

# ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection,  
through whom we are saved and delivered.*

# COLLECT

O God, who willed that your Only Begotten Son  
should undergo the Cross to save the human race,  
grant, we pray,  
that we, who have known his mystery on earth,  
may merit the grace of his redemption in heaven.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
*Amen.*

# FIRST READING Numbers 21:4b-9

A reading from the Book of Numbers.

In those days: The people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.' Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.' So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

# RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 78(77):1-2. 34-35. 36-37. 38. R. cf. 7b

**R: *Never forget the deeds of the Lord!***

1. Give ear, my people, to my teaching;  
incline your ear to the words of my mouth.  
I will open my mouth in a parable  
and utter hidden lessons of the past. **R.**
2. When he slew them, then they sought him,  
repented and earnestly sought God.  
They would remember that God was their rock,  
God the Most High their redeemer. **R.**
3. Yet they deceived him with their mouths;  
they lied to him with their tongues.  
For their hearts were not steadfast towards him;  
they were not faithful to his covenant. **R.**
4. Yet he who is full of compassion  
forgave them their sin and spared them.  
So often he held back his anger,  
and did not stir up all his rage. **R.**

# SECOND READING Philippians 2:6-11

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians.

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

# ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

**R: *Alleluia, alleluia.***

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

**R: *Alleluia.***

# GOSPEL John 3:13-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

At that time: Jesus said to Nicodemus, 'No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And 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 begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

# PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this oblation, O Lord,  
which on the altar of the Cross  
cancelled the offence of the whole world,  
cleanse us, we pray, of all our sins.  
Through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

# COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*When I am lifted up from the earth,  
I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.*

# PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having been nourished by your holy banquet,  
we beseech you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
to bring those you have redeemed  
by the wood of your life-giving Cross  
to the glory of the resurrection.  
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

*Amen.*



## The Parish of St Anselm, Hayes

September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Feast of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

In the gospel reading today, Jesus refers directly to the passage from the Book of Numbers that forms our first reading: Moses, through the power of God,



saved the people from the poisonous snakes that were attacking them as they journeyed away from their slavery in Egypt – and he did this by raising up a bronze image of a snake. Just looking

at this was enough to save someone who'd been bitten. Jesus, in his conversation with Nicodemus, draws an analogy between the saving power of the bronze serpent and the saving power of the cross on which he too would be raised up. Paul, in the second reading, contrasts the raising up of Jesus – to be raised up, or exalted, usually means to be recognised as important and powerful – with his ignominious death as a criminal, the exact opposite of being powerful or important. In the same way, the cross, originally a symbol of powerlessness and defeat, has become the central symbol of the power of the Christian faith. On this feastday we exalt the cross; in other words we recognise its power in our lives, holding it before us as the means of our salvation and protection.

### Entrance Hymn

128 We sing the praise of him who died

### Offertory Hymn

243 Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
(omit starred verses)

### Recessional

489 In the cross of Christ I glory

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THIS WEEK (Year C[1]; Psalm Week 3)

15<sup>th</sup> September: Our Lady of Sorrows. No services in church; Offices said privately.

16<sup>th</sup>: SS Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs. Morning Prayer 0945; Mass 1000; Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association 1700.

17<sup>th</sup>: Wednesday of Week 24 in Ordinary Time. Morning Prayer 0945; Mass 1000; Evening Prayer 1700

18<sup>th</sup>: Thursday of Week 24 in Ordinary Time. Morning Prayer 0945; Mass 1000; Evening Prayer 1700

19<sup>th</sup>: Friday of Week 24 in Ordinary Time. Offices said privately.

20<sup>th</sup>: SS Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang, and companions, Martyrs. No services in church; Offices said privately.

NEXT SUNDAY: Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September: 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time. Mass at 1000.

### PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS

Kathyan Fenton; Desiree Loderick; Mr & Mrs DeGale, Anselm Charles, Maggie, George Norwood, Oluwayemisi, Sean Brennan, and William. (If you have a name for the list, please give the details to Susan, Fr Josiah, or Fr Stephen.)

### THE RECENTLY DEPARTED

Bobbi Cahill, Shiela Lashley Weekes

### ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

14<sup>th</sup>: William Dymond

15<sup>th</sup>: Sheila Kelly

16<sup>th</sup>: Lydia Clapton, Bernard Banks

17<sup>th</sup>: Emily Shackle

19<sup>th</sup>: Frank Shadbolt, Prof. Charles Nwachuku

20<sup>th</sup>: Edith Butler, Olive Read

**YOUNG CHILDREN IN CHURCH:** Don't worry if they make a noise or move about! Young visitors to the sanctuary are always welcome, so no drama if they go for a walk! We'll have a look at the children's work after mass...

**FINANCIAL POSITION:** During August 2025, our income was £1,468.78, and our outgoings were £1,242.99. It's great to be able to report that we spent less than we received during the month, and we also received a very generous one-off donation of £1,000 for our reserve fund. However, with winter approaching and increased bills for heating we can't be complacent, so do please consider if you can increase your contributions to the church, preferably via the Parish Giving Scheme if you don't already use that service.

**SPONSORING CANDLES, ETC.:** Sanctuary lights cost £3.50; votive candles £1.00; 100 communion wafers £1.50. We'd be very grateful for your support.

### STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

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PLEASE JOIN US IN THE HALL AFTER MASS FOR TEA AND COFFEE, AND BISCUITS OR CAKE!