



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 †

Second Sunday Of Advent

December 8, 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

* OPENING HYMN *“O Come All Ye Faithful”* LBW 45

*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.



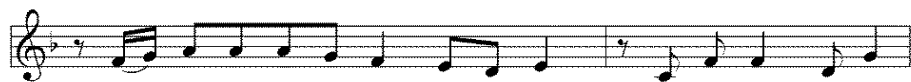
☩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



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



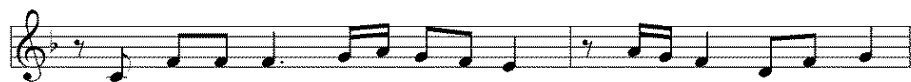
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



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

Let us pray. O God,

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, 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&2)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RAMEY

"MARY WRAPPED A PRESENT" BY THE SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: Malachi 3: 1-7 (ESV)

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. ⁵“Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts. ⁶“For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’”

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

Psalm 66: 1-12 (ESV)

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

**² sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise!**

³ Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!

So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.

**⁴ All the earth worships you
and sings praises to you;
they sing praises to your name."**

⁵ Come and see what God has done:

he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.

**⁶ He turned the sea into dry land;
they passed through the river on foot.**

There did we rejoice in him,

⁷ who rules by his might forever,
whose eyes keep watch on the nations—
let not the rebellious exalt themselves.

**⁸ Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of his praise be heard,**

⁹ who has kept our soul among the living
and has not let our feet slip.

**¹⁰ For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.**

¹¹ You brought us into the net;
you laid a crushing burden on our backs;

**¹² you let men ride over our heads;
we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1: 2-11 (ESV)

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the

gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

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.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

***The Holy Gospel: St. Luke 3: 1-20 (ESV)**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places

*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 worshiped 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** *“Angels From The Realms Of Glory”* **LBW 50**

*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 John Faggart's birthday by his family.

The **Congregation Christmas Party/meal** is **TODAY** following service.

Due to the limited number of poinsettias at the greenhouse we need to know **TODAY** if you plan to order. Please let Meredith know who they are in memory or in honor of and place your money in the offering plate. . Cost is **\$9.50** each.

The **PBnJ** youth group will meet next Sunday at 3:30 PM

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

SHARING SHEPHERDS This coming Saturday, December 14th, we will be traveling to West Virginia to deliver gifts to the families we have provided for. If you plan to go, please let Pastor Marty know by email pastormr01@gmail.com or text 704-689-8501, and whether you are driving or would like to ride with someone. We will meet at Cross of Christ at 4:50 a.m. to leave the church by 5:00 a.m. We will stop at the Cracker Barrel in Wytheville, Virginia, 160 Lithia Road, at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast. If you have not yet brought your gifts, please let Pastor Marty know so we can get them to the church to load onto the trailer this week. Thanks to all who are participating in and supporting this ministry. It will be a Christmas blessing to the families in West Virginia.

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.

Weekly Offering Report For: <u>Week No: 48</u> <u>Date: December 1, 2024</u>			
2024 Weekly Needs:	\$3,758.54	YTD Budget Needs:	\$180,409.92
<u>Last Week</u>			
General Tithes Received	\$5,063.00	YTD Gen. Tithes Received	\$176,157.91
Last week Above needs	\$1,304.46	YTD (Deficit)	(\$4,252.01)

Advent Week 2 - Prayer for Peace

Lord, in a season when every heart should be happy and light, many of us are struggling with the heaviness of life—burdens that steal the joy right out of our stockings. Tragedy arrives as innocent victims suffer, and an inner voice whispers, “Be afraid!” We need your peace, Jesus. We confess that our hearts are too often filled with wonder of a different kind: wondering when the bills will be paid, when the terror will stop, when rest will come. Will it ever? Is the message still true? In a world where worry, not peace, prevails, stir up that good news again. This Advent, make it real in our hearts. Never have we needed Your joy and peace more than now. Thank You for the gift of Jesus, our Immanuel, the Word made flesh. We not only need Your peace and joy; Lord, we crave it. You’ve promised rest for the weary, victory for the battle-scarred, peace for the anxious, and acceptance for the broken hearted—not just at Advent, but every day of every year. Your name is still called “Wonderful,” “Counselor,” “The Mighty God,” “The Everlasting Father,” and “The Prince of Peace.” We know that peace on earth can only come when hearts find peace with You. You are still our Joy. You are still our Peace. You are no longer a babe in the manger. You are Lord of lords and King of kings. And we still celebrate You as Lord—this Christmas and always. Amen



December 8, 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 prayercccl@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 (Under Hospice care); Phyllis Campbell; Chuck Drye; Robin Drye; Dorothy Goodman; Harry Goodman; Tom Harkins; Doris Kluttz; Frank Kluttz; Jerry Pless (Cataract surgery recovery); Jodie Strube; John & Linda Trull; Dot Weast

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 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, card, or email along with your prayers**

Today December 8, 2024

Sunday Church School 9:00 AM
Family Worship Service 10:00 AM
Congregation Christmas Party/Meal after service

This Week

MON: 7-8:30 PM Soldiers of Christ Practice

NEXT SUNDAY

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

Next Sunday's Readings

Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3: 14-20

Psalm 85

Philippians 4: 4-7

St. Luke 7: 18-35

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