



The Triumph of the Cross

Liturgy of the Word - Primary

A Sign of God's Promise

Preparation

Have a large cross set up in the middle of the gathering space. If there is a small group, have enough room around the cross for the children to kneel comfortably around it. If there is a large group, have the cross positioned so that all can see it. Each child will need to make a small heart out of red cardboard. On it they can write "God is Love", OR "Thank you Jesus" OR "God loves me". During the Response section, there will need to be an adult beside the cross to hand each child a small piece of blu-tac so they can attach the heart to the cross.

WE GATHER

Welcome & Introduction

Leader: Let us begin by slowly making the sign of the cross.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Today we come together to celebrate the feast of the Triumph of the Cross. The cross is the symbol most associated with Jesus and the Church. It is a sign of life, a sign of God's love for us. Through Jesus' death on the cross and his Resurrection, we have been given life forever. Let us join in our gathering song.

Gathering Hymn

This Holy Cross (Andrew Chinn – Many Roads, One Journey) **OR**
A New Heart for a New World (Trisha Watts & Monica O'Brien – AOV1)

Penitential Rite

Leader: Loving God, we want to be your faithful disciples and listen to your Word. But sometimes we fail to do this. Lord Jesus, your love for us is never ending. Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you give us life to the full. Christ have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you open the way from death to life. Lord have mercy.

All: Lord have mercy.

Leader: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to life everlasting.

All: Amen.



Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray ... *(pause)* ...

Loving God,
you gave us your Son, Jesus, to show us how to live in love and peace.
Through his suffering and death on the cross, and his glorious Resurrection,
Jesus has given us the gift of eternal life so that we can live with you forever.
May we never forget this precious gift we have.
We ask this prayer through Jesus, your Son.

All: Amen.

WE LISTEN

First Reading Philippians 2: 6-11

Responsorial Psalm

Forever I Will Sing (M. Mangan – Forever I Will Sing) **OR**
Lord by Your Cross (J. Burland – Lord Teach Me Your Ways)

Gospel Acclamation *Sing one familiar to the community.*

Gospel John 3: 13-17

WE RESPOND

Leader: I invite each child to come forward quietly and reverently
and place his/her heart on the cross.

*As this ritual is happening, appropriate hymns could be sung.
Some suggestions:*

Amazing Grace (Traditional – AOV1)

Jesus Our Saviour (Michael Mangan – Setting Hearts on Fire)

Lord by Your Cross (John Burland – Lord Teach Me Your Ways)

(Pause for some quiet reflection time)



WE GO

Closing Prayer

Leader: Let us pray ... (*pause*) ...

Lord God,
we thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus.
Help us to see the cross as a sign of life,
as a sign of promise,
as a sign of your unending love for us.
May we be people who constantly rejoice in this great gift.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Leader: May almighty God bless you in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us go now to love and serve the Lord and each other.

All: Thanks be to God.

Recessional hymn

That All May Be One (Andrew Chinn – Let You Light Shine) **OR**
Jesus Our Saviour (Michael Mangan – Setting Hearts on Fire)

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