



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 After Epiphany

January 26, 2025

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

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

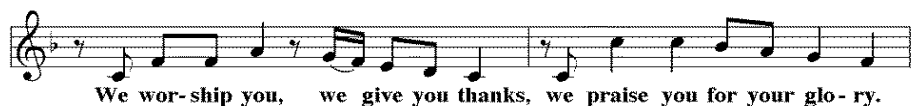
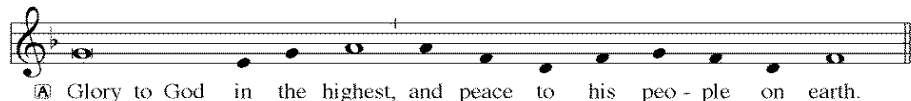
* OPENING HYMN “*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*” **WOV 771**

*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"



*SALUTATION



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God,
Graciously look down on our weakness. Reach out to us with your majestic Right Hand and satisfy us with his glory. We ask through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RAMEY

CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 (ESV)

And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the Lord had commanded Israel. ² So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. ³ And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. ⁶ And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁸ They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. ⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM 19:1-6, 7-14 (ESV)

READ RESPONSIVELY BY VERSE

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

**² Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.**

³ There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.

**⁴ Their voices go out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**

In them he has set a tent for the sun,

⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

**⁶ Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.**

⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure,
making wise the simple;

**⁸ the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure,
enlightening the eyes;**

⁹ the fear of the Lord is clean,
enduring forever;
the rules of the Lord are true,
and righteous altogether.

**¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

¹¹ Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

**¹² Who can discern his errors?
Declare me innocent from hidden faults.**

¹³ Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;
let them not have dominion over me!
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

**¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my rock, and my redeemer.**

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31A (ESV)

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

And I will show you a still more excellent way.

The Word of God for the people of God!

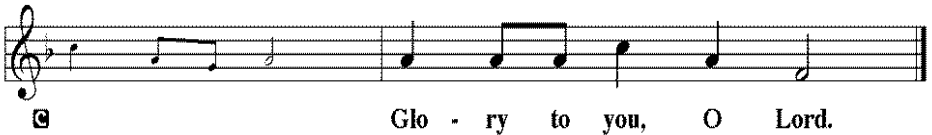
Thanks be to God!

***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 4th chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. LUKE 4:16–30 (ESV)**

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²² And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” ²³ And he said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, m’ “Physician, heal yourself.” What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.’ ” ²⁴ And he said, “Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. ²⁵ But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the

land, ²⁶ and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. ²⁷ And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.” ²⁸ When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. ²⁹ And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. ³⁰ But passing through their midst, he went away.

This is Gospel of our Lord.



Sermon *“Welcome Home?”*

Pastor Marty Ramey

*SERMON HYMN *“What A Friend We Have In Jesus”* **LBW 439**

***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

Create 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 *"Eternal Father, Strong To Save"* LBW 467

*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 Phyllis Campbell (left from funeral).

Please see Suzanne Bost for new and reoccurring event rental forms for the parish hall. If you have any questions, please call 980-521-0659.

Weekly Offering Report For: <u>Week No: 3</u> <u>Date: January 19, 2025</u>			
2025 Weekly Needs:	\$3,989.43	YTD Budget Needs:	\$11,968.29
<u>Last Week</u>			
General Tithes Received	\$3,475.00	YTD Gen. Tithes Received	\$10,776.00
Last week (Deficit)	(\$514.43)	YTD (Deficit)	(\$1,192.29)



January 26, 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 prayercclc@gmail.com by Tuesday at 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 Phyllis Campbell

Kay Barbee; Chuck Drye; Robin Drye; Dorothy Goodman;
Harry Goodman; Tom Harkins; Doris Kluttz; Frank Kluttz; John Trull;
Linda Trull

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 Chae Ramey (Sister-in-law of Pastor Ramey)

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;
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 impacted by the winter storms and extreme cold weather
All impacted by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton
All impacted by the California wildfires

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

Today January 26, 2025

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

NEXT SUNDAY

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

Next Sunday's Readings

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Jeremiah 1: 4-19

Psalm 71: 1-11

1 Corinthians 12: 31b-13:13

St Luke 4: 31-44

www.crossofchristlutheranchurch.org

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