

# The Holy Cross Is Christ's Glory And Exaltation

*From a discourse by Saint Andrew of Crete, bishop  
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By the Cross, whose feast we celebrate, darkness was driven away and light was restored. We celebrate today the feast of the Cross, and together with the Crucified One we lift ourselves towards the Most High so that, leaving earth and sin below, we may enjoy the celestial goods. Such is the nature and the greatness of the possession of the Cross. Who possesses the Cross has a treasure. And when we say a treasure, this means that which, by name and fact, is more excellent than all other goods, in which, by which and for which our salvation is realized and our original state of justice is restored.

Had there been no Cross, Christ could not have been crucified. Had there been no Cross, He who is life itself could not have been nailed to the tree. And if He had not been nailed to it, the fountains of immortality would not have poured out from Christ's side as blood and water which purify the world; the document that accounted for our debt incurred by our sins would not have been ripped apart; we would not have been declared free; we would not enjoy of the tree of life; paradise would continue being closed. Without the Cross, death would not have been conquered, nor the place of the dead stripped bare.

Therefore, the Cross is something wonderfully great and precious. Great because it is the origin of so many innumerable benefits, whereby the miracles and sufferings of Christ play a decisive role in His work of salvation. Precious because the Cross signifies at once both the suffering and the trophy of the same God: the suffering, because in the Cross He suffered a voluntary death; the trophy, because in the Cross the devil was mortally wounded and, with him, death was overcome. In the Cross the doors to the region of the dead were demolished, and the Cross was converted into the universal salvation of - and for - the entire world.

The Cross is also called the glory and exaltation of Christ. The Cross is the overflowing chalice that the Psalms tell us about, and the culmination of all the torments that Christ suffered for us. Christ Himself teaches us that the Cross is His glory, when He says: *The Son of Man has already entered into His glory, and God has received His glorification by Him, and at the same time God will clothe him in His same glory.* And also: *Glorify me, Father, with the glory that I had together with You before the world existed.* He also said: *Father, glorify Your name.* And, spontaneously, these words were allowed to be heard from Heaven: *I have glorified You and will glorify You once more.* These are all words that refer to the glory that Christ would achieve on the Cross.

Christ also teaches us that the Cross is His exaltation, when He says: *I, when I am raised up on high, will attract to Myself all men.* It is thus clear that the Cross is the glory and exaltation of Christ.

## PRAYER

Lord, Our God, who has wanted to save men through Your Son dying on the Cross. We ask you, since you have given us the knowledge on earth of the mysterious force of the Cross of Christ, that we are able to reach in Heaven the fruits of saving redemption. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You in the Unity of the Holy Spirit and is God, for ever and ever. Amen