



~ 14th September 2025 ~
~ Holy Cross Day ~
~ (13th Sunday after Trinity) ~

~ Collect (s) ~

"Almighty God,
whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ
was lifted high upon the cross
that he might draw the whole world to 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 lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, in glory everlasting". Amen

~ Readings ~

Numbers 21. 4 - 9

OT p 158

Philippians 2. 6 - 11

NT p 1179

John 3. 13 - 17

NT p 1066

(NIV used in sermon preparation)

~ 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". Amen

This week we celebrate Holy Cross Day but for your use, if preferred, here are the Collects and Post Communion Prayer for the 13th Sunday after Trinity.

Collect (s)

**Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;
through him who was lifted up on the cross,
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen**

or

**Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Post Communion

God our creator,

you feed your children with the true manna,
the living bread from heaven:

let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage
until we come to that place
where hunger and thirst are no more;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Why Holy Cross Day?

Just out of interest I looked at the AI overview for the feast ~ it said ~

Holy Cross Day is celebrated on September 14 to honour the True Cross of Jesus, commemorating its discovery by St. Helena in the 4th century, the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on the site of the discovery, and the recovery of the True Cross from the Persians in the 7th century. The feast day celebrates the cross as the central symbol of Christianity, representing Christ's suffering, death, love, and ultimate victory over sin and death.

The overview is arrived at due to the various elements of history that we can piece together:

The discovery of the "True Cross" is based on the Emperor Constantine's mother, Helena, leading excavations in Jerusalem and it is said uncovering the actual cross upon which Jesus was crucified. There was obviously little contradiction to the claim regarding the discovery of the cross because In 335 AD, the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre was built on the site where the cross was found and was dedicated on September 14. The relic of the cross was then shown to the public for veneration on this day. However, the feast also commemorates the recovery of the "True Cross" from the Persians in 628 AD, solidifying its importance to Christians as a symbol of hope and love because the cross, a symbol of death and suffering, is transformed into a sign of glory and hope by Christ's death and resurrection. So for us as Christians, the cross represents the power of God and the cancellation of humanity's debt of sin and death through Christ's sacrifice. The day then is set aside to remind believers to "boast in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" and to live lives of love and service, similar to Christ's example.

Do this mornings readings help us to do that? The reading in the book of Numbers is there to help us to accept the importance of symbols ~ in this case to help us recognise the healing love of God.. It certainly speaks of faith and healing.

I admit to being biased as The hymn of Christology is probably my favourite declaration of faith ~ it describes for us, as Christians, the greatest symbol that we have ~ our Lord Jesus Christ ~ our salvation and redemption. Thus I easily accept the value of our Philippians reading as I consider the Holy Cross. How about You?

John, in our gospel expounds the works of God the Father through His Son Jesus and compares Moses raising the snake to receive God's healing power to God himself raising Jesus so we can receive healing through forgiveness. Try using these two verses as a mantra in prayer this week. Let is wash over you and feel God's healing.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."