

# Matters of the Heart

Orthodox reflections on faith and life



## 39 Our Sign of Victory

The Lord God was incarnate and became man in order to deliver us from the stronghold of the evil one. Christ mightily defeated the Prince of Darkness and was victorious over the power of death. And His method of victory? Not a multitude of heavenly forces, and not through a show of divine strength.

Rather, through His death He defeated death, with the Cross being His instrument of salvation. The Cross that raised our Redeemer above the earth has lifted us from the devil's arena. And on the wood to which His hands were nailed, we behold the Saviour receiving us with outstretched arms. Such is the power of the Holy Cross. This is why we continually make the sign of the Cross, and wear a Cross around our neck. For the Cross has become our symbol of strength, and the sign by which we shall always conquer!

✦ 'Having disarmed  
✦ principalities and powers,  
✦ He made a public  
✦ spectacle of them,  
✦ triumphing over them in  
✦ it [the Cross].'  
✦ 2 Colossians 2:15

✦ See Also:  
✦ 1 Corinthians 15:57

✦ *My Lord Christ, may  
✦ Your Cross forever be  
✦ at the forefront of all  
✦ that I think and do,  
✦ for it is my strength  
✦ and victory.*