



The Cross, Our Hope

Leader: We adore you, Lord Jesus, and we praise you.

All: Through your passion and cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: Jesus is the Lord; He is risen from the dead.

All: If Christ is not risen, our faith is in vain.

Reader: A reading from the first letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor, 1:17-18; 22-25)

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with the wisdom of human eloquence, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its meaning.

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ... For Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block

to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 71

Leader: You are my hope, Lord; my trust, God, from my youth.

Side 1: In you, Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue and deliver me;
listen to me and save me!

Side 2: Be my rock and refuge,
my secure stronghold;
for you are my rock and fortress.
My God, rescue me from the power of the wicked,
from the clutches of the violent.

All: You are my hope, Lord;
my trust, God, from my youth.
On you I depend since birth;
from my mother's womb you are my strength;
my hope in you never wavers.

Side 1: I have become a portent to many,

but you are my strong refuge!
My mouth shall be filled with your praise,
shall sing your glory every day.
Do not cast me aside in my old age;

as my strength fails, do not forsake me.

Side 2: God, do not stand far from me;
my God, hasten to help me.
I will always have hope in you
and add to all your praise.

All: My mouth shall proclaim your
just deeds,
day after day your acts of
deliverance,
though I cannot number them
all.

Side 1: I will speak of the mighty works
of the Lord;
O God, I will tell of your
singular justice.
God, you have taught me from
my youth;
to this day I proclaim your
wondrous deeds.

Side 2: That I may proclaim your might
to all generations yet to come,
Your power and justice, God,
to the highest heaven.

All: Glory to the Father, the Son and
Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is
now, and will be forever. Amen

All: You are my hope, Lord; my
trust, God, from my youth.

Reader: A reading from the
*Constitutions of the
Congregation of Holy Cross,
Constitution 8, **The Cross, Our
Hope.***

The Lord Jesus loved us and gave up his life
for us. Few of us will be called to die the way
he died. Yet all of us must lay down our lives

with him and for him. If we would be faithful
to the gospel we must take up our cross daily
and follow him.

The cross was constantly before the eyes of
Basil Moreau, whose motto for his
congregation was *Spes Unica*. The cross was
to be "Our Only Hope."

Jesus entered into the pain and death that sin
inflicts. He accepted the torment but gave us
joy in return. We whom he has sent to minister
amid the same sin and pain must know that we
too shall find the cross and the hope it
promises. The face of every human being who
suffers is for us the face of Jesus who mounted
the cross to take the sting out of death. Ours
must be the same cross and the same hope.

Leader: Let us pray:

Loving and Provident God,

You are our rock and refuge in your constant
care and love for us. Let us never lose sight
of your love and promise to us. Let us, like
Father Moreau, keep the promise of the cross
always before us, and bring the hope it
promises to all we meet.

Help us to imitate the virtues of Father Moreau,
especially his trust in Divine Providence, his
confidence in the cross as our only hope, and
his zeal in ministering to your people.

We ask this through Jesus, our Lord.

All: Amen.