



VENERATION OF THE RELIC OF THE TRUE CROSS

INTRODUCTION

[When this Rite follows directly after Stations of the Cross, 'In the name of the Father...' is omitted.]

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Let us pray, that the death of Christ on the cross
will bring us to the glory of the resurrection.

A moment of silence is kept.

God our Father, in obedience to you
your only Son accepted death on the Cross
for the salvation of mankind.

We acknowledge the mystery of the Cross on earth.

May we receive the gift of 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.

Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

John 12:30-33

The following hymn may be sung while the relic is being exposed or during the veneration:

**Faithful cross! above all other,
one and only noble tree!
None in foliage, none in blossom,
none in fruit thy peer may be;
sweetest wood and sweetest iron!
sweetest weight is hung on thee.**

**Bend thy boughs, O Tree of Glory
thy relaxing sinews bend;
for a while the ancient rigour
that thy birth bestowed, suspend;
and the King of heavenly beauty
on thy bosom gently tend!**

**Thou alone wast counted worthy
this world's ransom to uphold;
for a shipwrecked race preparing
harbour, like the ark of old;
with the sacred Blood anointed
from the smitten Lamb that rolled.**

**To the Trinity be glory
everlasting as is meet;
equal to the Father, equal
to the Son, and Paraclete:
trinal Unity, whose praises
all created things repeat. Amen.**

The priest holds the relic for all to see and says:

Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world.

Come, let us worship.

All approach and kiss the relic held by the priest. At the conclusion, he makes the sign of the Cross with it over the people, and the relic is replaced in silence.

The Rite concludes:

May our Lord Jesus Christ,
who for us bore the heavy burden of the Cross and was crucified,
bless us and keep us, now and evermore.

Amen.