

The Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway Stavanger Congregation

Stavanger Anglicans' website:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/8466/>

Stavanger Anglicans on Facebook:

<https://m.facebook.com/stavangeranglicans/>

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Sunday 14 September 2025; Holy Cross Day

Menighetshus: 10.30

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Numbers 21.4-9

Psalms 22: 23-28

Philippians 2: 6-11

John 3: 13-17



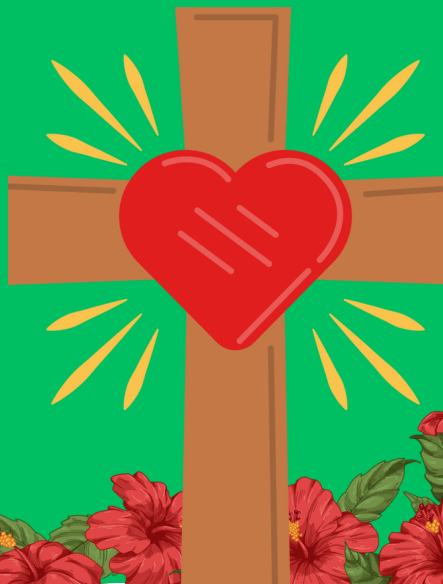
Reflection

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Today we gather on Holy Cross Sunday, when we lift high the cross of Christ and remember it not as a symbol of shame, but as the tree of life. At the same time, we are walking through the Season of Creation, and outside these walls, autumn is wrapping Norway in its colours, gold, red, and brown. The air is crisp, the days shorter, the harvest nearly gathered in. Creation is speaking to us. And the cross is speaking to us.

The two voices are not separate.

In our Gospel reading, Jesus says: “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”. The cross is not only an instrument of death. It becomes a place of healing, where what is broken is lifted up so that new life can begin.





But Holy Cross Sunday is not only about comfort. It is also a call. Paul tells us in Philippians that Christ “humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”. To follow the cross is to take the path of humility, service, and self-giving love.

When we look at the forests turning colour, we are reminded of that truth. Autumn teaches us that endings and losses are not the final word. Leaves fall, seeds are buried, and yet we know spring will come again. The cross, too, looked like an ending, but in it God planted resurrection.



HOLY
CROSS
DAY



Here in Norway, we live in a land of great natural beauty, fjords, mountains, forests, and seas. Yet creation also groans. We hear of storms growing stronger, of species declining, of the urgent need to care for the earth that God has entrusted to us. The cross reminds us that God does not turn away from suffering, God enters into it, bears it, and transforms it. If the cross stands at the centre of our faith, then caring for the wounded creation must also stand at the centre of our discipleship.

The wood of the cross came from a tree. Tradition even links it to the Tree of Life. How powerful, then, to think of the cross as God's tree of healing, planted at the heart of the world. On this Season of Creation Sunday, perhaps we are called to ask: what does it mean to plant trees of hope today? What does it mean to live in such a way that our children and grandchildren will see not only autumn leaves but also a flourishing earth?, the Christ who redeems, the Spirit who renews the face of the earth



And there is another message in autumn. As the daylight shortens, as we prepare for colder months, we are reminded of the need for community. We gather food, we light candles, we draw closer together. The cross gathers us, too. It unites strangers and friends, visitors and regular members, into one body, one family of God.

So on this Holy Cross Sunday, let us see the cross not only as a reminder of Christ's sacrifice, but as a compass for our lives:

A call to humility in a world of pride.

A call to healing in a world of brokenness.

A call to creation care in a world groaning for renewal.

A call to community in a world too often divided.

When you see the trees this week, whether leaves turning gold, or a bare branch against the sky, remember the cross. Remember that God takes what seems like death and makes it the beginning of life.

And so, dear friends, let us lift high the cross in our hearts, in our homes, and in our care for one another and for the earth, until all creation joins in the hymn: "Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit Amen



Contacts and Connections

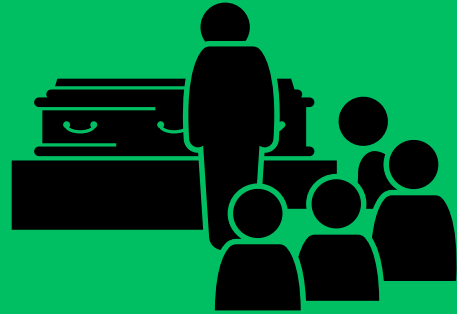


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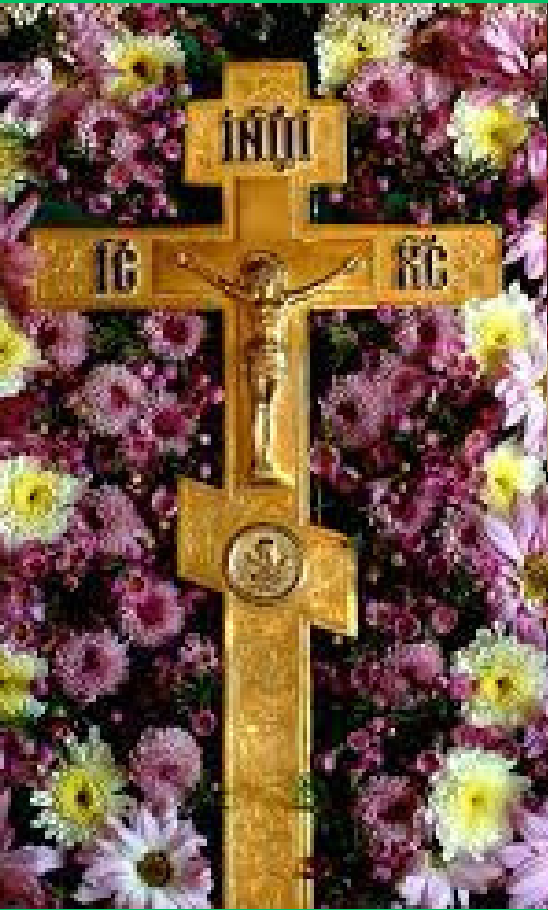
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**For pastoral needs,
Baptisms
Blessing of Civil Marriages
Funerals
Please contact the
Assistant Chaplain**



Collect

Almighty God, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world unto himself: Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen



Notices



14 September 2025 we are meeting at Menighetshus Rektor Steens gata 7, Stavanger

We are back at Menighetshus and we pay rentals. Our finances are not looking good may you please help us by donating through VIPPS or Bank Account Number 3201 08 90631