

Battle with Amalek

Exodus 17:8-15

Old
Testament
Story Time

Moses rescued the Israelites from living a life of slavery in Egypt. As the Israelites fled into the desert, Moses used his staff to part the Red Sea and deliver them to safety from Pharaoh and his army. All these incredible and miraculous things occurred, but shortly after them the Israelite people began to grumble against Moses. Being in the desert, away from resources, they began to despair and cry out for food and water.



Once again, the Lord miraculously provided for His people by giving them quail (a type of bird) and manna (a type of bread) for the Israelites to eat. Then the Lord miraculously brought forth water from a rock.

Now the Israelites faced an even bigger problem - they were being attacked by the Amalekites. Moses trusted the Lord would once again care for His people. Moses went to Joshua and gave him orders to gather men from among the Israelites to go out and face the Amalekites in battle.

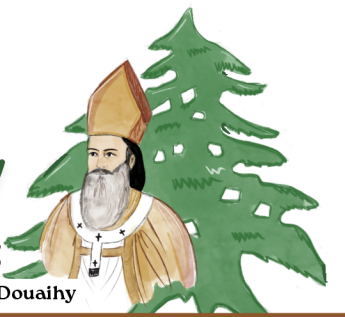
Moses, for his part, went up on top of the hill, along with his brother, Aaron, and with Hur, in order to pray for the success of the Israelites. Moses stood in prayer with his arms stretched out in the form of a cross. As long as Moses kept his arms stretched out, the Israelites were winning the battle. If he let them drop down, however, the Amalekites started to win. So Aaron and Hur stood next to Moses and helped Moses keep his arms stretched out in order for the Israelites to win the battle against the Amalekites.



With the help of Moses's sacrifice and prayers, Joshua and the Israelites defeated the Amalekites. Moses then built an altar to the Lord and instructed the Israelites to "Take up the banner of the Lord."

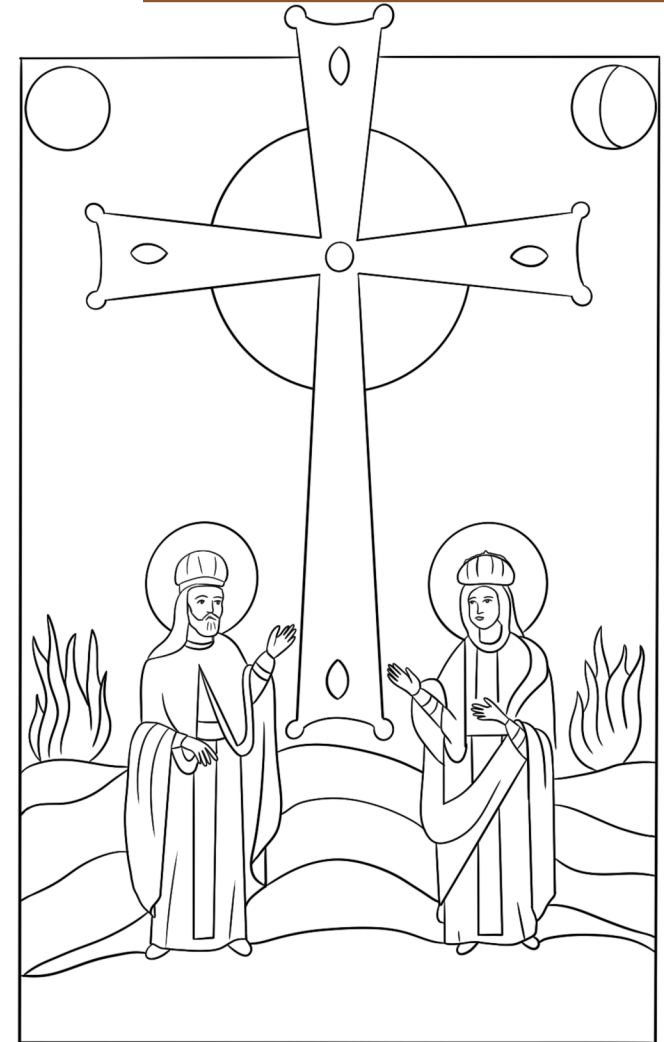
Cedar

Kids



The Way of Blessed Estephan Douaihy

Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Vol 1, No. 56



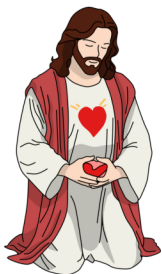
"And when I am lifted up from the earth,
I will draw everyone to myself."





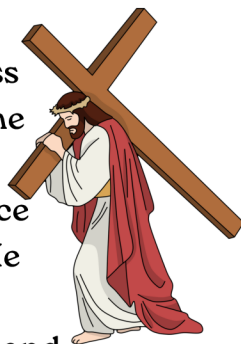
Gospel Corner

John
12:20-32



Jesus came to earth as both fully God and also fully human. That means Jesus experienced feelings just like we do. He knew He had to suffer and die on the cross, but He embraced the will of the Father. Jesus could have asked God the Father to find a different way to open the gates of Heaven for us. But He didn't.

Jesus did not ask the Father to change His plan. Jesus knew that His death on the cross and His resurrection three days later was the reason He had come to earth. Humanity needed Him and He was willing to experience the pain and suffering necessary because He loved us and He loved His Father in Heaven. Because of this, Jesus' sacrifice has exalted and transformed the cross to hope, love, and glory.



As Catholics, we know that our sufferings are not meaningless. The Lord can take the sacrifices we make every day and use them for good. All we have to do is offer them to Him, just as Jesus did.



We all have sufferings that we must bear in our lives. In fact, suffering is part of our journey to Heaven. It's ok if we don't always want the suffering that comes to us, but we must stay strong and remember Jesus on the cross. We can ask Him to help us unite our sufferings with His and to give us the grace needed to endure.

Did you know?

RITE of BLESSING

On the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in the Maronite Church, we also have a Rite of Blessing during the Divine Liturgy.

This ritual includes a veneration of the Cross (an act of showing deep respect), as well as receiving a blessing from the Cross. The Cross is a sign of salvation and a reminder of our baptismal promises.

What you can do

Pray a "morning offering" prayer every morning.

This is a Catholic tradition in which we offer Jesus all of the good and bad parts of our day so that He can use our sufferings and our joys for good.

Morning Offering Prayer

After reading this entire issue, cut out this prayer card of a morning offering prayer and display it where you will see it and pray it every morning.

✂

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, for the salvation of souls, the reparation for sins, the reunion of all Christians, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father this month. Amen.

Sacred Heart of Jesus

Immaculate Heart of Mary