



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



Welcome to worship at Cross of Christ!

In the Cross of Christ I glory †

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

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

*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 to God"



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



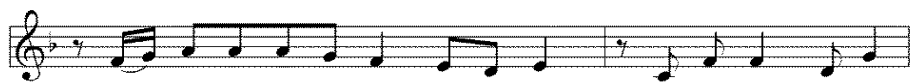
♩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther:



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



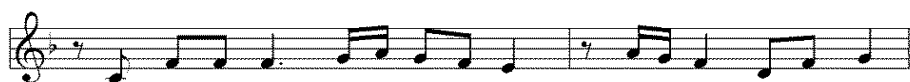
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



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

Let us pray. Almighty God,
you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and
to prepare his way. Grant us, your people, the wisdom to see your purpose
today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ's
coming and so prepare his way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

WOV 630

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (vs 1-3)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RAMEY

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3: 14-20

(ESV)

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. ¹⁷ The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. ¹⁸ I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. ¹⁹ Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the Lord.

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

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: Philippians 4: 4-7 (ESV)

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. **5** Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; **6** do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds 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.

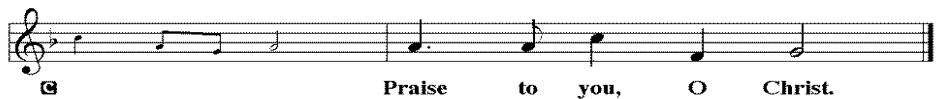
The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 21st chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: St. Luke 7: 18-35 (ESV)

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹ calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰ And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹ In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²² And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” ²⁴ When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’” ²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” ²⁹ (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, ³⁰ but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.) ³¹ “To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? ³² They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, “We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’” ³³ For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’” ³⁴ The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’” ³⁵ Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.”

This is Gospel of our Lord.



SERMON

“Listen Louder”

PASTOR MARTY RAMEY

*SERMON HYMN

“O Little Town Of Bethlehem”

LBW 41

***NICENE CREED**

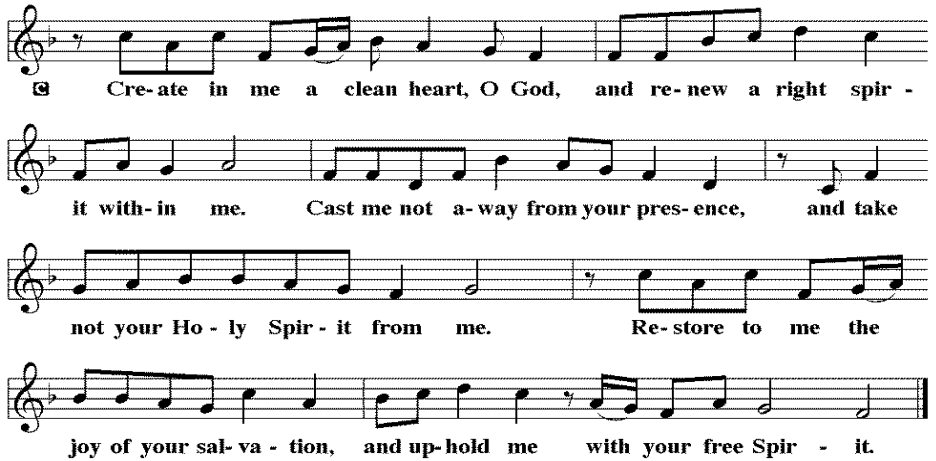
**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**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

**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 *"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"* LBW 54

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

(* Please stand as you are able)

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GAUDETE SUNDAY

Today is Gaudete Sunday, the 3rd Sunday in Advent. The word Gaudete comes from Latin, the opening word of the introit—the invocation of traditional worship in the early church. Originally, the introit on this Sunday began with Philippians 4:4-5: Gaudete in Domino semper, "rejoice in the Lord always." The color of the Sunday, the 3rd Advent candle, is rose/pink. Advent is a penitential season, calling us to reflect on our need for God, his call to repentance, but Gaudete Sunday provides a break from what was originally a more somber season. Rejoice! calls us to remember that what we are waiting for, what we anticipate, is the coming of Christ himself, truly a reason to rejoice.

Advent Week 3 - Prayer for Joy

This third week of Advent, let us remember that the good news of Jesus' birth has the power to bring us great joy this Christmas season. Our joy isn't dependent on what is going on in our life, in our world, or the people that we are with. It doesn't depend on the gifts we give or the gifts we find under the tree. No earthly thing can ever give us complete joy. Our joy comes from you. That joy that flooded the hearts of the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, the hosts of heaven, and Mary and Joseph is the joy that still has the power to overwhelm our hearts with rejoicing.

Father, you offer that same joy to us now if we know you and recognize Jesus as our Savior and Lord. You gave us a reason to celebrate when you gave us the unspeakable gift of Jesus Christ. You came to dwell among us. You went to Calvary's cross for us. You overcame death and rose from the dead for us. You forgive our sins and give us eternal life when we believe in you.

Our joy doesn't come from our jobs, our family, our relationships, our finances, or our success. Our joy doesn't come from what we have on earth or who we are with. Our joy is a gift. It is the gift that you gave us that first Christmas in Jesus Christ. Our joy is encompassed in our Savior, King Jesus. Flood our heart with joy this Advent season as we reflect on the good news of Jesus' birth. In Jesus' precious name we pray. Amen.

The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Frank and Doris Kluttz's anniversary by Kim Aldridge.

The **PBnJ** youth group will meet this afternoon at 3:30 PM.

The **NOAH** Prayer Shawl Group meets tomorrow night at 6:30 PM.

TODAY the Historical Committee will be taking pictures of families at the Christmas tree, following the service. Have your family together and we will keep this moving quickly. We can take your picture with your phone or camera, but we will also be using our camera, printing a copy, and distributing in the next couple of weeks. Also, we will be able to email you the jpeg if you want to use them quickly.

The monthly breakfast is **NEXT** Saturday. Proceeds will go to the Kluttz family for medical care needs. Join us if you can!!

January 2025 Newsletter Articles are due **next Sunday**, December 22nd

Remember if you have a **Thrivent** product the Action team accounts reset in January so apply for your Action Teams projects and funds for 2024.

The **2025 Altar Flower** calendar is in the mailroom.

Thank you so much for your generous donations of toys for **Toys for Tots**. Our church donated **55+** toys and stocking stuffers. They were delivered to the Concord Fire Dept. on Tuesday, and they were very thankful.

Jubal Strube

If you have any changes regarding addresses, phone numbers, or email address for the **CCLC 2024 / 2025 Annual Yearbook**, please get those changes to the Historical Comm, Rhonda Drye or Jodie Strube. Committee chairs, event leaders, group leaders please start preparing your year-end summaries. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Weekly Offering Report For: <u>Week No: 49</u> <u>Date: December 8, 2024</u>			
2024 Weekly Needs:	\$3,758.54	YTD Budget Needs:	\$184,168.46
<u>Last Week</u>			
General Tithes Received	\$2,200.00	YTD Gen. Tithes Received	\$178,357.91
Last week (Deficit)	(\$1,558.54)	YTD (Deficit)	(\$5,810.55)



December 15, 2024

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

Kay Barbee; Phyllis Campbell; Chuck Drye; Robin Drye; Dorothy Goodman; Harry Goodman; Tom Harkins; Doris Kluttz; Frank Kluttz; Jodie Strube; John & Linda Trull; Dot West
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 Mary Paula Keith (Aunt of Belinda Campbell)
Family of Mickey Rogers (Grandmother of Alex Rogers)
Pastor Charles Barrier; Atlas Baucom; Pastor Gene Bost; LeaAnn Buckwell; Jerry Cain; Luke Cranford; Brynn Fesler; Wanda Floyd; David Gandy; David Goforth; Annette Heller; Candice Horton; Greg Houston; Melanie Hudson (Mass on the brain); Faye Huneycutt; Jane Jansen; Clare Justice; Melissa Krumbien; Kaye and Gerry Litzinger; Susie Moore; Karen Morgan; Lettie Reid; Blake Rogers; Nick Smith; Susan Starling; Phillip Teeter; Candace Yates; Vickey Belk Young.

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison (Fairbanks Alaska)

General Prayer Concerns:

All those impacted by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton

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

Today – December 15, 2024

Sunday Church School	9:00 AM
Family Worship Service	10:00 AM
PBnJ Meeting	3:30 PM

This Week

MON	NOAH Prayer Shawl Meeting	6:30 PM
SAT	Monthly Breakfast	7-11:00 AM

NEXT SUNDAY

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

Next Sunday's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5: 2-5a
Psalm 80: 1-7
Hebrews 10: 5-10
St. John 15:1-8

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