

# Holy Cross Day

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 14, 2025



## HOLY CROSS DAY INTRODUCTION

- P** Holy Cross Day has been celebrated since September 14, 335, the date on which the Church of the Holy Sepulcher was dedicated. Unlike the somberness as we remember the cross on Good Friday, Holy Cross Day is much more celebratory and emphasizes the victory over sin, death, and Satan that was accomplished once and for all when Jesus was lifted up on the cross.
- C** **Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.**  
Galatians 6:14a
- P** While the world largely still sees the cross of Christ as a stumbling block or as folly, today is the day we celebrate the cross of Christ as the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- C** **For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**  
1 Corinthians 1:18
- P** In the cross, the power of sin in our lives is overcome by the self-sacrificing love of God in Jesus. In the cross we witness the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem the world—the wisdom of His plan of salvation.

## HYMN 560 – *Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed*

### INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Let us confess before God and one another that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against God in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God be merciful to me a sinner.
- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

- P** “The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” 1 Timothy 1:15

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

- C** **“To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”** 1 Timothy 1:17

## INTROIT

Psalm 98:1, 4, 6; antiphon v. 2

- P** The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.
- C** **Oh sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things!**
- P** His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.
- C** **Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**
- P** With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P** The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

## KYRIE

- P** Lord, have mercy.
- C** **Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

## GLORIA

- P** Glory be to God on high, and peace to His people on earth.
- C** **We worship, thank, and praise You for Your glory.**
- P** O Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world.
- C** **Have mercy on us, Jesus.**
- P** You alone are the holy One, You alone are the Lord,
- C** **You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## **SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*Following each reading:*

**P** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

*Old Testament*

Numbers 21:4–9

*Epistle*

1 Corinthians 1:18–25

*Holy Gospel*

John 12:20–33

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **HYMN 427 – *In the Cross of Christ I Glory***

**SERMON** *In the Cross Christ Is Glorified*

*John 12:20–33*

## **HYMN 837 – *Lift High the Cross***

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*Following each petition:*

**P** Lord, in Your mercy, **C** hear our prayer.

### **OFFERING**

## **HYMN 423 – *Jesus, Refuge of the Weary***

### **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

based on Luther's prayer for Psalm 40

**P** We give thanks to You, Lord Jesus, for Your bitter suffering and death on the cross, whereby You purchased us from the pangs of eternal death. Thanks be to You that You have sent us the Word of Your salvation. Preserve it with us pure and unadulterated, and whenever we hear or read it, reveal Yourself to us as the Savior of our souls.

**C** Amen.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C** 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  
forever and ever. Amen.

### **BENEDICTION**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## **HYMN 701 – *Draw Us to Thee***