

# Holy Cross Day

September 14, 2020 † Mount Olive Lutheran Church



## Focus on the Season: Holy Cross Day

---

This festival, which originated in the fourth century, celebrates the cross of Christ as the heart of God's love for the whole cosmos, as John claims today. Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God, Paul says, even though it looks like foolishness to the rest of the world. As Moses put a serpent on a pole to be a source of healing for the Israelites, we lift the cross as the sign of God's sacrificial love for the whole universe, into which we all are called.

*Keep this document open on the screen, to aid in your worship today. The links are embedded in this pdf, so you don't have to return to the email. You can also print these pages and use the links in the email.*



## Centering and Gathering

---

*Light your candle. [Start the video by clicking here](#); it will continue through the Postlude.*

ENTRANCE HYMN: ELW 324, "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

*Sung at Mount Olive on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, year C, March 13, 2016.*

## Word

---

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

*(Apostolic greeting is on the video)*

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4b-9; reader – Teresa Rothausen, lector

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor the Israelites set out; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The 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." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The 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. <sup>8</sup>And 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." <sup>9</sup>So 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.

PSALM: Psalm 98 *Sing along with the leaders in the video; the tone is there.*

*Recorded by members of the Cantorei on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.*

<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done <sup>1</sup> marvelous things, \* whose right hand and holy arm have <sup>1</sup> won the victory.

<sup>2</sup>O LORD, you have made <sup>l</sup> known your victory, \* you have revealed your righteousness in the sight <sup>l</sup> of the nations.

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the <sup>l</sup> house of Israel; \* all the ends of the earth have seen the victory <sup>l</sup> of our God.

<sup>4</sup>Shout with joy to the LORD, <sup>l</sup> all you lands; \* lift up your voice, re- <sup>l</sup> joice, and sing.

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD <sup>l</sup> with the harp, \* with the harp and the <sup>l</sup> voice of song.

<sup>6</sup>With trumpets and the sound <sup>l</sup> of the horn \* shout with joy before the <sup>l</sup> king, the LORD.

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and <sup>l</sup> all that fills it, \* the world and those who <sup>l</sup> dwell therein.

<sup>8</sup>Let the rivers <sup>l</sup> clap their hands, \* and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to <sup>l</sup> judge the earth.

<sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the <sup>l</sup> world with righteousness \* and the peo- <sup>l</sup> ples with equity.

SECOND READING: I Corinthians 1:18-24; reader – Paul Nixdorf, assisting minister

*Paul writes:* <sup>18</sup>For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 174, “Celtic Alleluia”

*Sung **before** and **after** the Gospel reading.*

*Sung at Mount Olive on the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 18 B, August 5, 2018.*

HOLY GOSPEL: John 3:13-17

Jesus said, <sup>13</sup>“No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>For 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. <sup>17</sup>Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

SERMON

**Way**

Pastor Joseph Crippen

*Silence for reflection*

HYMN: ELW 342, “There in God’s Garden”

*Sung at Mount Olive on the Fifth Sunday of Easter, year B, May 3, 2015.*

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

*Our Assisting Minister for today, Paul Nixdorf, has prepared intercessory prayers for us to pray on this feast day. As our prayers rise up from all over the metro area and beyond, once more we are joined together in Christ. **Response: Hear our prayer.***

PEACE *Please greet one another with Christ’s peace.*

## OFFERING

*There are ways to continue to give of your gifts to our shared work at Mount Olive during this time apart. The Olive Branch has suggested ways both electronic and by mail. See:*

*<https://www.mountolivechurch.org/resources/olive-branch-newsletter/>*

## *Sending*

---

### LORD'S PRAYER

*Pray the Lord's Prayer together.*

BLESSING *Response: **Amen***

HYMN: *ELW 660, "Lift High the Cross"*

*Sung at Mount Olive on the feast of the Reign of Christ, year B, November 22, 2015.*

DISMISSAL *The assisting minister leads the dismissal.*

☒ Go in peace to love and serve as Christ.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: Toccata on "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

D. Cherwien

*Recorded at Mount Olive on the Fifth Sunday in Lent, year C, March 13, 2016.*

