

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ  
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Bruno II  
to the Parish of St. Ambelain  
on Thursday, September 14, 2017*

YEAR A - HOLY CROSS

Brethren, we come together today to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Cross. The Cross is one of our most venerated symbols because it so aptly represents the concept of equilibrium. But even more important, it was the final vehicle for Christ's earthly transportation from life unto death, thus a significant stage in the process of him becoming the Redeemer.

Within our First Reading we see many confusing references, mostly of Egyptian origin, in particular phoenixes, bulls and water animals. For those unfamiliar with the early Christian literature, this may seem strange and unconventional. However, the strict and limiting use of a purely "Christian" rhetoric was not conventional for the first four-hundred years of our Tradition. It was common to use the classic symbols and literature which everyone was familiar with.

While we don't find the symbol of the Cross itself mentioned in our First Reading, we see within the symbol of the phoenix a reference to Christ. Our reading states explicitly that "it kills itself and revives itself as an image of the judgement against the rulers, because they dealt unjustly with Adam and his generation..." Christ did not commit suicide, but New Testament scripture is a testimony that Christ not only foresaw his death, but continuously and unceasingly marched towards it, willfully embracing his torture and crucifixion. For he had to die before he could conquer death. Like the phoenix he "first appears alive, then dies, and then rises again..."

By conquering death he overcomes the Demiurge and his archons. He defeats the rulers of this world by proving the impermanence of this world and the eternity of the Spirit. Take note that twice within our First Reading it speaks of the "end of the age." This is a clear reference to the concept of Time. Time did not exist until this inferior existence came into being and mankind was forced into our lower incarceration. You see, time denotes both a beginning and an end. With each birth there is a guaranteed death. However, with this curse comes a blessing. For while we are destined to die in this world, spiritually we will live forever. We are limited to progressing as much as possible in such a small lifetime, but the eternal Spirit within us, once awoken, can cause a great change and evolution within us, far exceeding anything the rulers of this world intended.

As we celebrate this Feast of the Holy Cross, let us dwell upon the importance of the life, death and resurrection of Christ. While the Rulers of this world suffered mankind to the whims of Time, Christ lived, died, then rose again. to lead the way back to the eternal Pleroma.