

September 14

## The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

*After the true cross had been discovered by Empress Helena (traditionally celebrated as the Invention of the Cross on May 3<sup>rd</sup>) it was kept in Jerusalem, and eventually taken to Persia as a trophy by the pagan King Khosrau. In 630 Emperor Heraclius was able to obtain the cross and to return it to Jerusalem. According to the legend, an invisible force prevented him from bringing it back in triumph, and he was only able to enter the city when he carried it walking humbly. Although this is the occasion for today's very ancient feast, its Propers more generally reflect on the salvific power of the cross.*

Red

2 Cl. (Duplex majus)

INTROIT: Gal. 6:14

Nos autem gloriari oportet in cruce Domini nostri Jesu Christi, in quo est salus, vita et resurrectio nostra : per quem salvati et liberati sumus. Ps. 66:2: Deus misereatur nostri, et benedicat nobis : illuminet vultum suum super nos, et misereatur nostri. V. Gloria.

*But it behoves us to glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ : in whom is our salvation, life, and resurrection : by whom we are saved and delivered. Ps. 66:2: May God have mercy on us, and bless us : may he cause the light of his countenance to shine upon us, and may he have mercy on us. V. Glory.*

COLLECT

Deus, qui nos hodierna die Exaltationis sanctæ crucis annua solemnitate lætificas : præsta, quæsumus, ut, cujus mysterium in terra cognovimus, ejus redemptionis præmia in cælo mereamur. Per eundem Dominum.

*O God, who dost gladden us this day with the yearly solemnity of the exaltation of the holy cross : grant, we beseech thee, that as we have learnt to know its mystery on earth, so we may merit to receive in heaven the rewards of its redemption. Through the same Lord.*

EPISTLE: Phil. 2:5-11

Lectio Epistolæ beati Pauli Apostoli ad Philippenses.

Fratres : Hoc enim sentite in vobis, quod et in Christo Jesu : qui cum in forma Dei esset, non rapinam arbitratus est esse se æqualem Deo : sed semetipsum exinanivit, formam servi accipiens, in similitudinem hominum factus, et habitu inventus ut homo. Humiliavit semetipsum factus obediens usque ad mortem, mortem autem crucis. Propter quod et Deus exaltavit illum, et donavit illi nomen, quod est super omne nomen : (hic genuflectitur) ut in nomine Jesu omne genu flectatur cælestium, terrestrium, et infernorum, et omnis lingua confiteatur, quia Dominus Jesus Christus in gloria est Dei Patris.

*A lesson from the Epistle of St Paul the Apostle to the Philippians.*

*Brethren: Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus : who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men, and in habit found as a man. He humbled himself, becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath exalted him, and hath given him a name, which is above every name : (here all kneel) that in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth, and under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that the Lord Jesus Christ is in the glory of God the Father.*

GRADUAL: *Phil. 2:8-9*

Christus factus est pro nobis obediens usque ad mortem : mortem autem crucis. ¶ Propter quod et Deus exaltavit illum, et dedit illi nomen, quod est super omne nomen.

*Christ became obedient for us unto death : even the death of the cross. ¶ Wherefore God also hath exalted him, and hath given him a name which is above every name.*

## ALLELUIA

Dulce lignum, dulces clavos, dulcia ferens pondera : quæ sola fuisti digna sustinere regem cælorum et Dominum.

*Sweet wood, sweet nails, bearing a sweet weight : which alone wert worthy to bear the King of heaven, and the Lord.*

*ad libitum*: SEQUENCE (*Adam of St Victor, + 1146*)

Laudes crucis attollamus,  
Nos qui crucis exultamus  
Specialis gloria.

*Let us extol the praises of the cross,  
We, who rejoice about the  
Special glory of the cross.*

Dulce melos pulset cælos :  
Dulce lignum dulci dignum  
Credimus melodia.

*A sweet tune knocketh at [the gate of] the heavens.  
We believe that its melody is:  
Sweet wood, worthy for the sweet [body of Christ].*

Voce vita non discordet;  
Cum vox vitam non remordet  
Dulcis est symphonia.

*Life shall not be different from the voice,  
When the voice doth not contradict [our] life,  
The harmony is sweet.*

Servi crucis crucem laudent,  
Qui per crucem sibi gaudent  
Vitæ dari munera.

*The servants of the cross shall praise the cross,  
Who rejoice, for through the cross they receive  
The gifts of life.*

Dicant omnes et dicant singuli,  
Ave, salus totius populi,  
Arbor salutifera.

*May all and sunder say:  
Hail, salvation of all the people,  
Salvation-bearing tree.*

O quam felix, quam præclara,  
Fuit hæc salutis ara  
Rubens Agni sanguine.

*O how happy, and how renowned  
Was this altar of salvation,  
Reddened by the blood of the Lamb.*

Agni sine macula,  
Qui mundavit sæcula  
Ab antiquo crimine.

*Of the Lamb without blemish  
Which cleansed the ages  
From the old crime.*

Hæc est scala peccatorum,  
Per quam Christus, rex cælorum,  
Ad se traxit omnia.

*This is the ladder of the sinners,  
Through which Christ, the king of the heavens,  
Draws everything unto him.*

Forma cujus hoc ostendit,  
Quæ terrarum comprehendit  
Quatuor confinia.

*Its form showeth  
What holdeth together  
The four ends of the earth.*

Non sunt nova sacramenta,  
Nec recenter est inventa  
Crucis hæc religio.

*These are not new sacraments,  
Nor is this worship of the cross  
A new invention.*

Ipsa dulces aquas fecit,  
Per hanc silex aquas iecit  
Moysi officio.

*It made the waters sweet  
And through it the rock emitted water  
By the ministry of Moses.*

Nulla salus est in domo,  
Nisi cruce munit homo  
Superliminaria.

*No salvation is in the house,  
If man doth not arm the threshold  
With a cross.*

Neque sensit gladium  
Nec amisit filium,  
Quisquis egit talia.

*Whosoever did thus,  
Neither felt the sword nor lost a son  
[an allusion to the Israelites marking their doors in  
Exodus].*

Ligna legens in Sarepta,  
Spem salutis est adepta  
Pauper muliercula.

*The poor woman received the hope of Salvation  
When she was collecting woods  
In Sarepta.*

Sine lignis fidei  
Nec lechitus olei  
Valet, nec farinula.

*Without the woods of faith  
Is neither a jar of oil  
Nor flour of any good.*

In scripturis, sub figuris  
Ista latent, sed jam patent  
Crucis beneficia.

*In the Scriptures they are hidden  
In figures,  
But now the blessings of the cross are manifest.*

Reges credunt, hostes cedunt;  
Sola cruce Christo duce  
Hostis fugant millia.

*The kings believe, the enemies scatter;  
Only through the cross, with Christ as leader  
Thousands of enemies flee.*

Ista suos fortiores  
Semper facit et victores,  
Morbos sanat et languores  
Deprimit dæmonia.

*It makes its adherents always  
Stronger and vanquishers.  
It heals the diseases and weaknesses  
And suppresses the demons.*

Dat captivis libertatem,  
Vitæ confert novitatem,  
Ad antiquam dignitatem  
Crux reduxit omnia.

*It gives freedom to the captives  
It grants the newness of life,  
The cross returns everything  
To its ancient dignity.*

O crux, signum triumphale,  
Mundi vera salus, vale!  
Inter ligna nullum tale,  
Fronde, flore, germine.

*O cross, sign of triumph,  
True salvation of the world, hail,  
Amongst the woods is nothing similar  
In leaves, flower and stem.*

Medicina Christiana,  
Salva sanos, ægros sana,  
Quod non valet vis humana  
Fit in tuo nomine.

Insistentes crucis laudi,  
Consecrator crucis, audi,  
Atque servos tuæ crucis  
Post hanc vitam, veræ lucis  
Transfer ad palatia.

Quos tormento vis servire,  
Fac tormenta non sentire,  
Sed cum dies erit iræ  
Nobis confer et largire  
Sempiterna gaudia.

*O medicine of the Christians  
Protect the hale, heal the sick,  
What human power fails to do  
May happen in thy name.*

*To them who do not cease from praising the cross  
Hearken, thou who hadst hallowed the cross,  
And bring the servants of thy cross  
After this life  
To the palaces of true light.*

*Those whom thou wilt serve through thy torments,  
Let them not feel torments,  
But when the day of wrath shall come  
Give us and grant  
Everlasting joys.*

#### GOSPEL: *Jn. 12:31-36*

Sequentia Sancti Evangelii secundum Joannem.

In illo tempore : Dixit Jesus turbis Judæorum :  
Nunc iudicium est mundi : nunc princeps hujus  
mundi ejicietur foras. Et ego, si exaltatus fuero  
a terra, omnia traham ad meipsum. (Hoc autem  
dicebat, significans qua morte esset moriturus).  
Respondit ei turba : Nos audivimus ex lege quia  
Christus manet in æternum : et quomodo tu  
dicis : Oportet exaltari Filium hominis? Quis  
est iste Filius hominis? Dixit ergo eis Jesus :  
Adhuc modicum lumen in vobis est. Ambulate  
dum lucem habetis, ut non vos tenebræ com-  
prehendant : et qui ambulat in tenebris, nescit  
quo vadat. Dum lucem habetis, credite in  
lucem, ut filii lucis sitis.

*Continuation of the holy Gospel according to  
St John.*

*At that time: Jesus said to the multitudes of the Jews:  
Now is the judgment of the world; now shall the  
prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted  
up from the earth, will draw all things to myself.  
(Now this he said, signifying what death he should  
die.) The multitude answered him: We have heard  
out of the law that Christ abideth for ever : and how  
sayest thou, The Son of Man must be lifted up? Jesus  
therefore said to them: Yet a little while, the light is  
among you. Walk whilst you have the light, that the  
darkness overtake you not. And he that walketh in  
darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. Whilst you  
have the light, believe in the light; that you may be  
the children of light.*

#### OFFERTORY

Protege, Domine, plebem tuam per signum  
sanctæ crucis ab insidiis inimicorum omnium :  
\*ut tibi gratam exhibeamus servitatem, et  
acceptabile fiat sacrificium nostrum, \*\*alleluia.  
℣. Te, sancta Dei crux, humiliter obsecramus,  
ut tua virtute nostrum pectus munias, animas  
custodias, cogitationes sanctifices per Christum  
Jesum, qui pependit in te. ℣. Qui pro mundi  
salute in ligno crucis innocens pependisti,  
miserere populo, quem redemisti : ut sacro  
signaculo insignitus a periculis omnibus sit  
securus. \*\*Alleluia. ℣. Salvator mundi, salva nos

*Protect thy people, O Lord, by the sign of the holy  
cross, from the wiles of all their enemies : \*that we  
may render a service pleasing unto thee, and that our  
sacrifice may be acceptable in thy sight, \*\*alleluia.  
℣. Humbly we beg thee, holy cross of God, that  
through thy power thou mightest strengthen our  
hearts, guard our souls, hallow our thoughts through  
Christ Jesu, who hung from thee. ℣. Thou, who wert  
innocent hanging on the cross for the salvation of the  
world, have mercy on the people whom thou hast  
redeemed : that it, signed with the holy sign, may be  
save from all perils. \*\*Alleluia. ℣. Saviour of the*

omnes et omnia, quæ adjuvant, benignus nobis impende : et cuncta nocentia a nobis procul repelle : atque protegendum nos dexteram tuæ majestatis extende. \*Ut tibi.

*world, save all of us and graciously grant us whatever helps us : and remove far from us everything harmful : and stretch out the right hand of thy majesty to protect us. \*That we.*

#### SECRET

Jesu Christi Domini nostri corpore et sanguine saginandi, per quem crucis est sanctificatum vexillum : quæsumus, Domine Deus noster : ut sicut illud adorare meruimus, ita perenniter ejus gloriæ et salutaris potiamur effectu. Per eundem Dominum.

*Being about to be nourished with the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom the standard of the cross was sanctified; we beseech thee, O Lord our God, that, as we have been made worthy to adore it, so we may for ever enjoy the effect of its saving glory. Through the same Lord.*

#### PREFACE

##### *Of the Holy Cross*

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutare, nos tibi semper, et ubique gratias agere : Domine sancte, Pater omnipotens, æterne Deus. Qui salutem humani generis in ligno crucis constituisti : ut unde mors oriebatur, inde vita resurgeret : et qui in ligno vincebat, in ligno quoque vinceretur : per Christum Dominum nostrum. Per quem majestatem tuam laudant Angeli, adorant Dominationes, tremunt Potestates. Cæli, cælorumque Virtutes, ac beata Seraphim, socia exultatione concelebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces, ut admitti jubeas, deprecamur, supplici confessione dicentes :

*It is truly meet and just, right and salutary, that we should always, and in all places, give thanks to thee, O holy Lord, Father almighty, eternal God. Who didst set the salvation of mankind upon the tree of the cross, so that whence came death, thence also life might rise again : and he that overcame by the tree, on the tree also might be overcome. Through Christ our Lord : through whom the Angels praise thy majesty, the Dominions adore, the Powers tremble. The Heavens, and the Virtues of the heavens, and the blessed Seraphim, do celebrate with united joy. In union with whom, we beseech thee, that thou wouldst command our voices also to be admitted, with suppliant confession, saying:*

#### COMMUNION

Per signum crucis de inimicis nostris libera nos, Deus noster.

*By the sign of the cross deliver us from our enemies, O thou who art our God.*

#### POST-COMMUNION

Adesto nobis, Domine Deus noster : et quos sanctæ crucis lætari facis honore, ejus quoque perpetuis defende subsidiis. Per Dominum.

*Be nigh unto us, O Lord our God; and defend those by the perpetual defence of the cross whom thou makest to rejoice in its honour. Through our Lord.*