



■ † Great and Holy Friday

The Cross: An Archangel Bring Good Tidings of Joy*

The **Crucifixion** of our Lord Jesus Christ is the joy and gladness of all sinners.

When a sinner comes to an understanding of his sinfulness and of the all-righteous truth of God, he has nowhere to take shelter, except under the shadow of the Cross.

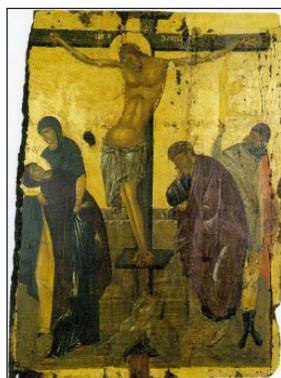
Here he acquires the certainty that he has no forgiveness while he stands alone before God with his sins, and even with the tears he sheds over them.

The only salvation for him is in the Lord's death on the Cross. On the Cross the handwriting of all sins was torn up (cf. Col. 2:14). Everyone who accepts this with complete faith is made a participant in this mystery of forgiveness.

Insofar as this faith ripens, so also confidence of forgiveness ripens as well, and also consolation from the feeling of entering into the state of forgiveness for all ages.

The Cross is a source of joy, because a sinner with faith imbibes from it the joy of forgiveness.

In this sense, it is in its own way an Archangel bringing good tidings of joy.



(*) St. Theophan the Recluse, *Thoughts for Each Day of the Year According to the Daily Church Readings from the Word of God*.