

Holy Cross Day

17th September 2020

THE COLLECT

Almighty God,
who in the passion of your blessed Son
made an instrument of painful death
to be for us the means of life and peace:
grant us so to glory in the cross of
Christ
that we may gladly suffer for his sake;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God world without end. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Numbers 21.4-9

⁴The Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and

whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

At the end the reader may say

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

All Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 22.23-28

Refrain: You are the Holy One, O Lord, enthroned on high

23 Praise the Lord, you that fear him;
O seed of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, O seed of Israel.

24 For he has not despised nor
abhorred the suffering of the poor;
neither has he hidden his face
from them;
but when they cried to him he
heard them.

Refrain: You are the Holy One, O Lord, enthroned on high

25 From you comes my praise in the
great congregation;
I will perform my vows
in the presence of those that
fear you.

26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the Lord shall
praise him;

their hearts shall live for ever.

Refrain: You are the Holy One, O Lord, enthroned on high

27 All the ends of the earth
shall remember and turn to the
Lord,
and all the families of the nations
shall bow before him.

28 For the kingdom is the Lord's
and he rules over the nations.

Refrain: You are the Holy One, O Lord, enthroned on high

SECOND READING *Romans 14.1-12*

Philippians 2.6-11

⁶Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point
of death –
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted
him

and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under
the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

At the end the reader may say

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

All Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

John 3.13-17

Jesus said to Nicodemus: ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

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