

Reflection :- Luke 3:13-17

Today, when we are celebrating the Feast of Holy Cross, Two of the most significant verses in the Bible are in our Gospel Reading for today "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. 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 Cross! The Holy Cross! We see symbols all around us in many situations, whether its a Crucifix or a simple empty Cross, one, the ultimate sign of God's love for humanity, in sacrificing His Son, the other a sign of God's power, a sign of victory over the greatest evil that the world could inflict on His only Son. In this sign, or beneath this sign people are still suffering the world over, but today and every day we need the Cross close to our hearts as a reminder that we are not alone, that God is with us all the way.

Fr Terry



NEXT SUNDAY 21.09.25 St Matthew

10.30am in the Church

READINGS: OT Proverbs 3: 13-18

NT 2 Corinthians 4: 1-6

GOSPEL Matthew 9: 9-13



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St Thomas, Exeter

14th September 2025

Holy Cross

10.30am in the Church

Today

Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

536 We sing the praise of him who died

194 Hallelujah, my Father

249 In the cross of Christ I glory

522 To God be the glory!

Tuesday 16th September

7.30pm House Group at John's

Wednesday 17th September

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

7.30pm PCC Meeting

Thursday 18th September

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12noon Knit & Natter at Jenny Tuckett's house

Friday 19th September

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting

Saturday 20th September

11am-3pm Our church will be open for Heritage Open Day



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.

Amen

Numbers 21: 4-9

From Mount Hor, Moses and the people of Israel set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. 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 detest this miserable food'. Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Psalms 22: 23-28

Praise the Lord, you that fear him; O seed of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, O seed of Israel.
For he has not despised nor abhorred the suffering of the poor; neither has he hidden his face from them; but when they cried to him he heard them.
From you comes my praise in the great congregation; I will perform my vows in the presence of those that fear you.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek the Lord shall praise him; their hearts shall

live for ever.

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For the kingdom is the Lord's and he rules over the nations.

Philippians 2: 6-11

Christ Jesus, 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.

John 3: 13-17

Jesus said to Nicodemus, '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.'

Post Communion

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. **Amen**

Notices

Our church will be open on **Saturday 20th September** between **11am and 3pm** for the **Heritage Open Days**. Ian will be giving tours hourly; please speak to him if you are able to come along and welcome visitors.

Saturday 4th October. Liz's special Lay Licensing! All are welcome to attend the licensing service at the Cathedral where Liz, our Pioneer Community Worker, will be officially licensed as a Lay Pioneer. Please be seated by 13.45. Liz will be going for drinks afterwards so please ask her for details if you want to celebrate after the service.

Alpha Course. Christians Together Across Exeter have advertised five Alpha Courses which begin in churches across Exeter this Autumn. The course explains the basis of Christianity for those seeking God. If you or you know someone who is interested in attending the courses please see Ian for details. And please pray for these courses, that people may come to faith through them.

Dates for your Diary

Harvest Festival on 12th October (followed by bring & share lunch in the hall)

We will welcome the Methodists to a joint service on Remembrance Sunday (9th November).

Bishop Moira, the new Bishop of Crediton, will celebrate the Eucharist with us on Sunday, 16th November.

We will hold a carol service, jointly with Grace Church, on the evening of Sunday 14th December.

The Bishop of Exeter, the Rt Rev Mike Harrison, will celebrate the Eucharist with us on Sunday, 11th January 2026.

