

## September 14

### The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

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#### Great Vespers

#### Kathisma

*Blessed is the man...* is sung only when feast occurs on a Sunday or Monday

#### At Psalm 140

*In Tone 6*

8. By its elevation the Cross is like an appeal to the whole creation.  
We adore the blessed passion of Christ our God  
who was suspended on it.  
By this Cross, Christ destroyed the one who had destroyed us.  
In His great goodness, He brought us back to life after we had been dead.  
In His mercy He clothed us with beauty  
and made us worthy of heaven.  
Therefore, we exalt His Name with great rejoicing  
and glorify His infinite condescension.

7. By its elevation the Cross is like an appeal to the whole creation.  
We adore the blessed passion of Christ our God  
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and glorify His infinite condescension.

5. O precious Cross of the Lord,  
Moses prefigured you when he stretched out his arms to heaven  
and thus defeated the haughty Amalek.  
You are the pride of the faithful  
and the strength of those who struggle,  
the glory of the apostles, the courage of the just,  
and the salvation of the saints.  
Therefore, at the sight of your elevation,

the whole creation rejoices, exalts, and glorifies Christ  
whose goodness joined together those who had strayed.

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Moses prefigured you when he stretched out his arms to heaven  
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Therefore, at the sight of your elevation,  
the whole creation rejoices, exalts, and glorifies Christ  
whose goodness joined together those who had strayed.

2. O most venerable Cross of the Lord,  
the angels surround you with joy at your elevation today.  
You raise up those who had fallen and had been delivered to death  
for having eaten of the forbidden tree.  
Therefore, we praise you with our lips,  
begging for sanctification, saying:  
Exalt Christ our gracious God, O you nations,  
and adore His divine footsteps forever.

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the angels surround you with joy at your elevation today.  
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*In Tone 2, Glory... Now...*

Come, all you people,  
let us venerate the blessed Cross of the Lord through which eternal justice came to us.  
He who deceived Adam, the first man, was conquered by a tree,  
and the same who fettered the royal creation by his cunning has been cast down into nothingness.  
The venom of the serpent has been washed away by the divine blood of Christ.  
The curse of the rightful sentence was lifted when the just Christ was condemned unjustly.  
By God's plan, death that had come from a tree would be conquered by a Tree,  
and suffering would be healed by the suffering of the Lord.

Glory to the active presence of Your providence in our lives, O Christ, our King.  
Through it You have brought salvation for all,  
for You are gracious and the Lover of mankind.

### **Readings**

Exodus 15:22-16:1

Proverbs 3:11-18

Isaiah 60:11-16

### **Lytia**

#### *In Tone 1*

The prophecy of David is truly fulfilled today,  
for we now bow down before Your footstool  
in the shadow of Your wings, O God of love.

Filled with hope, we cry out:

Let the light of Your face shine upon us,  
and raise up all the faithful Christians  
by the exaltation of Your precious Cross,  
O Christ, our God of tenderness and mercy.

The Tree of true life was planted in the place of the Skull,  
the Tree upon which the King of the Ages brought about our salvation,  
is raised up in the middle of the earth today.

It sanctifies the ends of the earth,  
and the Church of the Resurrection celebrates its rededication now.

The angels rejoice in heaven,  
and those upon the earth exalt with joy and say with David:

Exalt the Lord our God and bow before His throne  
and before His footstool, for He is holy;  
it is He who grants great mercy to the world.

Jacob, the Patriarch, prefigured Your Cross, O Christ,  
when he blessed his descendents  
by laying his hands on their heads in the form of a cross.

Today we exalt it and cry out, O Saviour:  
Grant victory to Your Church over her enemies,  
as You once did to Your people.

#### *In Tone 2*

Hidden in the earth as a divine treasure,  
the Cross of the Giver of Life now appeared in the heavens to the godly king,  
and its inscription spiritually signified his victory over the enemy.

Rejoicing with faith and love,  
he was inspired by God and hastened to raise on high  
the Cross that he had seen in his vision.

With great zeal he brought it forth from the bosom of the earth  
for the deliverance of the world and the salvation of our souls.

By crossing his hands in the blessing of his children,  
the Patriarch Jacob foreshadowed the powerful sign of the Cross.  
We now have it as our safeguard that cannot be overthrown,  
and with its strength we drive out the hosts of demons.  
Casting down the arrogance of Belial with it,  
we put to flight the destroying power of Amalek.  
And now that it is lifted on high,  
we the faithful offer it in devotion  
for the cleansing of our sins before the goodness of God.  
We cry aloud with the fullness of our voices:  
Have mercy on us, O Lord made flesh of a Virgin;  
take pity on us, O Gracious One,  
for we are the works which you fashioned in Your wisdom.

O triple-branched Cross of Christ  
you are my strong protection.  
Sanctify me by your might,  
that I may venerate and glorify you in faith and love.

*In Tone 4*

Let us raise our voices today and sing in honour of this feast,  
and with radiant faces let us cry out in a loud voice:  
For us You accepted condemnation, O Christ;  
You were spat upon and scourged;  
You were wrapped in a purple robe and have ascended the Cross.  
Seeing You, the sun and moon hid their light,  
the earth quaked in fear, and the veil of the temple was torn in two.  
Now give us Your precious Cross as our guardian,  
our protector which drives away the demons,  
that embracing it, we may all cry out:  
Save us, O Cross, by your might,  
and strengthen us through your exaltation,  
for you have been given to us as the light and salvation of our souls.

O Cross, you are the radiant sign among the stars.  
In prophecy you have revealed the sign of victory to the godly king;  
and when his mother Helena found you,  
she displayed you in the sight of all the world.  
Today the choirs of the faithful shout aloud as they raise you on high:  
Enlighten us by your brightness, O life-giving and all-venerable Cross.  
Make us holy by your might;  
strengthen us by your exaltation,  
for you are raised up against our enemies.

*Glory... Now...*

Moses prefigured the power of the precious Cross, O Christ,  
when he conquered Amalek, his enemy, in the wilderness of Sinai.  
When he stretched out his arms in the form of a cross,  
the people were strengthened.  
Now these images are fulfilled in us.  
Today the Cross is exalted, and the devils are put to flight.

Today all creation is freed from corruption.  
Through the Cross every gift of grace has shone upon us.  
Therefore, rejoicing, we bow down before You and say:  
How marvellous are Your works, O Lord, glory to You!

### **Aposticha**

*In Tone 5*

Joy to you, life-bearing Cross of the Lord,  
invincible triumph of the true faith  
You are the gate to Paradise,  
the strength of the faithful, and the stronghold of the Church.  
Because of you, corruption no longer has meaning nor power.  
By you we have been lifted up from earth to heaven.  
You are an invincible weapon against evil,  
a glory indeed for saints and martyrs,  
and a haven for salvation.  
You are the source of mercy to the world.

*Extol the Lord our God and worship at His footstool, for He is holy.*

Joy to you, most honourable Cross of the Lord.  
Through you the human race has been delivered from the curse.  
In your exaltation you are a sign of true joy.  
O Cross all-venerable, you scatter all our enemies.  
You are the help of Christians, the glory of kings,  
the strength of the just, and the splendour of priests.  
All who sign themselves with you are freed from peril.  
You are the strength under which we are tended like sheep.  
The angels gather around you in awe as the source of peace.  
You are the glory of Christ  
who grants great mercy to the world.

*God is our King from time past, the giver of help through all the land.*

Joy to you, precious Cross of the Lord,  
guide to the blind and physician to the sick,  
and resurrection to the dead.  
You raised us out of corruption and removed the curse.  
Through you we have been made divine,  
and the power of Hades has been destroyed in full.  
Therefore, seeing you today lifted up by our priests,  
we exalt Christ who was suspended on you;  
and we bow deeply before you,  
seeking forgiveness and great mercy.

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

Of old, Moses prefigured Your Cross  
while vanquishing Amalek and obtaining victory over him.  
David the psalmist called it Your footstool

and directed us to adore it.  
We sinners indeed venerate Your Cross today, O Christ our God.  
With our unworthy lips we extol You,  
for You deigned to be crucified on it;  
and we entreat You, O Lord:  
Together with the thief, make us worthy of Your kingdom.

**TROPARION**

*In Tone 1*

Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance,\* grant victory to Your faithful people against enemies,\* and protect Your community by Your Cross. (3)