

Evening Prayer and Eucharist
Commemoration of
Holy Cross Day



EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HOLY CROSS DAY - September 14

During the reign of Constantine, first Roman Emperor to profess the Christian faith, his mother Helena went to Israel and there undertook to find the places especially significant to Christians. (She was helped in this by the fact that in their destructions around 135, the Romans had built pagan shrines over many of these sites.) Having located, close together, what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (at locations that modern archaeologists think may be correct), she then had built over them the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which was dedicated on 14 September 335. It has become a day for recognizing the Cross (in a festal atmosphere that would be inappropriate on Good Friday) as a symbol of triumph, as a sign of Christ's victory over death, and a reminder of His promise, "And when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32)

What is the significance of the sign of the cross? Well, in the first place, we often place our initials or other personal mark on something to show that it belongs to us. The Cross is the personal mark of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and we mark it on ourselves as a sign that we belong to Him, just as in the book of Revelation, as noted above, the servants of God are sealed or marked on their foreheads as a sign that they are His.

Again, as one preacher has said, if you were telling someone how to make a cross, you might say (at least to an English speaker), "Draw an I and then cross it out." As we make the sign, we first draw a vertical stroke, as if to say to God, "Lord, here am I." Then we cancel it with a horizontal stroke, as if to say, "Help me, Lord, to abandon my self-centeredness and self-will, and to make you the center of my life instead. Fix all my attention and all my desire on you, Lord, that I may forget my self, cancel my self, abandon myself completely to your love and service."

Please stand at the sound of the bell

PREPARATION

Officiant ✠ The Lord almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end.

People **Amen.**

∞ Our help is in the name of the Lord.

℞ **Who made heaven and earth.**

Celebrant Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Please kneel as you are able, silence may be kept

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father:
We have sinned against thee,
through our own fault,
in thought, word, and deed,
and in those things which we have left undone.
For the sake of thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
forgive us all our offenses;
and grant that we may serve thee in newness of life,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

Officiant 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. *Amen.*

All stand

WORD

∞ Your word is a lantern to my feet,

℞ **and a light upon my path.**

Please be seated

A Reading

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,

Philippians 2:5-11

did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Silence is kept for a brief time

A Reading from the Gospel of John

John 12:31-36^a

Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, 'We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?' Jesus said to them, 'The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.'

After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

Silence is then kept for reflection and prayer.

PRAJER

Please stand

∞ Let my prayer come before you as incense,
℞ **the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

∞ O Lord, I call to you, come to me quickly;
℞ **hear my voice when I cry to you.**
∞ My eyes are turned to you, Lord God;
℞ **in you I take refuge; do not leave me defenseless.**

All **Let my prayer come before you as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Please kneel as you are able, silence may be kept

Officiant O Lord, hear our prayer;
People **And let our cry come unto thee.**
Officiant Let us pray

A Collect for Holy Cross Day

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world to himself: Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

A Collect for Justice

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Mission

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give thine angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for thy love's sake. *Amen.*

Please stand

An Evening hymn is sung by the Cantor

COMMUNION

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Recalling now his suffering and death, and celebrating his resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Accept, O Lord, our sacrifice of praise, this memorial of our redemption. Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts. Let them be for us the Body and Blood of your Son. ✠ And grant that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may be filled with your life and goodness.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant As our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

All 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Fraction

A Fraction Anthem is sung by the Cantor.

Act of Reception, *prayed by those at home*

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

Communion

SENDING

Celebrant Let us pray.

Please kneel as you are able, silence may be kept

The Post Communion Prayer, *Celebrant and People*

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

A Collect for Peace

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know thee as thou art revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of thy love.
Amen.

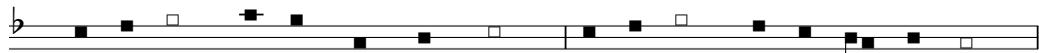
All stand to sing the Canticle

A CANTICLE: Nunc Dimittis

the antiphon and first phrase are sung by the cantor, the remainder sung by all



Guide us wak - ing, O Lord, and guard us sleep - ing;



that a-wake we may watch with Christ, and a-sleep we may rest in peace.



Lord, now lett-est thou thy ser-vant de-part in peace, ac-cord-ing to thy word;



For mine eyes have seen thy sal - va - tion, which thou hast pre - pared



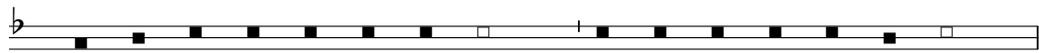
be - fore the face of all peo - ple, To be a light to



light-en the gen-tiles, and to be the glo - ry of thy peo-ple Is - ra - el.



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost:



As it was in the be - gin - ing, is now, and ev - er shall be,



world with - out end. A - men.

∞ Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
℞ **For only in thee can we live in safety.**

∞ Peace be within your walls:
℞ **and quietness within your palaces.**

Officiant As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us
to cleanse our hearts and set us free to sing your praise
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Officiant The blessing of God Almighty, ✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always.

People **Amen.**

∞ May the divine help remain with us always.
℞ **And with our absent brethren. Amen.**

