

ELEVATION OF THE CROSS OF THE LORD – SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

GREAT VESPERS

Priest: Blessed is our God always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Glory to you, our God, glory to you.

Heavenly king, comforter, Spirit of the Truth, who are everywhere present and fill all things, treasury of good things and giver of life, come and tabernacle in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (x3)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.
Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, watch over and heal our infirmities, for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.
Amen.

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. Lord, have mercy. (x12)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Come, let us worship God our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

PSALM 103

Reader: Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, you are very great! You are clothed with honor and majesty, who cover yourself with light as with a garment, who have stretched out the heavens like a tent, who have laid the beams of your chambers on the waters, who make the clouds your chariot, who ride on the wings of the wind, who make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.

You set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be shaken. You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At your rebuke they fled; at the sound of your thunder they took to flight. The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place which you appointed for them. You set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst. By them the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches.

From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work. You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread to strengthen man's heart.

The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon which he planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees. The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers. You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting.

You make darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep forth. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. When the sun rises, they get them away and lie down in their dens. Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until the evening.

O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable, living things both small and great. There go the ships, and Leviathan which you formed to sport in it. These all look to you, to give them their food in due season.

When you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your Spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the LORD endure for ever, may the LORD rejoice in his works, who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke!

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD.

Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more! Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!

The sun knows its time for setting. You make darkness and it is night. O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, O God! (x3)

THE LITANY OF PEACE

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *(and after each petition)*

For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace of the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

For our Archbishop and Father _____, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For the civil authorities of this country and those serving in its armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city, for every city, monastery, and countryside, and for those who in faith dwell in them, let us pray to the Lord.

For good temperance of the air, abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful seasons, let us pray to the Lord.

For travelers by land, sea, and air, the sick, the suffering, the imprisoned, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

(here insert petitions taken in time of epidemic)

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by your grace.

Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one other, and our whole life to Christ God.

Choir: To you, O Lord.

Priest: For to you is due all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

FIRST STASIS OF KATHISMA I

Ps.1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Ps.2 Why do the nations conspire, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and his Christ, saying, "Let us burst their bonds asunder, and cast their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens laughs; the LORD has them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, "I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill." I will tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my son, today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron, and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, with trembling kiss his feet, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way; for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Ps.3 O LORD, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of me, there is no help for him in God. But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cry aloud to the LORD, and he answers me from his holy hill. I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the LORD sustains me. I am not afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me round about. Arise, O LORD! Deliver me, O my God! For you smite all my enemies on the cheek, you break the teeth of the wicked. Deliverance belongs to the LORD; your blessing be upon your people!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, O God! (x3)

Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

THE LITTLE LITANY

Deacon: Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

Choir: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ God.

Choir: To you, O Lord.

Priest: For yours is the dominion, and yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

PSALM 140

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon You!

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise in Your sight as incense,
and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!

Hear me, O Lord!

Reader: Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord Keep watch over the door of my lips. Incline not my heart to any evil, To busy myself with wicked deeds. In company with men who work iniquity; And let me not partake of their delights! Let a good man strike or rebuke me in kindness, But let the oil of the wicked never anoint my head; for my prayer is continually against their wicked deeds. When they are given over to those who shall condemn them, Then they shall learn that the word of the Lord is true. As a rock which one cleaves and shatters on the land, So shall their bones be strewn at the mouth of the grave. But my eyes are toward you, O Lord God; In you I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless. Keep me from the trap which they have laid for me, And from the snares of evildoers. Let the wicked together fall into their own nets, While I escape.

Psalm 141

I cry with my voice to the Lord, With my voice I make supplication to the Lord. I pour out my complaint before him, I tell my trouble before him. When my spirit is faint, You know my way! In the path where I walk, They have hidden a trap for me. I look to my right and watch, But there is none who takes notice of me; No refuge remains to me, No man cares for me. I cry to you, O Lord; I say: you are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living. Give heed to my cry; For I am brought very low! Deliver me from my persecutors; For they are too strong for me!

STICHERA

v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!

v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.

*v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! **Tone 6***

As the Cross is lifted on high,
it urges all of creation
to praise the undefiled Passion of Christ, Who was lifted up on it.
For by the Cross He killed the one who killed us,
and brought us back to life when we were dead.
He adorned us in beauty,
and in His compassion made us worthy to live in heaven.
Therefore we rejoice and exalt His name, //
and magnify His infinite condescension.

v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

As the Cross is lifted on high,
it urges all of creation
to praise the undefiled Passion of Christ, Who was lifted up on it.
For by the Cross He killed the one who killed us,
and brought us back to life when we were dead.
He adorned us in beauty,
and in His compassion made us worthy to live in heaven.
Therefore we rejoice and exalt His name, //
and magnify His infinite condescension.

v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.

As the Cross is lifted on high,
it urges all of creation
to praise the undefiled Passion of Christ, Who was lifted up on it.
For by the Cross He killed the one who killed us,
and brought us back to life when we were dead.
He adorned us in beauty,
and in His compassion made us worthy to live in heaven.
Therefore we rejoice and exalt His name, //
and magnify His infinite condescension.

v. (5) For Your name's sake I have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Moses prefigured you, O precious Cross,
when he stretched out his hands on high,
and put the tyrant Amalek to flight.
You are the boast of the faithful, the support of those who suffer,
the glory of the Apostles, the champion of the Righteous,
and the preservation of all the Saints.
Therefore, beholding you raised on high,
creation rejoices and celebrates,
glorifying Christ Who has joined together through you that which was divided//
in His infinite goodness.

v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

Moses prefigured you, O precious Cross,
when he stretched out his hands on high,
and put the tyrant Amalek to flight.
You are the boast of the faithful, the support of those who suffer,
the glory of the Apostles, the champion of the Righteous,
and the preservation of all the Saints.
Therefore, beholding you raised on high,
creation rejoices and celebrates,
glorifying Christ Who has joined together through you that which was divided//
in His infinite goodness.

v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Moses prefigured you, O precious Cross,
when he stretched out his hands on high,
and put the tyrant Amalek to flight.
You are the boast of the faithful, the support of those who suffer,
the glory of the Apostles, the champion of the Righteous,
and the preservation of all the Saints.
Therefore, beholding you raised on high,
creation rejoices and celebrates,
glorifying Christ Who has joined together through you that which was divided//
in His infinite goodness.

v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

O most venerable Cross,
attended by ranks of rejoicing angels,
as you are exalted today at the divine command,
may you lift up again
all those who through the stolen food
had been cast out and were sunk in death.
Therefore, as we venerate you in faith with heart and lips,
we draw sanctification from you and cry aloud:
“Exalt Christ, the God transcendent in goodness,//
and venerate His divine footstool!”

v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

O most venerable Cross,
attended by ranks of rejoicing angels,
as you are exalted today at the divine command,
may you lift up again
all those who through the stolen food
had been cast out and were sunk in death.
Therefore, as we venerate you in faith with heart and lips,
we draw sanctification from you and cry aloud:
“Exalt Christ, the God transcendent in goodness,//
and venerate His divine footstool!”

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 2 Come, all you nations,
let us fall down in worship before the blessed Tree,
by which eternal justice has come to pass!
For he who deceived Adam by a Tree
is caught by the lure of the Cross;
and he who held under his tyranny the creature endowed by God with royal dignity
is brought down in a headlong fall.
The serpent’s venom is washed away by the blood of God,
and the curse of just condemnation is undone
when the Just One is condemned by an unjust judgment.
For it was fitting that the Tree should be healed by a Tree,
and that by the Passion of the passionless God
what was wrought on the Tree should destroy the passions of man, who was condemned.
But glory to Your dread dispensation for our sakes, O Christ the King,
through which You have saved us all//
since You are good and the Lover of man!

THE ENTRANCE

Deacon: Wisdom! Upright!

Choir: O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal Father, heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ. Having come to the setting of the sun and beheld the light of evening, we praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit God! At all times you are worthy of praise in songs as Son of God, Giver of Life, therefore the world glorifies you!

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Peace to all!

Reader: And to your spirit!

Deacon: Wisdom!

PROKEIMENON ON SUNDAY EVENING

Deacon: The prokeimenon in the eighth tone: Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord!

Choir: Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord!

Deacon: You who stand in the temple of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God!

Choir: Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord!

Deacon: Behold now, bless the Lord,

Choir: all you servants of the Lord!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading is from Exodus [15:22-16:1]

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Moses led the children of Israel up from the Red Sea and brought them to the desert of Shur. And they marched for three days in the desert and found no water to drink. They came to Merra and were unable to drink the water from Merra, because it was bitter. And so the place was named 'Bitterness'. And the people started to murmur against Moses and say, 'What are we to drink?' Moses cried to the Lord and the Lord showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water and it became sweet. There God laid down for him statutes and judgements and he tested him there and said, 'If you listen to the voice of the Lord, your God, and do what is well-pleasing before him, heed his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will not bring on you any of the diseases that I brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you.' And they came to Elim and there were twelve springs of water there and seventy date palms. And they encamped there by the waters. Then they moved away from Elim and the whole Assembly of the children of Israel came to desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaias [60:11-16]

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Thus says the Lord, 'Your gates, Jerusalem, shall be open continually; day and night they shall not be shut; that men may bring to you the power of nations, with their kings led in procession. For the nation and kings that will not serve you shall perish; the nations shall be utterly laid waste. The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, with cypress, pine, and cedar, to glorify my holy place; and I will make the place of my feet glorious. The sons of those who oppressed you and troubled you shall come to you in fear; you shall be called "City of the Lord, Sion of the Holy One of Israel". Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, with no one to help, I will make you a joy forever, a gladness from generation to generation. You shall suck the milk of nations, eat the wealth of kings; and you shall know that I, the Lord, am your Saviour and the God of Israel your Redeemer.'

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading is from Proverbs [3:11-18]

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: My son, do not treat lightly the Lord's discipline, nor give up when you are rebuked by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves; scourges every child he receives. Blessed the man who has found wisdom, every mortal who knows prudence. For it is better to trade for her than for treasures of gold and silver. She is more precious than valuable stones; nothing evil will withstand her; she is well known to all who draw near her, nothing precious is worthy of her, for length of life and years of life are in her right hand, while in her left are wealth and glory. Justice comes from her mouth; she carries law and mercy on her tongue. Her ways are good ways and all her paths are in peace. She is a tree of life to all who lay hold of her, and to those who lean hard upon her as upon the Lord she is safe.

THE AUGMENTED LITANY

Petitions in italics are only taken by a Deacon.

Deacon: Let us all say from our whole soul and from our whole mind, let us say.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Lord ruler-of-all, God of our fathers, we pray you, hear us and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear us and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x3) *(and after each petition)*

Again we pray for pious and right-glorifying Christians.

Again we pray for our Archbishop and Father (name).

Again we pray for our brethren, priests, hieromonks, deacons, hierodeacons, and monastics, and for all our brotherhood in Christ.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, and the pardon and remission of the sins of the servants of God ____, and of all pious and right-glorifying Christians who dwell in or visit this town, and the members, stewards, founders, and benefactors of this holy church.

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy house and for all our right-glorifying fathers and brethren who are in their rest before us especially remembering ____, who piously lie asleep here and everywhere.

(here insert petitions taken in time of epidemic)

Again we pray for those who bring offerings and those who make acceptable sacrifices in this holy and all-venerable house, for those who labor, those who sing, and all the people standing here, awaiting the great and rich mercy that is from you.

Again we pray also for our brothers who are in ministries and all those who serve and have served in this holy house.

Priest: For you are a merciful God and love mankind, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Reader: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin.

Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is your name forever. Amen.

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on you.

Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your statutes.

Blessed are you, O Master, let me understand your statutes.

Blessed are you, O Holy One, enlighten me with your statutes.

Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever; Do not despise the works of your hands.

To you is due praise, to you is due a song. To you is due glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

THE LITANY OF VESPERS

Deacon: Let us complete our evening supplication to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us and keep us, O God, by your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

The whole evening, perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord. *(and after each petition)*

An angel of peace, faithful guide, guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

The things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

To complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

The completions of our life to be Christian, painless, blameless, and peaceful; and a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one other, and our whole life to Christ God.

Choir: To you, O Lord.

Priest: For you are a good God and love mankind and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace to all.

Choir: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To you, O Lord.

Priest: Lord our God, who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race, look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for to you, the fearful judge who love mankind, have your servants bowed their heads and bent their necks, not awaiting help from men, but looking for your mercy and longing for your salvation; keep them at every moment, both during this present evening and the approaching night from every enemy, from every adverse work of the devil, and from vain thoughts and evil imaginations.

Blessed and glorified be the dominion of your kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

APOSTICHA

Tone 5 Rejoice, O life-bearing Cross:
invincible triumph of godliness,
gate of Paradise, and protection of the faithful!
The Cross is the might of the Church,
through which corruption is abolished,
through which the power of death is crushed.
and we are raised from earth to heaven.
O invincible weapon, the adversary of demons,
the glory of martyrs, the true adornment of ven' rable saints,
and the haven of salvation,//
which grants the world great mercy.

v: Extol the Lord our God: and worship at His footstool for He is holy! (Ps 98/99:5)

Rejoice, O Cross of the Lord,
through which mankind has been delivered from the curse!
You are a sign of true joy,
shattering our enemies by your Exaltation.
O Cross, worthy of all honor,
you are our help, you are the strength of kings.
You are the power of the righteous.
You are the majesty of priests.
All who sign themselves with you are freed from danger.
O rod of strength, under which we like sheep are tended,
you are a weapon of peace round which the angels stand in fear.
You are the divine glory of Christ,//
Who grants the world great mercy.

v: God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth! (Ps 73/74:12)

Rejoice, O guide of the blind,
physician of the sick and resurrection of all the dead;
you have raised us up when we were fallen into mortality,
O precious Cross!
Through you corruption has been destroyed,
and incorruption has blossomed forth.
We mortals are made divine,
and the devil is completely overthrown.
Today, as we see you exalted by the hands of bishops,
we exalt Him Who was lifted up upon you,
and we fall down in worship before you,//
drawing rich streams of great mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 8 Your precious Cross, O Christ God,
which Moses of old prefigured in his own person
when he overthrew Amalek and put him to flight;
which David commanded to be worshipped,
calling it Your footstool:
this same Cross we sinners worship today with unworthy lips.
We praise You Who were pleased to be nailed upon it,
and we cry to You://
“With the thief, make us worthy of Your Kingdom, O Lord!”

PRAYER OF SAINT SIMEON

Reader: Now set free your servant, Master, according to your word in peace, for my eyes have seen your Salvation, Whom you have prepared before the face of all peoples - Light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the Glory of your people Israel.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (x3)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, watch over and heal our infirmities, for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

TROPARION TONE 1

O Lord, save Your people,
and bless Your inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians
over their adversaries;
and by virtue of Your Cross,//
preserve Your habitation! (x1)

APOLYSIS

Deacon: Wisdom!

Choir: Master, bless!

Priest: Blessed is He-who-is, Christ our God, always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. Confirm, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and Orthodox Christians unto ages of ages!

Priest: All-holy Birthgiver of God save us!

Choir: More honorable than the Cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to God the Word, true Birthgiver of God we magnify you.

Priest: Glory to you, Christ God, our Hope, glory to you!

Choir: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Master, bless!

Priest: Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-pure and all-blameless holy Mother; by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross whose universal elevation we radiantly fulfill; by the protections of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; through the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and baptist John, of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles, of the holy, glorious and right-victorious martyrs, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, as one who is good and loves mankind.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy Master, Lord Jesus Christ God, have mercy on us.

Choir: Amen.

(here sing "Beneath your compassion...")

SERVICE OF THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS

THE PROCESSION TO THE SOLEA

Choir: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Before the holy table the priest stands and censes the cross, which has been placed on a tray adorned with basil. He then gives the censer to the deacon, takes up the tray, holding it above his head, and makes the procession to the center of the solea in the following manner:

The deacon, holding a candle and censing the cross as he goes, walks before the priest, passing the high place and exiting the sanctuary through the north door. Led by the servers carrying first the processional cross, then the lanterns, banners and fans, they go to the center of the solea where a small table has been placed. Upon reaching the solea, the deacon, censing all the while, leads the priest around the table three times. When the choir stops chanting, the priest, standing before the table and facing east with the deacon standing on his right, lifts the tray and makes the sign of the cross with it, saying in a loud voice:

Priest: Wisdom. Upright.

The priest then places the tray on the table and censes around the table three times. The deacon, holding a candle, stands opposite him, while all the clergy chant the apolytikion of the cross once, and the choir twice, in tone 1:

O Lord, save Your people,
and bless Your inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians
over their adversaries;
and by virtue of Your Cross, //
preserve Your habitation! (*clergy once, choir twice*)

After the third chanting of the apolytikion, the priest stands before the table, facing east, makes three metanias and then lifts the cross, together with sprigs of basil, from the tray. Holding the cross and basil aloft, the priest intones the first petition:

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear us and have mercy.
Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*one hundred times*)

While the choir chants, the priest elevates the cross above his head and slowly makes with it the sign of the cross thrice. Still holding the cross aloft, he bows his head and slowly kneels. When the choir completes its chanting, he stands and moves to the south side of the table; and facing north, he intones the second petition:

Priest: Again we pray for pious and right-believing Christians.
Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*one hundred times*)

The priest again elevates the cross, blesses with it thrice and kneels as above. When the choir completes its chanting, he stands and moves to the east side of the table; and, facing west, he intones the third petition:

Priest: Again we pray for our Archbishop and Father (name) and for our brethren, priests, hieromonks, deacons, hierodeacons, and monastics, and for all our brotherhood in Christ.
Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*one hundred times*)

The priest again elevates the cross, blesses with it thrice and kneels as above. When the choir completes its chanting, he stands and moves to the north side of the table; and, facing south, he intones the fourth petition:

Priest: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, and the pardon and remission of the sins of the servants of God celebrating this holy feast, and of all pious and right-glorifying Christians who dwell in or visit this town, and the members, stewards, founders, and benefactors of this holy church.
Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*one hundred times*)

The priest again elevates the cross, blesses with it thrice and kneels as above. When the choir completes its chanting, he stands and moves to the west side of the table; and, facing east, the bishop intones the fifth petition from the throne:

Bishop: Again we pray for the souls of all right-glorifying Christians, their health, salvation and forgiveness of their sins.
Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*one hundred times*)

The priest again elevates the cross, blesses with it thrice and kneels as above. When the choir completes its chanting, he stands. Then the bishop, who descends from his throne at this time, stands before the table, facing east, and holds the cross above his head, as he chants the kontakion of the cross in tone 4.

Lifted on the Cross willingly, / give your mercies, Christ God, to the new citizenship of your name; / make glad by your power our rulers, / granting them victories over the enemies; / may they have your help: a weapon of peace, // an invincible trophy.

He then turns west and blesses the people.

Choir: Many years, O Master!

He again faces the east, places the cross upon the tray, and he and all the clergy and people make a prostration while the clergy chant once:

Before Your Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Your holy resurrection, we glorify.

Choir: Before Your Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Your holy resurrection, we glorify. *(twice)*

Choir: Come, you faithful, let us adore the life-giving wood, on which Christ the King of glory, stretched out his hands of his own will. To the ancient blessedness he raised us up, whom the enemy had before despoiled through pleasure, making us exiles far from God. Come, you faithful, let us adore the wood, through which we have been made worthy to crush the heads of invisible enemies. Come, all you families of the nations, let us honor in hymns the cross of the Lord. Rejoice, O cross, complete redemption of fallen Adam. With you as their boast our faithful kings laid low by your might the people of Ishmael. We Christians kiss you now with fear and, glorifying God who was nailed upon you, we cry: O Lord, who on the cross was crucified, have mercy on us, for you are good and love mankind.

Clergy: Before Your Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Your holy resurrection, we glorify.

Choir: Before Your Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Your holy resurrection, we glorify. *(twice)*

As the faithful come to venerate the Cross, the choir sings

Choir: Come, you faithful, let us adore the life-giving wood, on which Christ the King of glory, stretched out his hands of his own will. To the ancient blessedness he raised us up, whom the enemy had before despoiled through pleasure, making us exiles far from God. Come, you faithful, let us adore the wood, through which we have been made worthy to crush the heads of invisible enemies. Come, all you families of the nations, let us honor in hymns the cross of the Lord. Rejoice, O cross, complete redemption of fallen Adam. With you as their boast our faithful kings laid low by your might the people of Ishmael. We Christians kiss you now with fear and, glorifying God who was nailed upon you, we cry: O Lord, who on the cross was crucified, have mercy on us, for you are good and love mankind.