

Feast of the Holy Cross  
September 14, 2010  
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Today is a Holy Day, the Feast of the Holy Cross. Those that pray the Daily Office using The Book of Common Prayer will notice that on this day the Invitatory (the opening sentences) for Morning Prayer invite us to say the sentence "The Lord has shown forth his glory: Come let us adore him." Sometimes it strikes me as odd that this sentence is applied to the Feast of the Holy Cross. It is also assigned to the Epiphany and to the Baptism of Our Lord. These two Holy Days are certainly very joyous occasions. Celebration of the Holy Cross of Christ isn't on the surface as joyful - in some ways it seems more like Lent to me. Perhaps a better Invitatory sentence might be "The mercy of the Lord is everlasting" or perhaps one of the verses assigned for Morning Prayer in Lent. But no, the sentence assigned is "The Lord has shown forth his glory." This really causes one to reflect on the glory of the cross, and the magnificence and splendor of Christ's redeeming sacrifice for us. When we think of the glory of God, we most often find him in beautiful things: the awesome complexity of creation; the cry of a newborn baby; the gentle nurturing of their young of some animals in creation. When we think of the sacrifice and forgiveness of God usually then we turn to the cross. But today - The Feast of the Holy Cross - is about the Glory of God who loves us more than we can begin to imagine. We see the beauty of that love in all he has done - including the sacrifice of the cross. God makes his glory known to us as he stretches out his arms on that cross, that all will come into the reach of his saving embrace.

May you enjoy a blessed and holy feast day - The Feast of the Holy Cross.  
"The Lord has shown forth his glory" Come let us adore him!"