

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

September 14, 2021

8:30 AM

Gathering Song: *Only This I Want*

Refrain: Only this I want: but to know the Lord,
and to bear his cross so to wear the crown he wore.

1. All but this is loss, worthless refuse to me,
for to gain the Lord is to gain all I need.
2. I will run the race; I will fight the good fight,
so to win the prize of the Kingdom of my Lord.

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Gloria: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

First Reading – Numbers 21:4b-9

A reading from the Book of Numbers

With their patience worn out by the journey,
the people complained against God and Moses,
“Why have you brought us up from Egypt to die in this desert,
where there is no food or water?
We are disgusted with this wretched food!”

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 any who have been bitten look at it, they will live.”

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 lived.

The word of the Lord. – Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38

Do not forget the works of the Lord!

Hearken, my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable,
I will utter mysteries from of old.
While he slew them they sought him
and inquired after God again,
Remembering that God was their rock
and the Most High God, their redeemer.
But they flattered him with their mouths
and lied to him with their tongues,
Though their hearts were not steadfast toward him,
nor were they faithful to his covenant.
But he, being merciful, forgave their sin
and destroyed them not;
Often he turned back his anger
and let none of his wrath be roused.
Do not forget the works of the Lord!

Second Reading – Philippians 2:6-11

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

Christ Jesus, 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.

The word of the Lord. – Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – John 3:13-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

“No one has gone up to heaven
except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man.
And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him might not perish
but might have eternal life.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.

The Gospel of the Lord. All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Spiritual Communion Prayer

Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there

and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

Sending Forth Song

Take Up Your Cross

1. "Take up your cross," the Savior said, "If you would my disciple be;
Take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me."
2. Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;
His strength shall bear your spirit up, and brace your heart and nerve your arm.
3. Take up your cross, and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down;
For those who humbly bear the cross one day will wear the glorious crown.

Text: Charles W. Everest, 1814-1877, alt.

