

Introduction

Feast Of The Triumph Of The Cross is always on September 14, which is Tuesday this year. Most denominations move it to the closest Sunday. It happens that the readings for this Sunday and next Sunday are equally appropriate for this Feast. We also have our Semi-annual meeting at this time of the year. This Feast is also the day the Southern Tier Extension marks as its founding in 1996. This makes today a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Southern Tier Extension of Ray Of Hope. So, it was decided to split up the events between the two Sundays.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
You are the One God, Sovereign of the universe,**

**Only Holy God, we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God,
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 God:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord of all,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,**

**with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of the
Holy Unity of God. Amen.**

First Reading Isaiah 50:5-9a, page 681 in the NRSV

The Lord GOD opens my ear that I may hear;
and I have not rebelled,
have not turned back.

I gave my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;
my face I did not shield
from buffets and spitting.

The Lord GOD is my help,
therefore I am not disgraced;
I have set my face like flint,
knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

He is near who upholds my right;
if anyone wishes to oppose me,
let us appear together.

Who disputes my right?

Let that man confront me.

See, the Lord GOD is my help;
who will prove me wrong?

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Psalm 116: 1-6, 8-9. The response is I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

R. (9) **I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.**

I love the LORD because he has heard
my voice in supplication,
Because he has inclined his ear to me
the day I called.

R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

The cords of death encompassed me;
the snares of the netherworld seized upon me;

I fell into distress and sorrow,
And I called upon the name of the LORD,
“O LORD, save my life!”

R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

Gracious is the LORD and just;
yes, our God is merciful.
The LORD keeps the little ones;
I was brought low, and he saved me.

R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

For he has freed my soul from death,
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.
I shall walk before the LORD
in the land of the living.

R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

The Second Reading is James 2:14 – 18 page 230

Faith Without Works Is Dead

¹⁴ What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit? ¹⁷ Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without ^[a] your works, and I will show you my faith by ^[b] my works.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

The Gospel Reading is Mark 8: 27-35. It is on page 43 in the back of your NRSV Bible. Rise if you are comfortable and let's sing the Gospel Acclamation.

Reader: Truly present among us, the Lord is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Reader: A reading of the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**ALL: Glory to you, O Lord. May the Word of God be
in our (+) minds that we will understand it,
on our (+) lips that we will speak it, and
in our (+) hearts that we will love it.**

Jesus and his disciples set out
for the villages of Caesarea Philippi.
Along the way he asked his disciples,
"Who do people say that I am?"
They said in reply,
"John the Baptist, others Elijah,
still others one of the prophets."
And he asked them,
"But who do you say that I am?"
Peter said to him in reply,
"You are the Christ."
Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him.
He began to teach them
that the Son of Man must suffer greatly
and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the
scribes,
and be killed, and rise after three days.
He spoke this openly.
Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.
At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples,
rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan.
You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it."

Sermon:

Occupy the building at 380 W. 1st St. before midnight June 1 / May 31 or you cannot enter the building for one more full year – 365 days. We moved in 5/26 – 5/29. June 1 was a Sunday morning, so we occupied on the first Sunday of Pride Month. We formally became an Extension on May 14, 1996, the Feast Of The Triumph Of The Cross. Why is this feast so fitting for us? How have we lived our own experience of the Cross in our lives?

Faith without works is Dead.

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+ We Invoke the Blessing Of The Holy Spirit

Pastor: Here at Ray Of Hope Church, everyone prays together to ask the Holy Spirit to give to us the exact same gifts that Jesus gave when He instituted Holy Communion for His Church. At this time I invite you to extend your hands forward over the bread and fruit of the vine, or extend your arms out with palms turned up in prayer and say the following Invocation of the Holy Spirit with me.

ALL: O God, in the Name of Jesus, we, your faithful people, ask your Only One and Holy Spirit to bless and separate this bread and fruit of the vine for Christ's purpose. Through the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit, give to us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in precisely the exact same manner that He gave

them, and commissioned us to do often in His Holy Name. You alone, O Loving, True God, authenticate for us that this is the Messiah, Christ, New Covenant Meal that Jesus instituted for our Spiritual and physical well-being. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen

+ The Words Of The Institution Of The Holy Eucharist

Pastor: Please lower your hands now. Please lift at this time the Eucharistic Body Of Christ, the Bread of Salvation and together we will say aloud our Lord and Saviour's words of institution when he gave us the Blessed Sacrament.

ALL: Before He was given up to death, a death He freely accepted,

He took the bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread,

gave it to his disciples, and said:

Take this, all of you, and eat it: This is my body which will be given up for you. Do this in memory of me.

(pause for adoration**) (**you may bow or genuflect if you choose to**)**

Pastor: Please set down the Bread of Life. Please lift now, the cup of salvation. Now, for the cup we say aloud:

ALL: When the supper was ended, He took the cup. Again He gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to His disciples, and said:

Take this, all of you, and drink from it: This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.

(pause for adoration**) (**you may bow or genuflect if you
choose to**)**

Pastor: Please set down the Cup of Salvation.

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**Oh, My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed
Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and I
welcome you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you in the
Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my
heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus,
and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and
you in me, in this life and the life to come. Amen.**

Pastor: The Lord is with you!

ALL: And also with you!

Pastor: (a prayer is said) In the Name of God, the Christ, and the Holy
Spirit.

ALL: Amen

**ALL: Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in
believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy
Spirit. Amen**

(Romans 15:13)

Pastor: We go forth in peace and love to serve the Lord ...

**ALL: ... on our journey into renewal, fresh beginnings, new
possibilities, and a renewed embrace of our potential! Thanks be to
God.**

SONG:

