



St John's Cathedral 聖公會聖約翰座堂

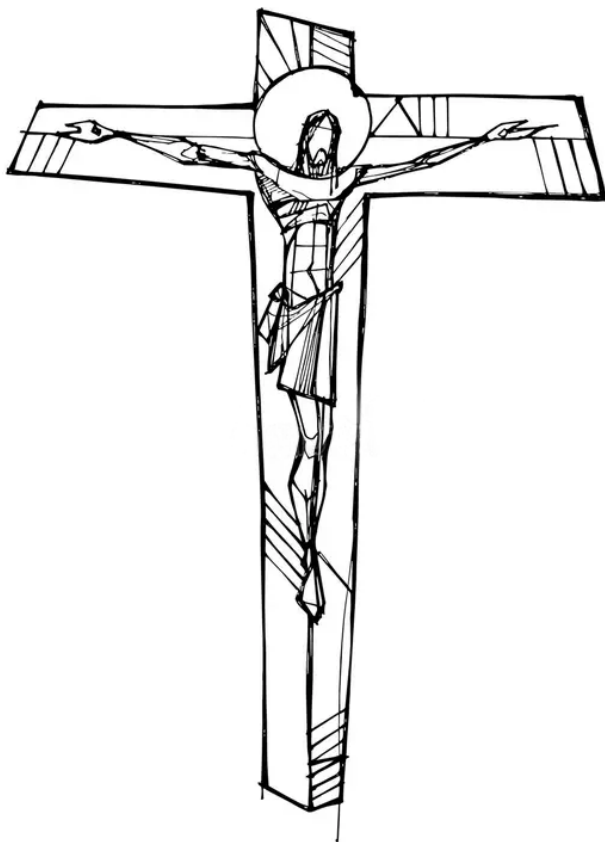
Anglican Diocese of Hong Kong Island
Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

Holy Cross Day

Monday, 14th September 2026

8.00am Holy Eucharist

7.30pm Sung Eucharist



If you receive Holy Communion in any Christian tradition you are very welcome to receive at our altar.

Information about St John's Cathedral and its ministries can be found on the notice boards and the website (www.stjohnscathedral.org.hk).

Gathering

The celebrant welcomes the people.

For 7.30pm Sung Eucharist only

All STAND to sing the INTROIT HYMN, during which the clergy process in.

Introit Hymn (REH 243, omit *)

(Refrain)

**Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

- 2. Come, let us follow where our Captain trod,
Our King victorious, Christ the Son of God. (Refrain)**
- 8. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou hast promised, draw us unto thee. (Refrain)**
- 9. Let every race and every language tell
Of him who saves our souls from death and hell. (Refrain)**
- 10. From farthest regions let them homage bring,
And on his Cross adore their Saviour King. (Refrain)**
- 11. Set up thy throne, that earth's despair may cease
Beneath the shadow of its healing peace. (Refrain)**
- 12. For thy blest cross which doth for all atone
Creation's praises rise before thy throne. (Refrain)**

Tune: CRUCIFER Sydney Hugo Nicholson 1875-1947

Words: George William Kitchin 1827-1912 and Michael Robert Newbolt 1874-1956

The celebrant censes the altar.

The celebrant then greets the people

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

All Amen.

Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

All and also with you.

The celebrant may now introduce the service.

All REMAIN STANDING and say

Collect for Purity

**All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Confession

When Christ appears we shall be like him,
because we shall see him as he is.
As he is pure,
all who have grasped this hope make themselves pure.
So let us confess our sins that mar his image in us.

All KNEEL or SIT. Silence is kept.

**All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Kyrie eleison

8.00am: Said; 7.30pm: Festive Eucharist (Noel Rawsthorne)

Lord, have mercy.	<i>All</i>	Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.	<i>All</i>	Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.	<i>All</i>	Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

All STAND.

Gloria in Excelsis

8.00am: Said; 7.30pm: Festive Eucharist (Noel Rawsthorne)

All **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

All REMAIN STANDING.

Let us pray: *(Silence is kept.)*

Almighty God,
who in the passion of your blessed Son
made an instrument of painful death
to be for us the means of life and peace:
grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ
that we may gladly suffer for his sake;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word

All SIT.

First Reading

Num. 21. 4-9 (NRSV)

A reading from the book of Numbers.

The Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm

Ps. 22. 23-28 (Responsorial, Yeung)

**All You are the Holy One, O God,
 Enthroned upon the praises of Israel.**

(Choir) Praise the Lord, you that fear him; •
 O seed of Jacob, glorify him;
 stand in awe of him, O seed of Israel.

**All You are the Holy One, O God,
 Enthroned upon the praises of Israel.**

(Choir) For he has not despised nor abhorred the suffering of the poor;
 neither has he hidden his face from them; •
 but when they cried to him he heard them.

**All You are the Holy One, O God,
 Enthroned upon the praises of Israel.**

(Choir) From you comes my praise in the great congregation; •
 I will perform my vows in the presence of those that fear you.
 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; •
 those who seek the Lord shall praise him;
 their hearts shall live for ever.

**All You are the Holy One, O God,
 Enthroned upon the praises of Israel.**

(Choir) All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, •
 and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
 For the kingdom is the Lord's •
 and he rules over the nations.

**All You are the Holy One, O God,
 Enthroned upon the praises of Israel.**

Second Reading

Phil. 2. 6-11 (NRSV)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

All STAND to face the Gospel.

For 7.30pm Sung Eucharist only

During the Gradual Hymn, the Gospel book is carried to the nave.

Gradual Hymn (REH 130)

- 1. When I survey the wondrous cross,
On which the prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.**
- 2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.**
- 3. See from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**
- 4. His dying crimson like a robe,
Spreads o'er his body on the tree;
Then am I dead to all the globe,
And all the globe is dead to me.**
- 5. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Tune: ROCKINGHAM Edward Miller 1735-1807

Words: Isaac Watts 1674-1748

Gospel Reading

John 3. 13-17 (NRSV)

The acclamation heralding the Gospel reading is proclaimed.

(All) Alleluia, alleluia.

(Choir) *We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

All **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

All SIT.

Sermon

**All We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

The celebrant introduces the prayers by saying

Let us pray to the Father through his Son,
who suffered on the cross for the world's redemption.

All KNEEL or SIT. The intercessor continues

Fill with your Spirit Christ's broken body, the Church ...
Give to Christian people everywhere a deep longing
to take up the cross and to understand its mysterious glory.
By the Saviour's cross and passion,

All **Lord, save us and help us.**

Bless those who lead the Church's worship ...
In the preaching of the word
and the celebration of the sacraments,
draw your people close to you.
By the Saviour's cross and passion,

All **Lord, save us and help us.**

Give your grace to those who preach your word to the nations ...
Help us to witness to the faith we have received
by our words and in our deeds,
and daily conform us more and more to Christ,
that we may glory in his cross.
By the Saviour's cross and passion,

All **Lord, save us and help us.**

Look in your mercy upon the world you loved so much
that you sent your Son to suffer and to die ...
Strengthen those who work to share
the reconciliation won at such a cost upon the cross.
By the Saviour's cross and passion,

All **Lord, save us and help us.**

Bring healing by the wounds of Christ
to all who are weighed down by pain and injustice ...
Help the lonely and the betrayed, the suffering and the dying,
to find strength in the companionship of Jesus,
and in his passion to know their salvation.
By the Saviour's cross and passion,

All **Lord, save us and help us.**

Welcome into paradise all who have left this world in
your friendship ...
According to your promises,
bring them with all your saints
to share in the benefits of Christ's death and resurrection.
By the Saviour's cross and passion,

All **Lord, save us and help us.**

Silence is kept.

All **Holy God, holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

Liturgy of the Sacrament

Peace

All STAND and the celebrant introduces the Peace:

Christ is our peace.
He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name and share his peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you

All **and also with you.**

The celebrant may say

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

The Offertory Taking of the Bread and Wine

All REMAIN STANDING. The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

For 7.30pm Sung Eucharist only

The celebrant censes the gifts and the altar.

The thurifer censes the celebrant, clergy and people.

Offertory Hymn (REH 121, omit vv.4,6)

1. **My song is love unknown,
My Saviour's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake
My Lord should take frail flesh, and die?**
2. **He came from his blest throne,
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know.
But O, my friend, my friend indeed,
Who at my need his life did spend!**
3. **Sometimes they strew his way,
And his sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King.
Then 'Crucify!' is all their breath,
And for his death they thirst and cry.**
5. **They rise, and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes,
That he his foes from thence might free.**
7. **Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine;
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like thine!
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.**

Tune: LOVE UNKNOWN John Ireland 1879-1962

Words: Samuel Crossman c1625-84

The celebrant says the prayer at the preparation of the altar.

Merciful God,
through the death of your beloved Son
you transformed an instrument of shame
into a sign of hope and glory.
Receive all we bring before you this day,
and renew us in the mystery of his love;
through the same Jesus Christ,
the Lord of glory.

All **Amen.**

All REMAIN STANDING.

Eucharistic Prayer E

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good,
our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Today we celebrate with songs of praise
the cross, the victory-sign of Christ.
Once through the fruit of the forbidden tree we fell,
now through this tree our Saviour cancels all our sin.
An instrument of shameful death
has become for Christ a throne of glory.
The power of the life-giving cross
reveals the judgement that has come upon the world
and the triumph of Christ crucified.
And so, with choirs of angels
and with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory and join their unending hymn of praise:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
 Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
 do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
 Drink this, all of you;
 this is my blood of the new covenant,
 which is shed for you and for many
 for the forgiveness of sins.
 Do this, as often as you drink it,
 in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
 made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

All Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary,
St John the Evangelist, St Stephen, and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

(Choir) Amen.

All SIT.

Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **Our Father in heaven,**
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei

8.00am: Said; 7.30pm: Festive Eucharist (Noel Rawsthorne)

**All Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

The celebrant says the invitation to communion.

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The celebrant and people receive communion. If you are baptized in any Christian tradition you are very welcome to receive Holy Communion at our altar.

Words of the distribution are said and the communicant replies

Amen.

Those who are not baptized are welcome to come to the altar for a blessing. Please keep your arms crossed upon your breast as an indication.

7.30pm Sung Eucharist only

During the distribution, the Choir sings

Communion Anthem

O crux ave (Cristóbal de Morales)

Prayer after Communion

The celebrant says

Let us pray:

All STAND. Silence is kept.

Faithful God,
whose Son bore our sins in his body on the tree
and gave us this sacrament to show forth his death until he comes:
give us grace to glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
for he is our salvation, our life and our hope,
who reigns as Lord, now and for ever.
Amen.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving is then said:

All **Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

Dismissal

Blessing

All REMAIN STANDING.

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Christ crucified draw you to himself,
to find in him a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sins forgiven;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, ☩ the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

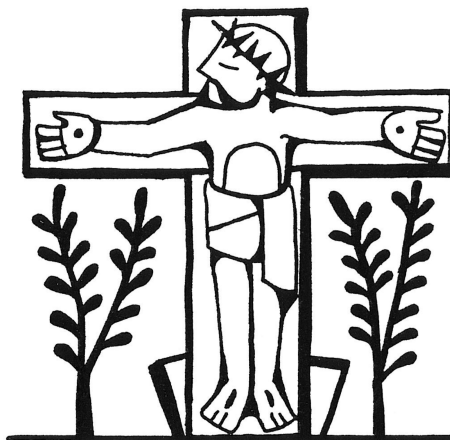
All **Amen.**

Dismissal

After which, the deacon/celebrant says

All Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

The ministers and people depart.



Recessional Hymn (REH 128)

- 1. We sing the praise of him who died,
Of him who died upon the cross;
The sinner's hope let men deride,
For this we count the world but loss.**
- 2. Inscribed upon the cross we see
In shining letters, 'God is love';
He bears our sins upon the tree;
He brings us mercy from above.**
- 3. The cross! it takes our guilt away:
It holds the fainting spirit up;
It cheers with hope the gloomy day,
And sweetens ev'ry bitter cup.**
- 4. It makes the coward spirit brave,
And nerves the feeble arm for fight;
It takes its terror from the grave,
And gilds the bed of death with light:**
- 5. The balm of life, the cure of woe,
The measure and the pledge of love,
The sinner's refuge here below,
The angels' theme in heaven above.**

Tune: BOW BRICKHILL Sydney Nicholson 1875-1947

Words: Thomas Kelly 1769-1855

Organ Voluntary

Vexilla Regis, from Le Tombeau de Titelouze, Op. 38 (Marcel Dupré)

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