

Blessed
are You, Holy Cross,
wood of life, destroyer
of delusion and giver of
salvation to the
world.



Our Lady of Lebanon
Co-Cathedral

Prayer in Preparation for
the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

By the power of the cross,
we are rooted in hope

Day 3

Priest: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Cong: Amen.

Priest: Make us worthy, O Lord Jesus Christ, to always make the sign of Your cross with the utmost faith and reverence, for it is the sign of Your life-giving passion, and of Your victory over pain and death. Make Your Spirit breathe upon us, and always grant us security in this world of danger, so that we may reach Your holy dwellings; and there we shall praise You forever, and render glory to You, to Your father and to Your Holy Spirit now and forever.

Cong: (two choirs)

- * Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, and goodwill toward humankind.
- ** We praise You, we bless You, we adore You, we glorify You, and we give You thanks for Your great glory.
- * O Lord Creator, O Heavenly King, Father Almighty, God of our fathers
- ** O Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, O Holy Spirit
- * Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, O living Word of God, You Who take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us
- ** You who take away the sins of the world, hear my prayer and give ear to my supplication!
- * You who sit at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.
- ** For You alone are holy. You alone are the Lord. Together with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father.
- * Glory to God the Father, always and all the days of our lives, Amen!
- */** Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, and goodwill toward humankind now and forever.



Reader: : O Christ, Redeemer of mankind, Creator of our earth, You who have been lifted up on the Cross between earth and heaven, and that Cross witnessed that You rose from the dead and overcame evil. Be for us, O Lord, a Savior every day, every hour, and help us to always have hope. May Your cross be our constant companion in every minute of our life so that we avoid being led astray from our faith in You, and that we may always rely upon You and love You. We praise You with the entire creation, and give glory to You and to your blessed Father and your living Holy Spirit now and forever.

Constantine Beheld the Cross (Msheeho natareh l'eedokh)

1. Constantine beheld the cross, shining brightly in the sky. Like a banner held on high, it was seen throughout the land. In awe he professed his faith in Jesus Christ and his saving cross.

Glory to the son of God, who laid down his life for us. He died on the cross and redeemed us by his blood. All the peoples that were saved by his great love sing their thanks and praise to God.

2. With the cross of Christ our Lord, we are raised to heaven's heights from this world of sin and death to the joys of paradise. The cross is the path and bridge that Martyrs take on their way to life.

Now the faithful Church is signed with the saving cross of Christ and sings hymns of praise as she glorifies the Lord, who was hung upon the cross and conquered death, granting life to all the world.

Psalm 17 (two choirs)

- * Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to my cry; give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.
- ** From you let my vindication come; let your eyes see the right.
- * If you try my heart, if you visit me by night, if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me; my mouth does not transgress.
- ** As for what others do, by the word of your lips. I have avoided the ways of the violent.
- * My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped.
- ** I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words.
- * Wondrously show your steadfast love, O savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand.
- ** Guard me as the apple of the eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings,
- * from the wicked who despoil me, my deadly enemies who surround me.
- ** They close their hearts to pity; with their mouths they speak arrogantly.
- * They track me down;[a] now they surround me; they set their eyes to cast me to the ground.
- ** They are like a lion eager to tear, like a young lion lurking in ambush.
- * Rise up, O LORD, confront them, overthrow them! By your sword deliver my life from the wicked,
- ** from mortals—by your hand, O LORD— from mortals whose portion in life is in this world. May their bellies be filled with what you have stored up for them; may their children have more than enough; may they leave something over to their little ones.
- * As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.
- */** Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, and goodwill toward humankind

Psalms 141

Cantor: Let my prayer, O Lord God, rise like incense before you. And the raising of my hands, as an evening sacrifice.

Cong: Let my prayer, O Lord God, rise like incense before you. And the raising of my hands, as an evening sacrifice.

(Repeated after each paragraph)

Cantor: 1. I call upon you, O Lord, make haste to help me!

Turn your ear to my appeal and hear my voice.

2. To you, O Lord God, to you my eyes are turned.

My refuge lies in you alone; Spare my soul.

3. O Lord. The righteous shall gather around me,

for you have shown your faithful love and goodness.

Litanies

Reader: For the sake of those who are carrying the burden of despair and suffering from injustice and inequality in this life, and for those who gave up the will to live, we ask you by the power of your cross which lights up our way, to let them experience your comforting presence in their lives, so that they may pull their way out of despair and surrender.

Cong: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy

Reader: For the sake of those who have lost their loved ones due to violence and corruption, and for those who have lost the meaning of life and joy, and sank into a severe existential crisis, we ask you by the power of your cross which lights up our way, to put on their path witnesses of hope who overcame the same obstacles safely.

Cong: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy

Reader: For the sake of media workers, we ask you by the power of your cross which lights up our way, to help them be channels of hope through their profession so that they do not sow seeds of frustration and despair in people's hearts like today's media.

Cong: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy

Readings

People: Holy and immortal Lord, sanctify our minds and purify our consciences, that we may praise You with purity, and listen to Your Holy Scriptures. To You be glory, forever. Amen

Psalm of the Readings

Cong: Guard the Church and her children
With your cross of light and life
By your cross, O Redeemer,
Prophecies have been fulfilled

Cel: with the sign of your cross, Lord,
You ordain your holy priests,
And they give us the Mysteries
Through the power of your cross

Cong: Lord, your cross is a ladder
Leading us to heaven's heights.
May your church and her children
Join the angel hosts on high.

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews,

Even though we speak in this way, beloved, we are confident of better things in your case, things that belong to salvation. For God is not unjust; he will not overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake[a] in serving the saints, as you still do. And we want each one of you to show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope to the very end, so that you may not become sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

When God made a promise to Abraham, because he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, “I will surely bless you and multiply you.” And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Human beings, of course, swear by someone greater than themselves, and an oath given as confirmation puts an end to all dispute. In the same way, when God desired to show even more clearly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it by an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God would prove false, we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us. We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Lord Your Cross was taken from the Tree

(Fsheeto)

1. Alleluia! Lord, your cross was taken from the tree in Eden, And your death upon the cross has granted new life to all the world. In its shadow refuge can be found, for the rich and poor.

All the prophets and the martyrs sang its praises. On this day we join with them in giving glory.

Alleluia! The cross is our light.

2. Alleluia!

With the cross we bless ourselves for Christ's protection. When the tempter comes to us with his deception and sees the cross; far from it he flees and hides himself in the darkest depths, for the holy cross is mighty and defends us. On this day we raise it up in exaltation.

Alleluia! The cross is our light.

Priest: Blessed are You, Holy Cross, wood of life, destroyer of delusion and giver of salvation to the world. You are the banner of victory in battle. Through You miraculous signs were given. You have repealed the ancient sacrifices and fulfilled the new mysteries. Through You, peace has been given and joy has come dwell among us. Through You the church has been edified and her children protected. Through You our bodies and souls are sanctified and purified. Through You, our debts are erased and our righteousness is increased. Through You, the faithful will obtain perfection. Through You faithful are armed. Through You, the faithful departed find rest. Through You we shelter in the day of judgment. With You we walk to the dwelling of eternal life and we render glory to Christ, the word who was crucified on You, and to his father and to the Holy living Spirit now and forever.

Cong: Amen

Priest: Holy Are You, O God

Cong: You who appeared among us to bring us back to the Father.

Priest: Holy Are You Lord God Almighty

Cong: You who by Your strength have triumphed and saved us.

Priest: Holy Are You O God, You will never die

Cong: You who died, then rose, and left us Your cross as a witness.

Priest: O Lord, You were crucified for the sake of Your people, and You shone upon them with the Cross of light. So, today, they honour Your cross and adore it. Have mercy on them, and make them worthy to call upon Your blessed father and saying:

Cong: Our Father who art in heaven (...).

Priest: Eternal Father, accept our prayers and bless us for we have come to celebrate the Exaltation of Your Son's holy Cross. Strengthen us so that we may wait for his second coming standing firm, and remain faithful to the duties entrusted to us, like the wise and faithful servant. Make us worthy to remain children of light, full of faith and love and hope, waiting for the joy of our eternal meeting. We raise glory to You and Your only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and to Your Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Cong: Amen



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