# Children’s liturgy: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

## Preparation of the worship space

Colour: red
Props: coloured pens and pencils, coloured card

## Song suggestions

Love is his word, love is his way (803, Laudate)
He is Lord, he is Lord (761, Laudate)

## Welcome

The cross is a very special symbol of our faith because it reminds us of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Today we celebrate the cross and remember how much God loves the world and all of us.

## Opening prayer

Generous God, we thank you for sending us your Son, whose death on the cross is a sign of new life. Thank you for loving us so much. Help us to share this love with one another. Amen.

## First reading: Numbers 21:4-9

## Psalm: Psalm 77:1-2, 34-38 r.7

## Gospel acclamation: *everyone stands and sings the acclamation together.*

## Gospel: John 3:13-17

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

“And no one has ever gone up to heaven except the Son of Man, who came down from heaven.

As Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the desert, in the same way the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its saviour.”

*(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below\*)*

## Gospel reflection

What do you remember from today’s reading?

In today’s reading we hear that God loved the world so much that he sent us Jesus, to help bring us closer to him. God sent us his Son, even though he knew that Jesus would be put to death on the cross. God knew that Jesus Christ would rise again three days later.

Through his death and resurrection Jesus gave us all new life. He is the saviour of the world. This is what we celebrate today.

How does it make you feel to know that God loves us all so much that he was willing to send his only son, Jesus, to be with us here on earth, and to die for us?

Can you tell me two people who love you? And two people that you love? How should we treat someone that we love?

When we love someone we want what is best for them. We help them, we care for them, we try to make them happy. We support them when things are difficult and we celebrate with them when they are joyful.

God does not just love you and me, God loves everybody. God loves all people whether they are rich or poor, no matter where they live or where they come from. No matter whether they are healthy or ill, no matter the colour of their skin. We are all God’s children. We are part of one global family.

We were made by God to love God and one another. God intended for us all to live our lives the best way that we can, but sometimes we do not make the right choices. Together we can build a better world where God’s love for all shines through and all people have what they need to flourish.

We can share God’s love by working together with all the people in our global family to build a better world. A world where all people have enough food to eat, clean water to drink, and somewhere safe to live, learn and grow.

How will you share God’s love with others over the coming week?

## Intercessions: *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

We know that God loves us and so we pray together:

We pray for the Church: that through God’s grace it may be a place of welcome and love for all people, no matter who they are or where they come from. Lord in your mercy…

We pray for all people who are facing poverty or illness: that they may find comfort in God’s love and the love of those around them. May they receive the practical help that they need. Lord in your mercy…

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may be moved to share God’s love with one another, working together to build a better world, free from poverty and conflict. Lord in your mercy…

In this Jubilee Year, we pray that we may be signs of hope in our world through all that we do and how we treat one another. Lord in your mercy…

## Closing prayer

Loving God, we thank you once more for the sign of your great love for us, that is Jesus Christ on the cross. Help us to share your love with others and to support one another to build a better world. Amen.

## Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration of a cross and to write/draw around it the signs of God’s love that they see in our world and/or how they will share God’s love with others in our world.

Cut heart shapes out of card and encourage the children to write a prayer saying thank you for the love they receive in their lives. Invite them to pray these at home together with their family during the week and to think of all people around the world in our global family who are also loved by God. You could display these hearts by sticking them around or onto a large cross, which shows us God’s love for the world.

Remind the children to share all that they have heard and thought about in the liturgy today with the people at home. Encourage them to share God’s love through their actions in the coming week.

\*Gospel passage taken from:

Good News Translation® (Today’s English Version, Second Edition)

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