

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION  
OF THE HOLY CROSS





Through me great deeds will God make manifest,  
And all the earth will come to call me blest.  
Unbounded love and mercy sure I will proclaim  
For all who know and praise God's holy name.

God's mighty arm, protector of the just,  
Will guard the weak and raise them from the dust.  
But mighty kings will swiftly fall from thrones corrupt.  
The strong brought low, the lowly lifted up.

Soon will the poor and hungry of the earth  
Be richly blest, be given greater worth.  
And Israel, as once foretold to Abraham,  
Will live in peace throughout the promised land

All glory be to God, Creator blest,  
To Jesus Christ, God's love made manifest,  
And to the Holy Spirit, gentle comforter,  
All glory be both now and evermore

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## BLESSING

**Leader:** May our God who gave us Jesus who died and rose for us,  
bless us on our way as the sun sets on this day.  
**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** May we be at peace at the close of this day.  
**All:** Amen.

## MORNING PRAYER

### Introduction:

**L.** As the rising sun reflects the Resurrection of Jesus who died for us, so the Church gathers at the beginning of the day to praise the God of our salvation.

### CALL TO WORSHIP

- L.** Let us glory in the Cross  
**All:** We praise you, O God!  
**L.** The Cross of Jesus Christ!  
**All:** We follow you, O Christ!!  
**L.:** The Cross has become 'the tree of life.'  
**All:** We lift our hearts to you, O God!



## HYMN

### Behold the Wood (or other)

Behold, behold the Wood of the Cross  
On which is hung our salvation,  
O Come let us adore

1. Unless a grain of wheat shall fall  
Upon the ground and die  
It shall remain but a single grain and not give life.
2. And when my hour of glory comes  
as all was meant to be,  
You shall see me lifted up upon a tree

Text: John 12, Dan Schutte, Tune Dan Schutte  
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**Leader:** Let us bring to mind in our hearts what this day will bring.

**PSALM** Psalm 65: 23, 614.

**Leader:** We venerate your Cross, O God, as we recall your sacred  
Passion.

(Alternate Sides)

To you our praise is due  
In Zion, O God  
To you we pay our vows,  
You who hear our prayer

You who keep your pledge with wonders,  
O God our Saviour,  
The hope of all the earth  
And of the far distant isles

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
before all his people.  
O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I ;  
You have loosened my bonds.  
A thanksgiving sacrifice I will make;  
I will call upon the Lord's Name.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
before all his people  
in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Glory to you, Source of all being,  
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen.

## GOSPEL CANTICLE

### Mary's Song of Praise

**Antiphon:** Holy is God, holy and mighty, Holy immortal One,  
Have mercy on us!

(There are many simple sung versions available)

MAGNIFICAT Bernadette Farrell

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord  
My spirit sings to God, my saving God,  
Who on this day above all others favoured me  
And raised me up, a light for all to see.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
Walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,  
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
Making your kingdom come.

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Tune: Bernadette Farrell b.1957

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**Leader:** Take a few moments to reflect on your day and to name one thing for which to give thanks.  
(Pause to allow some sharing if desired)

**Psalm:** Ps.115

**Leader:** Gladly will I glory in the Cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ  
(*Alternate sides*)

I trusted, even when I said:  
'I am sorely afflicted.'  
And when I said in my alarm:  
'No-one can be trusted.'

How can I repay the Lord  
for his goodness to me?  
The cup of salvation I will raise;  
I will call upon the Lord's Name.

You uphold the mountains with your strength,  
You are girded with power.  
You still the roaring of the seas,  
(the roaring of their waves)  
and the tumult of the peoples.

The ends of the earth stand in awe  
At the sight of your wonders.  
The lands of sunrise and sunset  
You fill with your joy.



You care for the earth, give it water;  
You fill it with riches.  
Your river in heaven brims over  
To provide its grain.

And thus you provide for the earth;  
You drench its furrows;  
You level it, soften it with showers;  
you bless its growth.

You crown the year with your goodness.  
Abundance flows in your steps;  
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.  
The hills are girded with joy,

The meadows covered with flocks  
The valleys are decked with wheat.  
They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

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#### WORD OF GOD John 3:13-17

You must not be surprised when the world hates you; we have passed out of death and into life, and of this we can be sure because we love our brothers and sisters. If you refuse to love, you must remain dead; to hate a brother or sister is to be a murderer, and murderers, as you know, do not have eternal life in them. This has taught us to love - that he gave up his life for us; and we too, ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. . If a man who was rich enough in this world's goods saw that one of his brothers was in need, but closed his heart to him, how could the love of God be living in him?

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#### EVENING PRAYER

#### PROCLAMATION OF THE LIGHT

The Cross may be enshrined with a light thrown on it

**Leader:** (As the evening lights are lit from the Easter Candle)

Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

#### HYMN

**Christ be Our Light:** Bernadette Farrell  
or a similar hymn proclaiming the light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
Light for the world to see.

Christ be our Light!  
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ be our Light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
Shared until all are fed.

## INTERCESSIONS

**Response:** O God, hear us, hear our prayer (said or sung)

For the Church

For the Baptised

For the suffering people of the world

For the oppressed

For those affected by drought

For the homeless

For the physically or mentally ill and their carers

*(Add you own petitions here)*

## OUR FATHER

**Leader:** Let us pray as our Saviour taught us:

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

**All:** 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 recognise 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.

Amen.

## BLESSING

**Leader:** May our God who gave us Jesus, who died and rose for us, bless us on our way this day.

**All:** Amen

9

*Silent prayer*

## Reflection:

*The triumph of the Cross probably sounded to first century ears the way the triumph of the electric chair would to our own.*

*Today's feast is a celebration of the kind of divine foolishness Paul talks about in first Corinthians a stumbling block to some, yet the source of salvation.*

*In Jesus' crucifixion, our God of reversal has transformed a symbol of brutal tyranny and oppression into a sign of Divine Power. Even at its most horrible, human evil is overturned to divine righteousness; the one executed unjustly is transformed into the radiant sun of justice and glory.*



**From the Acts of Chapter of the Sisters of St Joseph 2001: a New Vision for sharing our charism:**

*"The Chapter calls us to be open to God's action in and through our weakness generous in our fidelity to the Cross, open to love and freed for mission."*

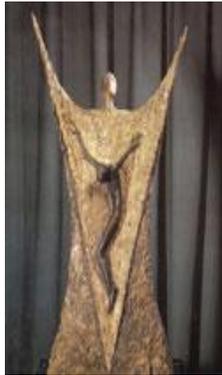
6

*SILENT Reflection*

GOSPEL CANTICLE

Song of Zechariah

**Antiphon:** Holy is God, holy and mighty  
Holy immortal One, Have mercy on us!



CANTICLE

BENEDICTUS Bernadette Farrell

Blest be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
Who brings the dawn and darkest night dispels,  
Who raises up a mighty saviour from the earth,  
Of David's line, a son of royal birth.

The prophets tell a story just begun  
Of vanquished foe and glorious victory won,  
Of promise made to all who keep the law as guide:  
God's faithful love and mercy will abide.

This is the oath once sworn to Abraham:  
All shall be free to dwell upon the land,  
Free now to praise, unharmed by the oppressor's rod,  
Holy and righteous in the sight of God.

And you, my child, this day you shall be called  
The promised one, the prophet of our God,  
For you will go before the Lord to clear the way,  
And shepherd all into the light of day.

The tender love God promised from our birth  
Is soon to dawn upon this shadowed earth,  
To shine on those whose sorrows seem to never cease,  
To guide our feet into the path of peace.

All glory be to God, Creator blest,  
To Jesus Christ, God's love made manifest,  
And to the Holy Spirit, gentle comforter,  
All glory be both now and evermore.

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