

COLORFUL SCRIPTURE

September 14, 2025

Cross is a Symbol of Great Love

Based on: Num 21: 4b-9; Phil 2: 6-11; Jn 3: 13-17

By Marianne Couture

A special Gospel for a special feast. This Sunday we turn to the Gospel of John to celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

To exalt someone or something means to give someone or something the very highest praise and honor.

At the time of Jesus, crucifixion - being nailed to a cross - was the most shameful, cruel, and humiliating way to die. It was the punishment given to the worst criminals and rebels within the Roman Empire.

Jesus, Son of God, in obedience to his Father, let himself be treated like one of the worst criminals and hung on the cross out of love for us. The cross as a symbol of cruelty was changed to a symbol of love, life, and salvation.

Looking at Jesus' arms stretched out on the crucifix, we don't think of the nails hammered into his hands but of the immense love extended to all of us by those outstretched arms. Through Jesus' life, death on the cross, and Resurrection, God opened the gates of heaven to us. We hear in this Sunday's Gospel, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." By praising and honoring the holy cross, we adore and exalt Jesus, the Son of God, as our Savior and Redeemer.

In this Sunday's second reading (Philippians 2: 6-11) we hear, "God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend of those 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." This reading helps us to understand more fully what the word "exaltation" means.

Each time you make the Sign of the Cross, really think of what you are doing. Make it a thoughtful, beautiful gesture to show you are aware that you are exalting the holy cross and proud to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

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

COLORFUL SCRIPTURE

September 14, 2025

