

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

At Lord, I Have Cried:

(Following is all the text for pages 29 and the top half of page 31.
You do not need to flip between the sheet and the book)

Stichos: Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O
Lord, / O Lord, hear my voice.

Raised on high, the Cross exhorteth all creation / to hymn
the all-pure Passion of Him that was lifted up thereon. /
For thereon having slain him that slew us, in that He is
merciful, / He gave life unto the dead, / and in the
exceeding greatness of His goodness He hath made them
beautiful / and vouchsafed them to live in the heavens. /
Wherefore, rejoicing, we exalt His name, // and magnify
His extreme condescension.

Stichos: Let Thine ears be attentive, / to the voice of my
supplication.

Raised on high, the Cross exhorteth all creation / to hymn
the all-pure Passion of Him that was lifted up thereon. /
For thereon having slain him that slew us, in that He is
merciful, / He gave life unto the dead, / and in the
exceeding greatness of His goodness He hath made them
beautiful / and vouchsafed them to live in the heavens. /
Wherefore, rejoicing, we exalt His name, // and magnify
His extreme condescension.

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Stichos: If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? / For with Thee there is forgiveness.

Raised on high, the Cross exhorteth all creation / to hymn the all-pure Passion of Him that was lifted up thereon. / For thereon having slain him that slew us, in that He is merciful, / He gave life unto the dead, / and in the exceeding greatness of His goodness He hath made them beautiful / and vouchsafed them to live in the heavens. / Wherefore, rejoicing, we exalt His name, // and magnify His extreme condescension.

Stichos: For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath patiently waited for Thy word, / My soul hath hoped in the Lord.

Moses prefigured Thee, / stretching forth his arms on high, / and vanquished the tyrant Amalek, O precious Cross, / boast of the faithful, confirmation of sufferers, / savior of all the venerable. / Wherefore, creation, beholding thee lifted up, is gladdened, / and keepeth festival, glorifying Christ, / Who through thee hath gathered the dispersed in His extreme goodness.

Stichos: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, / Let Israel hope in the Lord.

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Moses prefigured Thee, / stretching forth his arms on high, / and vanquished the tyrant Amalek, O precious Cross, / boast of the faithful, confirmation of sufferers, / savior of all the venerable. / Wherefore, creation, beholding thee lifted up, is gladdened, / and keepeth festival, glorifying Christ, / Who through thee hath gathered the dispersed in His extreme goodness.

Stichos: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; / And He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

Moses prefigured Thee, / stretching forth his arms on high, / and vanquished the tyrant Amalek, O precious Cross, / boast of the faithful, confirmation of sufferers, / savior of all the venerable. / Wherefore, creation, beholding thee lifted up, is gladdened, / and keepeth festival, glorifying Christ, / Who through thee hath gathered the dispersed in His extreme goodness.

Stichos: O praise the Lord, all ye nations; / Praise Him all ye peoples.

O most precious Cross, / who art today exalted, / and about whom the ranks of angels stand in gladness, / by divine command thou dost uplift all / who for the stealing of the fruit were driven out and were sunk in death. / Wherefore, we, the faithful, venerating thee with hearts and lips, / derive from thee sanctification, crying out: / Exalt ye Christ, the all-good God, // and worship His divine footstool.

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Stichos: For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us, / And the truth of the Lord abideth forever.

O most precious Cross, / who art today exalted, / and about whom the ranks of angels stand in gladness, / by divine command thou dost uplift all / who for the stealing of the fruit were driven out and were sunk in death. / Wherefore, we, the faithful, venerating thee with hearts and lips, / derive from thee sanctification, crying out: / Exalt ye Christ, the all-good God, // and worship His divine footstool.

Glory ... Both now ...**Tone 2:**

Tone 2: Come, all ye nations, let us worship the blessed Tree / whereby everlasting righteousness hath come to be; / for he who by the tree deceived our forefather Adam, / is himself deceived by the Cross, / and he who by tyranny holdeth fast the royal house, / falleth, cast down by a strange fall. / By the Blood of God the venom of the serpent is washed away, / and the curse of the just condemnation was lifted by the Righteous One / when He was condemned by an unjust sentence; / for it was fitting that the tree be healed by a Tree, / and that, by the sufferings of the Dispassionate One on the Tree, / the sufferings of the condemned be loosed. / Glory, O Christ our King, to Thy wise dispensation toward us, / whereby Thou hast saved all, // in that Thou art good and lovest mankind.

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The prokimenon for the Vespers: On Saturday evenings, in tone 6:

The Lord is King, He is clothed with majesty.

Stichos: The Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself.

Stichos: For He established the world which shall not be shaken.

Stichos: Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Reading is from the Book of Exodus.

Deacon: Let us attend.

The Reading from the Book of Exodus

Reader: Moses brought up the children of Israel from the Red Sea, and brought them into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water to drink. And they came to Marah, and could not drink of Marah, for it was bitter; therefore he named the name of that place, Bitterness. And the people murmured against Moses, saying: "What shall we drink?" And Moses cried to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree, and he cast it into the water, and the water was sweetened. There He established to him ordinances and judgments, and there He proved him, and said: "If thou wilt indeed hear the voice of the Lord thy God, and do things pleasing before Him, and wilt hearken to His commands, and keep

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all His ordinances, no disease which I have brought upon the Egyptians will I bring upon thee, for I am the Lord thy God, Who healeth thee.” And they came to Elim, and there were there twelve fountains of water, and seventy stems of palm-trees; and they encamped there by the waters. And they departed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sin.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Reading is from Proverbs

Deacon: Let us attend.

The Reading from Proverbs

Reader: My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him: for whom the Lord loveth, He rebuketh, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. Blessed is the man who hath found wisdom, and the mortal who knoweth prudence. For it is better to traffic for her, than for treasures of gold and silver. And she is more valuable than precious stones: no evil thing shall resist her; she is well known to all who approach her, and no precious thing is equal to her in value. For length of existence and years of life are in her right hand; and in her left hand are wealth and glory: out of her mouth proceedeth righteousness, and she carrieth law and mercy upon her tongue. Her ways are good ways, and all her paths are peaceful. She is a tree of life to all who lay hold upon her; and she is a secure help to all who stay themselves on her, as on the Lord.

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Deacon: Wisdom.

Reader: The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah

Deacon: Let us attend.

The Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah

Reader: Thus saith the Lord: Thy gates shall be opened continually, O Jerusalem; they shall not be shut day nor night; to bring in to thee the power of the gentiles, and their kings as captives. For the nations and the kings which will not serve thee shall perish; and those nations shall be made utterly desolate. And the glory of Lebanon shall come to thee, with the cypress, and pine, and cedar together, to glorify My holy place. And the sons of those who afflicted thee, and of those who provoked thee, shall come to thee in fear; and thou shalt be called Sion, the city of the Holy One of Israel. Because thou hast become desolate and hated, and there was no helper, therefore I will make thee a perpetual gladness, a joy of many generations. And thou shalt suck the milk of the gentiles, and shalt eat the wealth of kings; and shalt know that I am the Lord Who saveth thee and delivereth thee, the God of Israel.

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Aposticha

Aposticha: Feast (Rejoice, thou Life-bearing Cross); G/N (To Thy precious Cross).

Tone 5 [automelon]: Rejoice, thou Life-bearing Cross, /
invincible victory of piety, / door to paradise, /
confirmation of the faithful, / rampart of the Church, /
whereby corruption hath been utterly destroyed, / the
dominion of death trampled down, / and we have been
lifted up from earth to them that are in Heaven, /
invincible weapon, / contender against the demons, / glory
of the martyrs, / true adornment of the venerable, / haven
of salvation, // which grantest the world great mercy.

Stichos: Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship the
footstool of His feet, / for it is holy.

Rejoice, thou Cross of the Lord, / whereby mankind hath
been loosed from the curse, / all-honorable standard of joy
/ who dispersest the enemy in thine exaltation, / our
helper, might of kings, / strength of the righteous, /
splendor of priests, / which, when traced, doth deliver
from misfortune, / staff of power whereby we are tended, /
weapon of peace which the angels surround with fear, /
divine glory of Christ // Who granteth the world great
mercy.

Stichos: God is our King before the ages; / He
hathwrought salvation in the midst of the earth.

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Rejoice, thou guide of the blind, / physician of the ailing, /
resurrection of all the dead, / which hast raised us up who
had fallen into corruption, / O precious Cross, / whereby
the curse was annulled and incorruption budded forth, /
and the earthly have been deified, / and the devil utterly
cast down! / Beholding thee raised on high today in the
hands of the high priest, / we exalt Him that was exalted in
thy midst, / and bow down before thee, // plenteously
drawing forth from thee great mercy.

Glory ..., both now ... **Tone 8:**

Tone 8: To Thy precious Cross, O Christ God, / which
Moses prefigured in himself of old / when he cast down
and vanquished Amalek, / and of which David the
psalmist commanded, saying:/ "Worship the footstool of
His feet", / do we sinners now offer homage today with
unworthy lips / and chanting, we entreat Thee Who wast
well pleased to be nailed thereto: // O Lord, vouchsafe
unto us a place with the thief in Thy kingdom!

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Troparion & Theotokian of the Day

Troparion of the feast: Tone 1:

O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance. /
Grant Thou victory unto Orthodox Christians / over their
enemies, / and by the power of Thy Cross // do Thou
preserve Thy commonwealth. (2)

Glory ..., both now ...

Troparion of the feast: Tone 1: O Lord, save Thy people /
and bless Thine inheritance. / Grant Thou victory unto
Orthodox Christians / over their enemies, / and by the
power of Thy Cross // do Thou preserve Thy
commonwealth.