



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

Galatians 6.14

Holy Cross Day

Saturday 13th September 2025

St Paul's Church Charlestown

Welcome to St Paul's Church.

We are most grateful to Fr Paul Arthur, the churchwardens, the PCC, our organist Paul Manuel, and the people of St Paul's for their generous welcome today.

"Holy Cross Day," usually observed on 13th September in the east, and 14th in the west, recalls the date of the consecration of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem in 335AD and the following day the "exaltation" or showing of the relic of the True Cross, hence the two dates.

The image on the cover is from a traditional form showing the Emperor Constantine exalting the Cross on the site of Calvary, as saints of the earthly and heavenly kingdoms look on.

Lyrics and music for the hymns are reproduced under CCL 941058

The Gathering

At the entry of the ministers this hymn is sung.

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the cross of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown!

His dying crimson, like a robe,
spreads o'er his body on the tree:
then am I dead to all the globe,
and all the globe is dead to me.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

text: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

music: Rockingham, Melody Tunbridge

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

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Words of welcome are likely to be added

All Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly
love you, and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Invitation to Confession

Christ himself carried up our sins in his body to the tree,
so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness;
by his wounds we have been healed.

Let us confess our sins.

cf 1 Peter 2.24

Kyrie Confession

Lord Jesus,
you came to reconcile us to one another and the Father:

Lord, have mercy.
All **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,
you heal the wounds of sin and division:

Christ, have mercy.
All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,
you intercede for us with your Father:

Lord, have mercy.
All **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness,
and keep *you* in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

All **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Collect

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.

All **Amen**

The Liturgy of the Word

New Testament Reading ***Philippians 2.6-11***

Christ Jesus, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped but emptied himself, taking the form of a
slave, assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself and
became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.
Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name
that is above every other name, so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory
of God the Father.

For the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

**When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot Thou hast taught me to say,
“It is well, it is well with my soul!”**

It is well with my soul!
It is well, it is well with my soul!

**Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.**

**My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought—
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His Cross, and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!**

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live;
If dark hours about me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888)
Tune Philip Paul Bliss

Gospel Reading John 3.13-17

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

All Alleluia.

No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And 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.

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. 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sermon

The Bishop of Truro

Intercession

Let us pray to the Father through his Son,
who suffered on the cross for the world's redemption.

Fill with your Spirit Christ's broken body, the Church.
Send you Spirit on our synod today, upon those gathered here and
in their homes, on those who will speak, and on those who will
make decisions.

Give to Christian people everywhere a deep longing
to take up the cross and to understand its mysterious glory.

By the Saviour's cross and passion,
All Lord, save us and help us.

Bless those who lead the Church's worship.
We pray for David and Hugh, for Kelly and Clive, for Fr Paul and
the people of this church. For bishops, priests, and deacons, for
readers, and worship leaders, for those who lead worship in
schools and colleges. For those who exalt the cross in the Diocese
of Worcester and in the Diocese of Winchester, for our sisters and
brothers in other churches and communions in this land.

In the preaching of the word
and the celebration of the sacraments,
draw your people close to you.

By the Saviour's cross and passion,
All Lord, save us and help us.

Look in your mercy upon the world you loved so much
that you sent your Son to suffer and to die.
We pray for this land and its leaders, for Russia and Ukraine, for
the Holy Land, for Sudan and South Sudan, for the Congo and all
places where there is war or fear.

Strengthen those who work to share
the reconciliation won at such a cost upon the cross.

By the Saviour's cross and passion,
All Lord, save us and help us.

Bring healing by the wounds of Christ to all who are weighed down by pain and injustice.

Help the lonely and the betrayed, the suffering and the dying, to find strength in the companionship of Jesus, and in his passion to know their salvation.

By the Saviour's cross and passion,
All **Lord, save us and help us.**

Welcome into paradise all who have left this world in your friendship.

According to your promises,
bring them with all your saints
to share in the benefits of Christ's death and resurrection.

By the Saviour's cross and passion,
All **Lord, save us and help us.**
Holy God, holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Christ is our peace.
He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord, be always with you
All **And also with you**

and all may chastely exchange signs of Peace

Offertory Hymn

Sweet Sacrament divine,
hid in thine earthly home,
lo, round thy lowly shrine,
with suppliant hearts we come;
Jesus, to thee our voice we raise
in songs of love and heartfelt praise:
sweet Sacrament divine.

Sweet Sacrament of peace,
dear home for every heart,
where restless yearnings cease
and sorrows all depart;
there in thine ear all trustfully
we tell our tale of misery:
sweet Sacrament of peace.

Sweet Sacrament of rest,
ark from the ocean's roar,
within thy shelter blest
soon may we reach the shore;
save us, for still the tempest raves,
save, lest we sink beneath the waves:
sweet Sacrament of rest.

Sweet Sacrament divine,
earth's light and jubilee,
in thy far depths doth shine
thy Godhead's majesty;
sweet light, so shine on us, we pray,
that earthly joys may fade away:
sweet Sacrament divine.

*Francis Stanfield 1835-1914
T. "Divine Mysteries" P Stanfield*

Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

Merciful God, through the death of your beloved Son
you transformed an instrument of shame
into a sign of hope and glory.

Receive all we bring before you this day,
and renew us in the mystery of his love;
through the same Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

The bishop exhorts the people to prayer using these or other words

Pray my sisters and brothers,
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father

**All May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good,
and the good of all his holy Church.
Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Today we celebrate with songs of praise
the cross, the victory-sign of Christ.
Once through the fruit of the forbidden tree we fell,
now through this tree our Saviour cancels all our sin.
An instrument of shameful death
has become for Christ a throne of glory.

The power of the life-giving cross
reveals the judgement that has come upon the world
and the triumph of Christ crucified.
And so, with choirs of angels and with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory and join their unending hymn of praise:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.✠

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me. ✠

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Jesus Christ is Lord:
All **Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:
All **Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us
All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

The Agnus Dei and invitation to Communion

All Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

The bishop and people receive Communion

After Communion, Silence is kept

Post Communion Prayer

All 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.

Blessing

Christ crucified draw you to himself,
to find in him a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the ✠ Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen

Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord
All Thanks be to God.

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

Come, let us follow where our Captain trod,
our King victorious, Christ the Son of God:

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in conquering ranks combine:

This is the sign which Satan's legions fear
and angels veil their faces to revere:

Saved by the cross whereon their Lord was slain,
earth's fallen children their lost home regain:

Let every race and every language tell
of him who saves our souls from death and hell:

From farthest regions let them homage bring,
and on his cross adore their Saviour King:

Set up thy throne, that earth's despair may cease
beneath the shadow of its healing peace:

For thy blest cross which doth for all atone
creation's praises rise before thy throne:

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name*

George W. Kitchin (1827-1912) & Michael R. Newbolt (1874-1956) tune: Crucifer, Sydney H. Nicholson (1875-1947)