

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

TONE 6

15th Sunday after Pentecost / Sunday After the Exaltation of the Cross / Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross / Martyr Sophia, and her three daughters: Faith, Hope, and Love

"Lord I Call..." Tone 6

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!

After "Lord I Call..." the Reader reads the rest of Ps. 140 & Ps. 141 on pgs 31 in the pew book, then:
STICHERA

v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your Name! Tone 6

Possessing victory over hell, O Christ,
since You are free among the dead,
You ascended the Cross
raising with Yourself those who sat in the shades of death.//
Drawing life from Your light, O almighty Savior, have mercy on us!

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

Today Christ tramples on death,
for He is risen as He said!
Let us all sing this song,
for He has granted joy to the world:
O Light unapproachable, O Fountain of life!//
O Savior almighty, have mercy on us!

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

Where shall we sinners flee from You, Who are in all creation?
In heaven You dwell!
In hell You trampled on death!
In the depths of the sea?
Even there is Your hand, O Master!
To You we flee, and falling before You, we pray://
O You Who rose from the dead, have mercy on us!

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

In Your Cross, we glory, O Christ.
We sing and glorify Your Resurrection.
For You are our God,//
and we know no other than You.

*v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You. **Tone 1** (for the Cross) (Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)*

The Cross is exalted;
the demons are driven away.
The thief opens the gates of Paradise;
death is slain and openly despised, as Christ is magnified.
Therefore, rejoice, all those born on earth, //
for the curse has been lifted!

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

Come, all lovers of God,
beholding the Exaltation of the precious Cross,
let us magnify it together,
giving glory to the one Deliverer and God as we cry out:
"You were crucified on the wood of the Cross. //
Do not turn from us who pray to You!"

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

In days of old, Moses changed bitterness into sweetness.
He delivered Israel, prophetically inscribing the image of the Cross.
As we, the faithful, ever make the sign of the Cross mystically in our hearts, //
we are saved by its might.

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities. **Tone 4** (for the martyrs) (You have given a sign)*

The virgin maidens, bound to one another by the law of nature,
manifestly made stronger by love of the Creator,
loosed the bonds of deception with faith.
They valiantly trampled the Enemy
and were radiantly adorned with fair crowns of victory. //
Now they rejoice, dwelling in the heavenly bridal chamber.

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

The all-praised Faith and glorious Love
together with divinely wise Hope,
revealed themselves to be namesakes of the most splendid virtues.
As athletes, they overthrew the Evil One
who had deceived our First Mother with guile.
Now they are deified and dwell in Paradise //
where they fervently pray for us all.

v. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Faith, Hope and Love, the daughters of Sophia,
sought with faith the beauty of the Bridegroom.
They united themselves to Him, adorning themselves with divine wounds;
they despised the fire, manifold tortures and a shameful death.//
Through their prayers, O Lord, deliver us from evils!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **Tone 1***

The Tree of True Life was planted in the Place of the Skull
and upon it You, the eternal King, have worked salvation in the midst of the earth.
Exalted today, it sanctifies the ends of the world,
and the church of the Resurrection celebrates its dedication.
Angels in heaven rejoice,
and men upon earth make glad,
crying aloud with David and saying:
“Exalt the Lord our God and worship at His footstool,//
for He is holy, granting the world great mercy!”

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Tone 6** (Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

Who will not bless you, O most holy Virgin?
Who will not sing of your most pure childbearing?
The only-begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father,
but from you He was ineffably incarnate.
God by nature, yet Man for our sake,
not two persons, but one known in two natures.
Entreat Him, O pure and all-blessed Lady,//
to have mercy on our souls!

APOSTICHA

Tone 6 Your Resurrection, O Christ our Savior,
the Angels in heaven sing!
Enable us on earth//
to glorify You in purity of heart!

v. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

Destroying the gates of hell,
breaking the chains of death,
You resurrected the fallen human race as almighty God!//
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You!

v. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.

Desiring to return us to Paradise, / Christ was nailed to the Cross and placed in a tomb. / The
Myrrhbearing Women sought Him with tears, crying, / “Woe to us, O Savior! / How do You deign
to descend to death? / What place can hold Your life bearing body? / Come to us as You
promised! / Take away our wailing and tears!” / Then the Angel appeared to them: / “Stop your
lamentations! / Go, proclaim to the Apostles: / “The Lord is risen,//
granting us purification and great mercy!”

V. Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore!

Having been crucified as You willed,
by Your burial You captured death, O Christ,
rising on the third day as God in glory, //
granting the world unending life and 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 1 Prefiguring Your Cross, O Christ,
Jacob the Patriarch, when he gave the blessing to his descendants,
laid his hands crosswise upon their heads.
And today, as we exalt Your Cross, O Savior, we cry:
“Give victory to Your Orthodox people, //
as You once gave it to Constantine!”

TROPARIA

Tone 6 The Angelic Powers were at Your tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Your grave,
seeking Your most pure body.
You captured hell, not being tempted by it.
You came to the Virgin, granting life.
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, //
glory to You.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, **Tone 5 Troparion (Martyrs)***

You blossomed in the courts of the Lord
as a fruitful olive tree,
O holy martyr Sophia;
in your contest you offered to Christ the sweet fruit of your womb,
your daughters Faith, Hope, and Love. //
Together with them intercede for us all!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Tone 1 Troparion (Cross)***

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!