

HAPPY HOLY CROSS DAY

1 Corinthians 1:18 “For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

Happy Holy Cross Day! Well, actually Holy Cross day was on September 14th. Holy Cross day is not a national or world holiday. You will not find Holy Cross day cards in the Hallmark rack at Walgreens or your favorite card shop. I’m sure on September 14th you did not rush out to your favorite store to purchase Holy Cross gifts to give to loved ones. Not many Christians are aware of this date being designated to remember the Cross upon which Jesus was crucified. Few churches actually celebrate Holy Cross Day.

Why would anyone want to celebrate Holy Cross day? Why should you give thought and meditation upon this gruesome instrument of capital punishment? There was nothing beautiful about Jesus’ cross. It was not constructed of carefully chosen wood such as walnut, oak or cedar that was milled, shaped, sanded, stained and polished by an artisan. His cross was probably put together from the first available tree that was tall enough and strong enough to bear the weight of Christ’s body that was nailed to it.

No one rushed out on Good Friday or even Easter morning to start a cross making business in anticipation of selling hundreds, thousands or millions for a profit. Today, however, you and countless people throughout the world have placed a cross or crosses on the wall(s) of your home, purchased ones made of gold, silver and other precious metals to wear as a necklace and perhaps it even embedded precious minerals in it. It is fairly common to even see star athletes wearing a cross around their necks as they perform.

The hymn writer penned these words: “In the cross of Christ I glory. . .” (LSB 427) Jesus’ cross, St. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 1, “is the power of God” for the salvation of all human beings. God was serious that the punishment for sin was death. John, in his first epistle writes, “He (JESUS) is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.” (1 John 2:2)

Crosses on walls, around necks, or however they are presented are reminders of God’s great love for sinners. Jesus’ cross. . . His suffering and death on Good

Friday . . . on the Old Rugged Cross, was for you to receive God's forgiveness and the gift of eternal life. Happy Holy Cross Day!

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for giving Your life on the cross of Calvary in payment for my sins. Amen.

In the cross of Christ I glory, Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me, Hopes deceive, and fears annoy.
Never shall the cross forsake me; Lo, it glows with peace and jay.

When the sun of bliss is beaming Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that through all time abide.
(LSB 427)