

14 September 2014 Holy Cross Day

Collect of the Day

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, now and for ever.

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. (NRSV)

Second Reading

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. (NRSV)

Gospel

John 3.13-17

Jesus said to Nicodemus: ¹³'No 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.

¹⁶'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.

¹⁷'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.' (NRSV)

Post Communion Prayer

Faithful God, whose Son bore our sins in his body on the tree and gave us this sacrament to show forth his death until he comes:

give us grace to glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he is our salvation, our life and our hope, who reigns as Lord, now and for ever.