

SEPTEMBER 14, EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

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In ancient times, under the name of "the Exaltation," the finding of the Holy Cross was celebrated on September 14th in the West, as is still done in the East. But when in the Eighth Century the feast of May 3 was instituted, that of September 14th was retained as one of thanksgiving for the recovery, a hundred years earlier, by the Great Emperor Heraclius, of the inestimable relic, from the infidel Chosroes, King of Persia, who had possessed himself of the holy relic when pillaging the city and churches of Jerusalem. In the East the finding of the Holy Cross by Helena, the mother of Constantine, was celebrated with great splendor. Particles of the true Cross, were, in time, brought from Jerusalem to many other churches in the East and in the West. These churches sought to imitate the solemn ceremonies in use at Jerusalem in order to do homage to the Holy Cross, the triumphant standard of our salvation.

INTROIT Galatians 6: 14

Nos autem gloriári opórtet in Cruce Dómini nostri Jesu Christi: in quo est salus, vita, et resurrectio nostra: per quem salváti, et liberáti sumus. (Ps. 66: 2) Deus misereátur nostri, et benedícat nobis: illúminet vultum suum super nos, et misereátur nostri. Glória Patri et Filio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Nos autem gloriári opórtet in Cruce Dómnini nostri Jesu Christi: in quo est salus, vita, et resurrectio nostra: per quem salváti, et liberáti sumus.

COLLECT

Deus, qui nos hodiérna die Exaltatiónis sanctæ Crucis ánnua sollemnitate lætíficas: præsta, quæsumus; ut, cujus mystérium in terra cognóvimus, ejus redemptiõnis præmia in cælo mereámur. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

EPISTLE Philippians 2: 5-11

Fratres: Hoc enim sentite in vobis, quod et in Christo Jesu. qui cum in forma Dei esset, non rapinam arbitrátus est esse se æquálem Deo: sed semetípsum exinanívit formam servi accipiens, in similitúdinem hóminum factus, et hábitu invéntus ut homo. Humiliávit semetípsum, factus obédiens usque ad mortem, mortem autem crucis. Propter quod et Deus exaltávit illum: et donávit illi nomen, quod est super omne nomen:

(Hic genuflectitur)

ut in nómine Jesu omne genuflectátur cælestium, terréstrium, et infernórum: et omnis lingua confiteátur, quia Dóminus Jesus Christus in glória est Dei Patris.

GRADUAL Philippians 2: 8, 9

Christus factus est pro nobis obédiens usque ad mortem, mortem autem crucis. Propter quod et Deus exaltávit illum, et dedit illi nomen, quod est super omne nomen. Allelúja, allelúja. Dulce lignum, dulces clavos, dúlcia ferens póndera: quæ sola fuísti digna sustinére Regem cælórum et Dóminum. Allelúja.

GOSPEL John 12: 31-36

In illo témpore: Dixit Jesus turbis Judæórum: Nunc júdicium est mundi: nunc prínceps hujus mundi ejiciétur foras. Et ego si exaltátus fúero a terra, ómnia traham ad meípsum. (Hoc autem dicébat, significans qua morte esset moritúrus). Respóndit ei turba: Nos audívimus ex lege, quia Christus manet in ætérnum: et quómodo tu dicis: Opórtet exaltári Fílium hóminis? Quis est iste Fílius hóminis? Dixit ergo eis Jesus: Adhuc módicum lumen in vobis est. Ambuláte dum lucem habétis, ut non vos ténébræ comprehéndant: et qui ámbulat in ténébris, nescit quo vadat. Dum lucem habétis, créдите in lucem, ut filii lucis sitis.

OFFERTORY

Prótege, Dómine, plebem tuam per signum sanctæ Crucis, ab insídiis inimicórum ómnium: ut tibi gratam exhibeámus servitútem, et acceptábile fiat sacrificium nostrum, allelúja.

SECRET

Jesu Christi Dómini nostri córpore et ságuine saginándi, per quem Crucis est sanctificátum vexillum: quæsumus, Dómine Deus noster; ut, sicut illud adoráre merúimus, ita perénniter ejus glóriæ salutáris potiámur efféctu. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PREFACE OF THE HOLY CROSS

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper et ubíque grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnipotens, ætérne Deus: Qui salútem húmáni géneris in ligno Crucis constituísti: ut, unde mors oriebátur, inde víta resúrgeret: et qui in ligno vincébat, in ligno quoque vincerétur: per Christum Dóminum nostrum. Per quem majestátem tuam laudant Ángeli, adórant Dominatiónes, tremunt Potestátes. Cæli cælórúmque Virtútes ac beáta Séraphim sócia exsultatióne concélebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces ut admitti jubeas, deprecámur, súplici confessiõe dicéntes:

COMMUNION Psalms 78: 2, 11

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

POSTCOMMUNION

Adésto nobis, Dómine Deus noster: et quos sanctæ Crucis lætári facis honóre, ejus quoque perpétuis defénde subsidiis. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

But it behooves 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. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. But it behooves 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.

O God, Who dost gladden us this day by the annual solemnity of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross: grant, we beseech Thee, that, as we have known its mystery on earth, we may deserve in heaven the reward which it had purchased. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Brethren let this mind be in you which was also in Jesus Christ: 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 even unto death, even to the death of the cross. For which cause God also hath exalted Him, and hath given Him a name which is above all names:

(Here all kneel)

that in the name of Jesus every knee should bend, 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.

Christ became obedient for us unto death: even the death of the cross. For which cause also God hath exalted Him and hath given Him a name which is above all names. Alleluia, alleluia. Sweet the wood, sweet the nails, sweet the load that hangs thereon: to bear up the King and Lord of Heaven nought was worthy save thou. Alleluia.

At that time: Jesus said to the multitude 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 forever: and how sayest Thou, the Son of man must be lifted up? Who is the Son of man? 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.

Through the sign of the holy cross, protect Thy people, O Lord, from the snares of all enemies, that we may pay Thee a pleasing service, and our sacrifice be acceptable, alleluia.

Being about to be fed with the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord, through Whom the banner of the cross was sanctified, we beseech Thee, O Lord, our God, that as we have had the grace to adore it, so we may forever enjoy the effect of its salutary glory. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

It is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God: Who didst establish the salvation of mankind on the tree of the Cross: that whence death came, thence also life might arise again, and that he, who overcame by the tree, by the tree also might be overcome: Through Christ our Lord. Through Whom the Angels praise Thy Majesty, the Dominations worship it, the Powers stand in awe. The Heavens and the Heavenly hosts together with the blessed Seraphim in triumphant chorus unite to celebrate it. With whom, we pray Thee, command that our voices of supplication also be admitted in confessing Thee saying:

Through the sign of the cross deliver us from our enemies, O our God.

Be Thou with us, O Lord, our God, and as Thou dost make us rejoice in honor of the holy Cross, defend us also by its perpetual assistance. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.