



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. Marty Ramey, Interim Pastor

A NALC Congregation



“He will baptize you...”

Welcome to worship at Cross of Christ!

In the Cross of Christ I glory †

Baptism of Our Lord

January 12, 2025

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 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.

Amen

* OPENING HYMN *“Shall We Gather at the River”* WOV 690

*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] In peace, let us pray to the Lord. [C] Lord, have mer - cy.

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

[C] Lord, have mer - cy.

[A] 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.

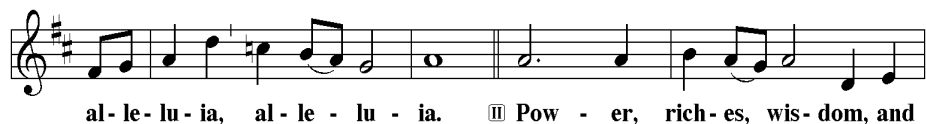
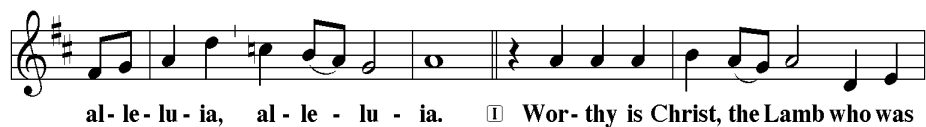
[C] Lord, have mer - cy.

[A] For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. [C] Lord, have mer - cy.

[A] Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. [C] A - men

*HYMN OF PRAISE: "This is the Feast"



☩ This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☩ For the Lamb who was
 slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.
 ☩ This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

*SALUTATION

☩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al- so with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Heavenly Father, in Jesus' baptism you declared him to be your beloved Son and set him apart as your agent of grace for your creation. May we who are baptized into his life also be sent as agents of grace in your world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RAMEY

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

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.
 2 When 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.
3 For 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.
4 Because you are precious in my eyes,
and honored, and I love you,
I give men in return for you,
people in exchange for your life.
5 Fear not, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you.
6 I 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,
7 everyone 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 29 (ESV)

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
2 **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.**
3 The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over many waters.
4 **The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**
5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
6 **He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**
7 The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
8 **The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;**

the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹ The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth
and strips the forests bare,
and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

¹⁰ **The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.**

¹¹ May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

SECOND READING: Romans 6: 1-11 (ESV)

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?

² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

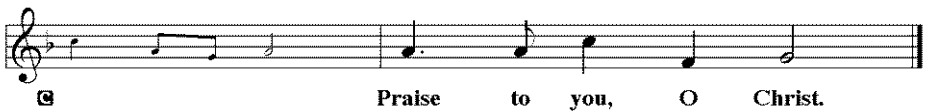
The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3rd chapter.



***THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. LUKE 3: 15-22 (ESV)**

As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹ But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰ added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison. ²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

This is Gospel of our Lord.



SERMON *“He Brought the Lights”*

Pastor Marty Ramey

*SERMON HYMN *“Spirit Of God”* **LBW 486**

*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

***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

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 the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
 prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

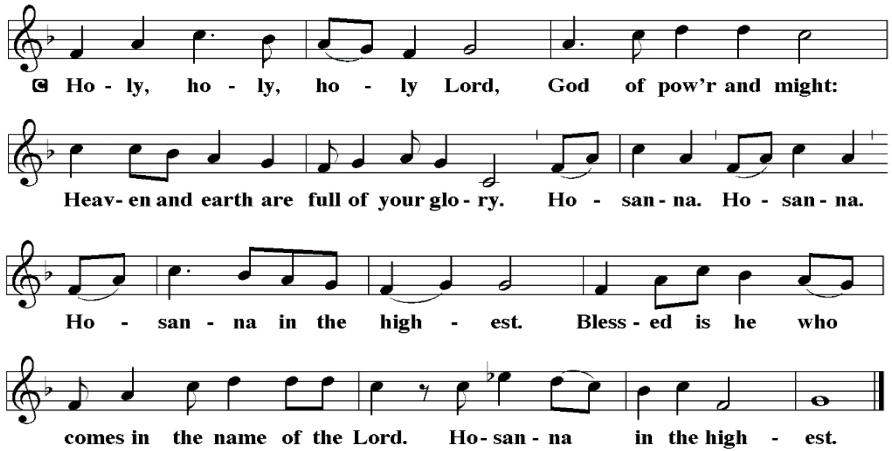
***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. Merciful Father,
**we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first give
 us ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your
 gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered
 himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

☩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.
 ☩ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.
 ☩ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 ☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THE EUCHARISTIC PREFACE

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him
should not perish but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,

that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

*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**

ADMINISTRATION OF THE HOLY SACRAMENT



☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

WOV 740 & 709

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE: *"Thank the Lord"*

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.
 Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.
 He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with
 shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 "ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST CRY" LBW 36

*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 Marie Stoner and Eunice Thomas by Larry Barbee & family.

The **PBnJ Youth Group** will meet this afternoon at 3:30.

February newsletter articles are due next week.

The monthly fundraiser breakfast is this **Saturday from 7:00–11:00 AM**

FUNERAL SERVICE FOR DOT WEAST The service for Dot Weast will be held Saturday, January 18th, at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, with visitation following in the parish.

Weekly Offering Report For: <u>Week No: 1</u> <u>Date: January 5, 2025</u>			
2025 Weekly Needs:	\$3,989.43	YTD Budget Needs:	\$3,989.43
<u>Last Week</u>			
General Tithes Received	\$4,840.00	YTD Gen. Tithes Received	\$4,840.00
Last week Above Needs	\$850.57	YTD Above Needs	\$850.57



January 12,2025

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 prayerccle@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

Family of Dot Weast

Kay Barbee; Phyllis Campbell (Atrium Northeast); Chuck Drye; Robin Drye; Dorothy Goodman; Harry Goodman; Tom Harkins; Doris Kluttz; Frank Kluttz (Surgery at Northeast on 1/9/25 to remove cancerous cells from his face); John Trull; Linda Trull

Call Process prayer requests: 1) Cross of Christ Church; 2) Call Committee; 3) Cross of Christ Video – “Who are we?” – publication on NALC website; 4) Prospective pastors see our profile and consider a call here.

Friends of Cross of Christ

Pastor Charles Barrier; Atlas Baucom; Pastor Gene Bost; LeaAnn Buckwell; Jerry Cain; Pastor Randall Cauble; Luke Cranford; Brynn Fesler; Wanda Floyd; David Gandy; David Goforth; Lee Goforth; Annette Heller; Candice Horton; Greg Houston; Melanie Hudson; Faye Huneycutt; Jane Jansen; Natalie Justice; Melissa Krumbien; Kaye and Gerry Litzinger; Susie Moore; Karen Morgan; Hank Morris (Grandson of Keith & Cathy Smith – various procedures to transition to home dialysis); Lettie Reid; Blake Rogers; Nick Smith; Susan Starling; Phillip Teeter; Candace Yates; Vickey Belk Young.

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison

General Prayer Concerns

All those impacted by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton
Those impacted by the tragedy in New Orleans
Those impacted by the massive fires in California.

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

Today January 12, 2025

Sunday Church School	9:00 AM
Holy Communion Service	10:00 AM
PBNJ Youth Group Meeting	3:30 PM

This Week

SAT - 7- 11:00 AM Breakfast Fundraiser

NEXT SUNDAY

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

Next Sunday's Readings

Second Sunday After Epiphany

Isaiah 62: 1-5

Psalm 128

1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

St. John 2: 1-11

www.crossofchristlutheranchurch.org

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