

September 14th

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Solemnity

The Cross, object of scorn and infamy, is the means by which God chose to save the human race from sin. It is for Christians a sign of hope for the Kingdom and it has become for them a proud and glorious symbol.

The bronze serpent erected in the desert was a sign of salvation for the Jewish people. Similarly, Jesus said : "When I am lifted up from earth, I will draw all people to myself."

The Church urges us to contemplate the mystery of the annihilation of the Son of God which is also his victory over the powers of evil and death, and to turn unto the Lord who "was raised so that whoever believes in him may have eternal life".

(As in the Roman Missal and the Lectionary, with the three readings).

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf Ga 6: 14

But may I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,

COLLECT

O God, who willed that your Only Begotten Son should undergo the Cross to save the human race, grant, we pray, that we, who have known his mystery on earth, may merit the grace of his redemption in heaven.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ...

FIRST READING Num 21: 4-9

In punishment the LORD sent among the people saraph serpents, which bit the people so that many of them died. Then the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned in complaining against the LORD and you. Pray the LORD to take the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people, and the LORD said to Moses, "Make a saraph and mount it on a pole, and if anyone who has been bitten looks at it, he will recover." Moses accordingly made a bronze serpent and mounted it on a pole, and whenever anyone who had been bitten by a serpent looked at the bronze serpent, he recovered.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 78: 1-2. 34-38 (R. 7a)

R. They should set their hope in God,^[SEP] and not forget the works of God.

1. Give ear, my people, to my teaching;
incline your ear to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable
and utter hidden lessons of the past.

2. When he slew them, then they sought him,
repented and earnestly sought God.
They would remember that God was their rock,
God the Most High their redeemer.

3. Yet they deceived him with their mouths;
they lied to him with their tongues.
For their hearts were not steadfast toward him;

they were not faithful to his covenant.

4. Yet he who is full of compassion
forgave them their sin and spared them.
So often he held back his anger,
and did not stir up all his rage.

SECOND READING

A reading of the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians 2: 6-11

Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

R. Alleluia. Alleluia.
We adore, O Christ, and we bless you; because by your Cross you have redeemed the world.
R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

A reading from the Gospel of Saint John 3: 13-17

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this oblation, O Lord, which on the altar of the Cross cancelled the offence of the whole world, cleanse us, we pray, of all our sins.
Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you placed the salvation of the human race on the wood of the Cross, so that, where death arose, life might again spring forth and the evil one, who conquered on a tree might likewise on a tree be conquered, through Christ our Lord.

Through him the Angels praise your majesty, Dominions adore and Powers tremble before you. Heaven and the Virtues of heaven and the blessed Seraphim worship together in exaltation.

May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in humble praise, as we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts ...

COMMUNION ANTIPHON John 12: 32

"And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself."

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having been nourished by your holy banquet, we beseech you, Lord Jesus Christ, to bring those you have redeemed by the wood of your life-giving Cross to the glory of the resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord.