blackburn (recovery from accident at work); Coy Edgison (Home – COVID recovery); John Faggart; Geneva Gray (Five Oaks Manor – Rehab); Joyce Harkins; Candice Horton; Doris & Frank Kluttz; Sylvia Loggans; John & Linda Trull; Dot West; Rand Yost (Home)

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison (Okinawa, Japan)

Friends of Cross of Christ

Ronnie Boger (Roy Gray's Manager – Pending Liver Transplant match); Mary Cox; Steve & Angie Dixon; Jane Faggart; Wanda Floyd; Joyce Furr; Ralph Furr; Brady Krimminger; Kaye and Gerry Litzinger (Aunt and Uncle of Susan Caudle); Doris McCarn; Sharon Blackwelder Measmer; Gabby Monty; Ensley Morgan; Dianne and Steve Parker; Ronnie Procter; Brian Seagraves; Susan Starling; Baby Geneva Amanda Sverko and Mom Chyna; Connie Walters; Vickey Belk Young

General Prayer Concerns

The People of Ukraine

Cross of Christ Shut-In

Sylvia Loggans (Post surgery she will return to Best of Care)
Best of Care
234 North Dale Ave.
Kannapolis NC

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

Today – September 11, 2022
Youth Sunday

Executive Council	8:30 AM
Sunday Church School	9:00 AM
Family Worship Service	10:00 AM
Church Council	11:00 AM
PBNJ/CSI Meeting	3:30 PM

This Week

SAT: 7-11 AM Breakfast Fundraiser

NEXT SUNDAY

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

Next Sunday's Readings
15th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8: 4-7
Psalm 113
1 Timothy 1: 1-15
St. Luke 16: 1-15