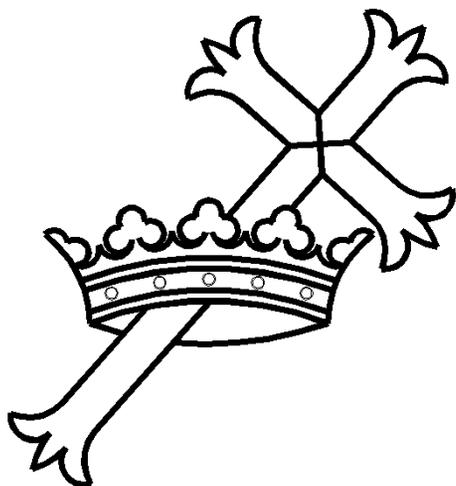


Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

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 †

*Fifth Sunday in Easter
May 2, 2021*

OUR ACCOMPANIST

* OPENING HYMN

"Praise To The Father"

MRS. YVONNE YOST

LBW 517

517

Praise to the Father

1 Praise to the Fa - ther for his lov - ing - kind - ness, Ten - der - ly
2 Praise to the Sav - ior for his deep com - pas - sion, Gra - cious - ly
3 Praise to the Spir - it, com - fort - er of Is - rael, Sent from the

car - ing for his err - ing chil - dren; Praise him, all an - gels;
car - ing for his cho - sen peo - ple; Young men and wom - en,
Fa - ther and the Son to bless us! Praise to the Fa - ther,

praise him in the heav - ens; Praise to the Fa - ther!
ag - ing folk and chil - dren, Praise to the Sav - ior!
Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it! Praise to the tri - une God!

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

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 you, forgive you all your sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. 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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Holy God,

form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 John 4: 1–11 (ESV)

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore

they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. ⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Here ends the reading.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. JOHN 15: 1-8 (ESV)**

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I 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. ⁶If 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. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR RAFE ALLISON

***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

***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

*SENDING HYMN

"Love Divine"
(TURN THE PAGE)

LBW 315

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

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The **Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Chloe Bell's birthday by the Barbee Family.

Executive Meeting is next Sunday 9 AM and **Council Meeting** meets after the 11 AM service.

Council Note:

At the April council meeting it was agreed to move to **one service** only beginning **Sunday, May 16**. A second motion was approved to have Sunday worship at **10:00AM** with Sunday School at 9:00AM from this date forward. Please remember to come to worship at 10:00AM beginning Sunday May 16. May God continue to bless our congregation!

The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a community fish fry on **May 8, 5 PM till 7 PM or we run out**. Two pieces of flounder fish, French fries, hush puppies, cole slaw, pound cake and tea at No charge. Limited dine in seating and we will have take out. As Jesus fed the disciples fish after His resurrection, we also feed His sheep. John 21: 17

"...let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Mark 10:14)

We are excited to announce that on Sunday, June 6th, we will finally begin a renewed year of our Children's Church ministry here at Cross of Christ! If you would like to become involved in this ministry, we would love to welcome you to the group! Responsibilities include teaching a provided lesson (with an assistant) during the sermon portion of the service about six times a year (more or less depending upon the number of adults participating as teachers) and sharing the Good News with the smallest lambs of our congregation. If you feel led to join this ministry (as a teacher or assistant) or have questions, please see Heather Bell.



May 2, 2021

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

Kay Barbee; Megan Blackburn; John Faggart; Candice Horton;
Frances Kanipe; Doris Kluttz; Frank Kluttz; Marie Pless;
Richard Strube (Full knee replacement surgery recovery);
John Trull; Harold Yost

Serving in the Military

Eaven Allison (Okinawa, Japan); Will Drye

Friends of Cross of Christ

Family of Linda Cranford (Grandma of Dylan Ennis)
Family of Linda Seagraves (Mother of Scotty Seagraves)
Sherry Baker; Steve Cagle; Steve & Angie Dixon;
Lisa Eudy (Northeast ICU – Friend of Sharon Barbee); Morgan Eudy;
JB Faggart; Jane Faggart; Joyce Furr; Ralph Furr; Dave Goff;
Tommy and Eva Harrel; Ivory Holland; AJ Jorsey; Ensley Morgan; Diane Parker; Angie and Steve Potter; Derrick Shafer; Beverly and Lewis Williams.

General Prayer Concerns

Our nation, Our community and Our Church

Cross of Christ Shut-Ins

Sylvia Loggans (Five Oaks, Room # 129)

Praise List

·Belinda Campbell – Surgery recovery continues. Your Prayers, texts, calls and cards have been graciously appreciated.

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

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - 'ry trou - bled
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us all thy life re -
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and spot - less let us

down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, All thy faith - ful
 breast; Let us all in thee in - her - it; Let us find thy
 ceive; Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more thy
 be; Let us see thy great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re -

mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

Pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; Vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as
 Serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, Pray, and praise thee
 Till in heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!