

**September 16, 2012**

**Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross, Octoechos Tone 7; the Holy Great-Martyr Euphemia, the All-Famed (303); Ludmila (927) and Procopius of Sazava (1053)**

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**Great Vespers**

**Kathisma**

“Blessed is the man...” is sung.

**At Psalm 140**

*In Tone 7*

10. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord,  
Who destroyed the power of death  
and enlightened the human race;  
and let us cry out with the angels:  
Glory to You, our Creator and Saviour!

9. O Saviour, for our sake You suffered crucifixion and burial;  
and, as God, You destroyed death by Your death.  
Therefore, we adore Your resurrection on the third day  
and we sing: Glory to You, O Lord!

8. On seeing the resurrection of the Creator,  
the Apostles were amazed,  
and they sang an angelic hymn of praise:  
This is the glory of the Church,  
this is the richness of the Kingdom!  
O Lord, Who suffered for our sake, glory to You!

7. O Christ, although You were taken captive by Your enemies,  
I still acknowledge You as my God,  
and am not ashamed of You;  
I will not hide the fact that You were nailed to the Cross.  
Your death is my life, almighty Lord,  
and I extol Your resurrection.  
O Lover of mankind, glory to You!

*In Tone 2*

6. The evil taste of the tree in Eden long ago  
condemned our first parents to a covenant of terror:

death was introduced to the human race.

But now we have been raised to the better portion of life without end, by the holy Cross.

At its exaltation, we praise the Lord who was raised on it,  
raising the world with Himself!

5. You carried Your deluded flock on Your shoulders;  
offering it to Your Father, Saviour.  
You numbered it with the angels, in the Holy Spirit,  
through Your precious and life-bearing Cross!  
You resisted the tree with your Tree!  
Now, in faith, we raise it on high.  
We glorify You; on it You were lifted up,  
raising us with Yourself!

4. Let us stand in the presence of God, faithful;  
let us attend to spiritual things,  
gazing in spirit on the place of the skull with purified minds.  
We mortals shall join with angels  
to see the holy wood exalted  
on which Christ our God voluntarily stretched out His hands  
to gather all us prisoners  
and raise us to the heavenly places!

*In Tone 4*

3. You adorned your soul, glorious martyr,  
with the beauties of virginity and the blood of martyrdom.  
You were betrothed to the Creator  
Who truly has preserved you incorrupt for the ages.  
Therefore you join the choir with the ranks of archangels and angels,  
the apostles, prophets and martyrs,  
most praised Euphemia.

2. You were bound to wheels of torture,  
torn in pieces by wild beasts.  
your mind was sharpened with fire and water by the Spirit of God;  
you courageously drowned the princes of darkness with the streams of your blood!  
You hastened to the spiritual bridal chambers,  
offering your suffering as a dowry to your Bridegroom, virgin!

1. Though you have died, you live forever, martyr,  
and have poured streams of blood to the praise of the Lord,  
watering the faithful and illumining them with understanding,  
but drowning the unbelieving enemy.  
Therefore the divine scroll of the teachings of the Church was given to you//  
and you preserve and hold it forever.

*In Tone 6, Glory...*

Today the four ends of the earth are sanctified  
by the exaltation of the four arms of Your Cross, Christ our God.  
Your faithful people are exalted in strength  
and dash in pieces the devil's might.  
You are great, and wonderful are Your works!  
Glory to You, O Lord!

*In Tone 7, Now...*

Immaculate Mother of God,  
you became a mother outside the laws of nature,  
remaining a virgin in a way that exceeds all description  
and human understanding.  
The wonder of your birth-giving could not be told in human language,  
for your conception of Christ blinded intelligence,  
and your birth-giving exceeded understanding:  
for whenever God so desires, the laws of nature are broken.  
Wherefore, we all firmly believe that you are the Mother of God,  
and we eagerly beseech you to intercede for the salvation of our souls.

### **Aposticha**

*In Tone 7*

O Saviour of the world, You arose from the grave,  
and together with Your own flesh You raised up mankind.  
O Lord, glory to You!

*The Lord reigns, He is clothed in majesty. Robed is the Lord, and girt about with strength.*

Come, let us worship Christ Who arose from the dead  
and enlightened all creation.  
For by His resurrection on the third day,  
He set us free from the oppression of Hades,  
granting us life and His great mercy.

*For He has made the world firm, which shall not be moved.*

O Christ, Lover of mankind,  
You descended into Hades and destroyed death.  
Then You arose on the third day;  
and, together with Yourself You lifted up all of us  
who glorify Your mighty resurrection.

*Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, for length of days.*

O Lord, what a fearful sight it was to see You lying in the tomb as if asleep.  
Yet on the third day You arose in great power,  
and at the same time You raised up Adam who joyfully cried out:  
Glory to Your resurrection, O Lover of mankind!

*In Tone 8, Glory... Now...*

Moses prefigured the Cross and defeated Amalek;  
David ordered worship at your footstool.  
So today we sinners fall in worship  
before Your precious feet, O Christ.  
We cry to You, the crucified One:  
Lord, make us worthy, with the thief, of Your kingdom!

### **Troparia**

*In Tone 7*

By Your cross You destroyed death;\* You opened Paradise to the thief;\* You changed the lamentation  
of the myrrh-bearers to joy,\* and charged the apostles to proclaim\* that You are risen, O Christ our  
God,\*\* offering great mercy to the world.

*In Tone 4, Glory...*

Your lamb Euphemia, O Jesus, calls out to You in a loud voice:\* I love You, my Bridegroom, and in  
seeking You I endure suffering.\* In baptism I was crucified so that I might reign in You,\* and died so that  
I might live with You.\* Accept me as a pure sacrifice,\* for I have offered myself in love!\* By her prayers,  
save our souls, since You are merciful!

*In Tone 1, Now...*

Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance,\* grant victory to Your faithful people against  
enemies,\* and protect Your community by Your Cross.