

May 7th

THE FINDING OF THE CROSS

In the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre: Feast
Elsewhere: Optional Memorial

About the discovery of the Cross, we have some evidence dating back to the 4th century, and particularly that of St. Cyril, Bishop of Jerusalem, in his Catechesis (IV 10: 19 X: XIII 4). He claims that in 347, the relics of the Holy Cross were distributed throughout the churches of Christ. It is therefore possible that the discovery of the Cross took place, actually, into 326, at the time of Empress Helena's pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

The liturgy of this day presents the Cross, already represented by the Bronze Serpent in the desert (Num 21), as a sign of hope for all men. An object of scorn, the Cross of Christ has become our "pride". Following Christ, we too must enter into the Paschal Mystery, and live out His Passion so as to offer to the world the testimony of His Resurrection.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: cf. Gal 6: 14

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

[When this feast occurs on a day not a Sunday, there is only one reading before the Gospel; outside the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre there is only one reading]

COLLECT

Lord, by the discovery of the Cross, the source of salvation, you taught us to venerate the Paschal Mystery of your Son.

Graciously grant that by sharing his Cross, we may also share in his Resurrection.

Through Jesus Christ ...

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Numbers 21: 4-9

On the Red Sea road, with their patience worn out by the journey, the people complained against God and Moses, "Why have you brought us up from Egypt to die in this desert, where there is no food or water? We are disgusted with this wretched food!" In punishment the LORD sent among the people fiery serpents, which bit the people so that many of them died. Then the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned in complaining against the LORD and you. Pray the LORD to take the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people, and the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and mount it on a pole, and if anyone who has been bitten looks at it, he will recover. Moses accordingly made a bronze serpent and mounted it on a pole, and whenever anyone who had been bitten by a serpent looked at the bronze serpent, he recovered.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 96: 10. 11-12. 13

(or: R. Alleluia.)

R. The Lord reigns from the Cross.

1. Say to the nations,

“The LORD is king.”
The world he made firm in its place;
he will judge the peoples in fairness.

2. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad;
let the sea and all within it thunder praise.
Let the land and all it bears rejoice.
Then will all the trees of the wood shout for joy

3. At the presence of the LORD, for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with justice;
he will govern the peoples with his truth.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

2: 5-11

Brethren:

Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

R. Alleluia. Alleluia.

O Christ, we adore you and we bless you, because by your Cross you have redeemed the world.

R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint John

3: 13-17

Jesus answered and said to Nicodemus: "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Deign to receive, Lord, our offering. Grant us through the power of the Holy Cross the courage to overcome all obstacles.

Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you placed the salvation of the human race on the wood of the Cross, so that, where death arose, life might again spring forth and the evil one, who conquered on a tree, might likewise on a tree be conquered, through Christ our Lord.

Through him the Angels praise your majesty, Dominions adore and Powers tremble before you.

Heaven and the Virtues of heaven and the blessed Seraphim worship together in exultation.

May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in humble praise, as we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

John 12: 32

And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself."

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having been nourished by heavenly food, we beseech you, Almighty God, to defend from the evil foe those you have redeemed by the Cross of your Son.

Through Christ our Lord..