

Yr 2 Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Sept 14) Lesson,

John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35

Opening Prayer:

To Your cross, O Master, we bow in veneration, and we glorify Your holy resurrection
Хресту твоєму поклоняємось Владико і святее воскресіння твоє славимо.

(3X with prostrations)

Hear this prayer sung at <https://eeparchy.com/faithbasedresources/>

Watch Marilyn the Catechetical Puppet explain prostrations [in lesson #7.](#)

Gospel: John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35. You can watch a video [here](#). It is a general presentation of the crucifixion and resurrection story.

Lesson: The cross shows us the deep love God has for us.

This is a special feast day in our church. It is called Exaltation of the Holy Cross. We also call it the Exaltation of the Precious and Life Giving Cross or the Elevation of the Holy Cross. *We commemorate the finding of the true cross of Christ by St. Helena; St.*

Constantine's mother in 326. In 335 on Sept 13, the consecration of the newly built Church of the Resurrection on Golgotha in Jerusalem occurred. The cross was elevated and exalted in the Church on Sept.14. It was stolen by the Persians in 614, recovered in 628 and elevated again on Sept 14,628.

Today we decorate our crosses and sing the special prayer that we sang at the beginning of our class, while we bow down to the floor in front of the cross.

Why would we decorate the cross and bow before it? Isn't the cross a bad thing?

Discuss. Through the cross, God showed us how much He loves us! He allowed His only Son to die for us giving us eternal life! Jesus willingly did this because He loves us so much! That is why it is beautiful to have crosses all around us. It reminds us of God's love for us and that because of that love we are saved!

Talk about how having crosses in our homes and cars or wearing jewelry crosses shows others how much Jesus loves us and how much we love Jesus. It is good to have crosses around us to remind us of that love.

Making the sign of the cross on our bodies shows this love too! When we make the sign of the cross we are saying "I belong to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit". *Practise making the sign of the cross. Talk about the way we hold our hands. The thumb and two fingers together symbolize the Trinity and the two fingers in the palm of the hand symbolize the two natures of Christ - human and divine (God). To learn a little more about the two natures of Christ read - [Christ Our Pascha Para. 183.](#) You can watch Marilyn's video on how to make the sign of the cross [here on lesson #2.](#)*

Craft: Tissue Paper Flowers to decorate your Cross. [Find instructions here.](#)

In Church: Count how many crosses you can see in church. *Have the children place one of the flowers they made around the cross on the tetrapod.*