

Introduction:

Today we lift high the Cross—not as shame, but as the supreme sign of God’s love. The readings remind us that when we turn from sin and fix our gaze on God, healing flows. The Cross shows that suffering becomes salvation, humility leads to glory, and love conquers death. As we begin this Eucharist, let us humbly acknowledge our sins and turn to the mercy and healing love of Christ’s Cross.

First Reading	Numbers 21:4b-9
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 78:1-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38
Second Reading	Philippians 2:6-11
Gospel	John 3:13-17

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: As we celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the sign of God’s limitless love and mercy, we place our prayers before the Father, who raised His Son upon the Cross for the salvation of the world. **Our response is:** *Gracious Lord, hear our prayer*

For Pope Leo, our Bishops, Priests and Religious – that they may imitate Christ who emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, and may lead with humility and self-sacrifice ... *(brief silent pause)* ... we ask this in faith.

For leaders of nations – that they may turn away from pride and selfish ambition, and instead seek to bring about peace and a healing of relationships between nations and among their citizens ... *(brief silent pause)* ... we ask this in faith.

For those weighed down by the heavy crosses of sickness, loneliness, poverty, or grief – that they may find strength in the Cross of Christ, and discover in Him the source of healing, hope, and new life ... *(brief silent pause)* ... we ask this in faith.

For each of us – that as we gaze upon Christ lifted up on the Cross, we may profoundly experience the immense love of God for us and remain steadfast in His covenant love ... *(brief silent pause)* ... we ask this in faith.

For our personal intentions, we pray in silence ... *(longer silent pause)* ... we ask this in faith

Celebrant: Compassionate Father, hear the prayers we make today, and as we glory in the Cross, help us to carry our own crosses with faith, courage and hope. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.