

**Great Vespers for the Third Sunday in Lent  
on which we celebrate the Veneration of the Precious and Life-giving Cross  
Octoechos 7  
Holy Martyrs Eutropius and His Companions Cleonicus and Basiliscus**

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*Before the beginning of the service, the Precious Cross is brought from the table of the Prothesis or the sacristy and placed on the Holy Table. A candle is lit and left burning in front of it.*

**Kathisma Reading**

*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!

6. In fulfilment of the prophecy of David,  
Christ revealed His majesty to His disciples in Sion.  
He showed Himself to be worthy of equal praise  
with His Father and the Holy Spirit;  
for He existed from all eternity as God the Word, without a body;  
then, out of love for mankind, He became incarnate,  
and for our sake He was put to death as a man;  
finally, by His own power He arose from the dead.

5. O Christ, of Your own free will, You descended into Hades;  
and, as God the Lord, You destroyed death.  
On the third day You arose from the dead and raised up Adam  
from the bonds of Hades and corruption.  
In joy he cried out and said:  
Glory to Your resurrection, O Lover of mankind!

*In Tone 5*

4. Shine, O Cross of the Lord,  
shine with the light of your grace upon the hearts of those that honour you.  
With love inspired by God, we embrace you, O desire of all the world.  
Through you our tears of sorrow have been wiped away;  
we have been delivered from the snares of death  
and have passed over to unending joy.  
Show us the glory of your beauty  
and grant to us your servants  
the reward of our abstinence,  
for we entreat with faith your rich protection and great mercy.

3. Hail, life-giving Cross,  
the fair Paradise of the Church,  
Tree of incorruption that brings us the enjoyment of eternal glory:  
through you the hosts of demons have been driven back;  
and the hierarchies of angels rejoice with one accord,  
as the congregations of the faithful keep the feast.  
You are an invincible weapon, an unbroken stronghold;  
you are the victory of kings and the glory of priests.  
Grant us now to draw near to the Passion of Christ  
and to His Resurrection.

2. Hail, life-giving Cross,  
unconquerable trophy of the true faith,  
door to Paradise, succour of the faithful,  
rampart set about the Church.  
Through you the curse is utterly destroyed,  
the power of death is swallowed up,  
and we are raised from earth to heaven:  
invincible weapon, adversary of demons, glory of martyrs,  
true ornament of holy monks, haven of salvation  
bestowing on the world great mercy.

1. Come, Adam and Eve, our first father and mother,  
who fell from the choir on high through the envy of the murderer of man,  
when of old with bitter pleasure you tasted of the three in Paradise.  
See, the Tree of the Cross, revered by all, draws near!  
Run with haste and embrace it joyfully,  
and cry out to it with faith:  
O precious Cross, you are our succour;  
partaking of your fruit we have gained incorruption;

we are restored once more to Eden,  
and we have received great mercy.

*In Tone 3, Glory...*

O Christ our God, of Your own will You have accepted Crucifixion,  
that all mankind might be restored to life.  
Taking the quill of the Cross, out of love for man  
in the red ink of royalty with bloody fingers  
You signed our absolution.  
We are in danger once again of being parted from You;  
O forsake us not!  
Take pity on Your people in distress,  
for You alone are longsuffering.  
Rise up and fight against our enemies in Your almighty power.

*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 4, Glory... Now...*

O Lord who helped gentle David in the combat  
and enabled him to overcome the Philistine,  
come to the aid of Your Orthodox people,  
and by the weapon of the Cross cast down our enemies.  
In Your compassion show us Your mercy as of old,  
and make them know in truth that You are God,  
and that we who put our trust in You shall conquer.  
At the constant intercessions of Your most pure Mother,  
grant us Your great mercy.

### **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 1, Glory...*

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

*Now...*

O Holy Tabernacle, when Gabriel called out to you:\* Rejoice, O Virgin, full of grace,\* the Lord of All  
became incarnate of you,\* as the righteous David had foretold.\* In bearing your Creator, you have  
shown yourself to surpass the vastness of the heavens.\* We, therefore, cry out: Glory to Him Who  
dwelt in you!\* Glory to Him Who came forth from you!\* Glory to Him Who has set us free\* through  
your life-giving birth!