

LIVING WITH THE CROSS OF CHRIST

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18

PRESENCE of GOD

Leader: We praise the Lord for the cross of Christ!
All: We praise the Lord for Christ's willingness to bear it.
Leader: By the cross we are saved.
All: With the cross we are baptized.
Leader: Under the cross we live.
All: Because of the cross we are forgiven.
Leader: The cross has become the Tree of Life .
All: Through the cross we come to eternal life.
Leader: Praise the Lord for the cross of Christ!
All: Let us take up the cross and follow Him.



LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

Refrain

Lift high the cross the love of Christ proclaim,
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

Refrain

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

Refrain:

Each newborn servant of the Crucified
Bears on the brow the seal of Him who died.

Refrain

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised draw the world to Thee.

Refrain

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified For victory.

Refrain

Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though He was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied Himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
He humbled Himself
and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted Him
and gave Him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of 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.

Galatians 2:19–20

I have been crucified with Christ, and I live now not with my own life but with the life of Christ Who lives in me. The life I now live in this body I live in faith: faith in the Son of God Who loved me and Who sacrificed Himself for my sake.

REFLECTION

The Sign of the Cross we make over ourselves before prayer helps to fix our minds and hearts to God. After prayer we make it to keep close to God. During trials and temptations our strength and protection is the Sign of the Cross. At Baptism we are sealed with the Sign of the Cross, signifying the fullness of redemption and that we belong to Christ. Let us look to the cross frequently, and realize that when we make the Sign of the Cross we give our entire self to God — mind, soul, heart, body, will, thoughts."

**O cross, you are the glorious sign of victory.
Through your power may we share in the triumph of Christ Jesus.**

PSALM 145

All look to You for help, Lord; You are near to all who call on You.
The Lord is faithful in all His words,
the Lord is holy in all His deeds.
The Lord supports all who are falling,
the Lord lifts up all who are oppressed.
All look to You for help,
and You give them their food in due season.
In Your goodness You open your hand,
and give every creature its fill.
The Lord is just in all His ways,
the Lord is kind in all that He does.
The Lord is near to those who call on Him,
to all those who call on Him in truth.
For those that honor Him,
He does what they ask,
He hears all their prayers,
and he keeps them safe.
The Lord keeps safe all who love Him,
but He dooms all the wicked to destruction.

LITANY

- Leader: Jesus told His disciples, "If any want to become My followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me."
In the name of Jesus, we pray:
- All: **Lord, help us to take up our cross and follow You.**
- Leader: You stood before Pilate, Your life condemned, Your word rejected, Your innocence ignored:
- All: **Keep us from rejecting Your word of truth and salvation.**
- Leader: You carried Your cross on the wounded stripes of Your back, for love of us and for all the world.
- All: **Help us to bear our cross, for love of You and for love of others.**
- Leader: The weight of Your cross was the weight of our sins which make us stumble and fall.
- All: **In our weakness, we turn to You for strength.**
- Leader: Although You suffered, You still reached out to care for Your mother.
- All: **May our cross-bearing never keep us from caring for others.**
- Leader: As You struggled to bear Your cross to Calvary, a passerby was made to help You.
- All: **Make us as willing as Simon to bear the burdens of those in need.**
- Leader: Others also took risks to comfort You.
- All: **Strengthen our faith to take loving risks for our needy brothers and sisters.**
- Leader: Sin weighed heavily upon You as You stumbled along the way.
- All: **Forgive us, Lord, for the sins which make us fall.**
- Leader: Your suffering under the cross caused the women of Jerusalem to weep.
- All: **Make our suffering in life a share in Your suffering.**
- Leader: The full burden of our sin crushed You mightily to the earth.
- All: **Do not forsake us in our falling, but bring us to repentance and faith.**
- Leader: Stripped and jeered, You endured humiliation without complaint.
- All: **Humble us in our work and daily lives.**
- Leader: Nailed to the cross, You took Your place among the condemned.
- All: **Take Your place beside us sinners, and bring us through faith to the Paradise of God.**
- Leader: When Your sacrifice was complete, You handed Your life to the Father, and He did not forsake You.
- All: **Keep us close to Your cross and death, now and at the hour of our death.**

Leader: Faithful friends and loving women took loving care of Your lifeless body.
All: **Turn the darkness of death into the brightness of day for those we love.**
Leader: In the tomb You were laid, but from the tomb You arose.
All: **Be the Lord of the resurrection for us and for all the baptized.**
Leader: Loving Jesus, for the sake of Your cross and passion, we are justified in faith, washed cleaned of our sins by baptism and repentance, and made one with God. We thank You for Your cross and for the depths of Your love for us. Help us to bear our cross in the world and follow You until You bring us into Your heavenly kingdom; where you reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
All: **Amen.**

PRAYER

God of Glory,
The Cross shines as a sign of obedience to Your will
And a symbol of Your love
For the world.
Bless us who find salvation
In the cross of Christ;
May we always recognize His glory
In the weak, suffering and condemned of the world.
We ask this through Christ, crucified and exalted, Who is Lord forever and ever.

Saint John Baptist de La Salle,
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
intercede for us that we may take up our cross daily and faithfully follow Jesus.

Live Jesus in our hearts.
Forever!



Behold, O good and most sweet Jesus,
I fall upon my knees before You,
and with most fervent desire beg and beseech You
that You would impress upon my heart
a lively sense of faith, hope and charity, true repentance
for my sins, and a firm resolve to make amends.
And with deep affection and grief,
I reflect upon Your five wounds,
having before my eyes that which Your prophet David
spoke about You, O good Jesus:
"They have pierced My hands and feet,
they have counted all My bones." Amen.

