

1. Read — Read the verses slowly and prayerfully several times. Write down any words or phrases that seem to stand out:

2. Meditate — Now begin to reflect on the verses and ask God what it means and how he wants to speak to you through the passage. **God what are you saying to me through this?**

3. Pray — Respond from your heart to what God has been saying to you. **What do you want me to know?** Write down your prayer to him or record whatever he says to you.

4. Contemplate — Be quiet before the Lord enjoying His presence.
~~~~~  
**How is God calling you to act in response to what he has shown you?**

[1] Blessed John Paul II; Homily September 14, 2003  
[2] Servant of God, Fulton J. Sheen, The Divine Romance, the Pulpit of the Cross  
[3] Servant of God, Fulton J. Sheen, The Divine Romance, the Pulpit of the Cross

**SIGN UP free for  
Link to Liturgy**



# Quick Connect

**What is the Gospel saying? John 3:13-17** — Pg. 1

**What is the Church saying Past and Present?** Pages 1-3

**What is God saying to you through this passage?** Page 4

## **Gospel Reading – John 3:13-17 – Daily Roman Missal**

Jesus said to Nicodemus: “No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.” For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

## **Spiritual Reading – Office of Readings – September 14**

From a discourse by Saint Andrew of Crete, bishop  
We are celebrating the feast of the cross which drove away darkness and brought in the light. As we keep this feast, we are lifted up with the crucified Christ, leaving behind us earth and sin so that we may gain the things above. So great and outstanding a possession is the cross that he who wins it has won a treasure. Rightly could I call this treasure the fairest of all fair things and the costliest, in fact as well as in name, for on it and through it and for its sake the riches of salvation that had been lost were restored to us. Had there been no cross, Christ could not have crucified. Had there been no cross, life itself could not have been nailed to the tree. And if life had not been nailed to it, there would be no streams of immortality pouring from Christ’s side, blood and water for the world’s cleansing. The legal bond of our sin would not be canceled, we should not have obtained our freedom, we should not have enjoyed the fruit of the tree of life and the gates of paradise would not stand open. Had there been no cross, death would not have been trodden underfoot, nor hell despoiled. Therefore, the cross is something wonderfully great and honorable. It is great because through the cross the many noble acts of Christ found their consummation – very many indeed, for both his miracles and his sufferings were fully rewarded with victory. The cross is honorable because it is both the sign of God’s suffering and the trophy of his victory. It stands for his suffering because on it he freely suffered unto death. But it is also his trophy because it was the means by which the devil was wounded and death conquered; the barred gates of hell were smashed, and the cross became the one common salvation of the whole world. The cross is called Christ’s glory; it is saluted as his triumph. We recognize it as the cup he longed to drink and the climax of the sufferings he endured for our sake. As to the cross begin Christ’s glory, listen to his words: *Now is*

*the Son of Man glorified, and in him God is glorified, and God will glorify his at once. And again: Father, glorify me with the glory I had with you before the world came to be. And once more: Father, glorify your name. Then a voice came from heaven: I have glorified it and will glorify it again.* Here he speaks of the glory that would accrue to him through the cross. And if you would understand that the cross is Christ's triumph, hear what he himself also said: *When I am lifted up, then I will draw all men to myself.* Now you can see that the cross is Christ's glory and triumph.

#### **No Greater Love – Lesson and Discussion**

*“God so loved the world that He gave His only Son”*

“Yes, ‘God so loved the world that He gave His only Son’ (John 3:16). We admire — overwhelmed and gratified — the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ which surpasses all knowledge (cf. Ephesians 3:18-19)! O Crux, ave spes unica!”[1]

We know and see that people are good and that people love. Many times we are amazed at the goodness and love of humans. Servant of God, Fulton J. Sheen said,

“...if man can be so good, God must be infinitely better; that if man can love so much, God can love infinitely more? Shall we not say this, and find in the Cross of Calvary the perfect expression of love by an All-Perfect Being, of whom perfect condescension and sacrifice were required by naught in heaven or earth save by His own perfect and inconceivable love, which He now preaches from the Pulpit of the Cross? If we do say this, that He is very God of very God, and love is now reaching its climax in the redemption of mankind, then no longer can men say, ‘Why does God send men into the world to be miserable when He is happy?’ — for the God-man is miserable now. No longer can men say, ‘God makes me suffer pain while He goes through none’ — for the God-man is now enduring pain to the utmost. No longer can men say that God has a heart that cannot understand, for now His own Sacred Heart understands what it is to be abandoned by God and man as He suffers — suspended between the kingdoms of both, between heaven and earth, rejected by one and abandoned by the other. Now it is true to say of Love Itself that It is really dying for us, for greater love than this no man hath that a man lay down his life for his friend. For Calvary is not just a mere historical incident, like the battle of Waterloo; it is not something, which has happened — it is something, which is also happening. Christ is still on the Cross.”[2]

#### **There is a man on the Cross [3]**

Whenever there is silence around me  
By day or by night —  
I am startled by a cry.  
It came down from the Cross —  
The first time I heard it.  
I went out and searched —  
And found a man in the throes of crucifixion  
And I said, “I will take you down”,  
And I tried to take the nails out of his feet.  
But He said, “Let them be  
For I cannot be taken down  
Until every man, every woman, and every child  
Come together to take me down.”  
And I said, “But I cannot bear your cry,  
What can I do?”  
And He said, “Go about the world —  
Tell every one that you meet —  
That there is a man on the Cross.”

There is no greater love than the Cross. **Are we willing to tell every one that we meet about this great love? How can we tell people that there is a man on the Cross?**

We honor, sacrifice, and love. The virtues of honor, sacrifice, and love are found in all of the greatest movies throughout time and in fact these virtues are what draw people to the blockbuster movies. These virtues and should remind of us Christ if we are Christian and for the non-Christian they should point to the transcendent reality of Christ.

**What are some examples of sacrifice and love in imitation of the Cross?**