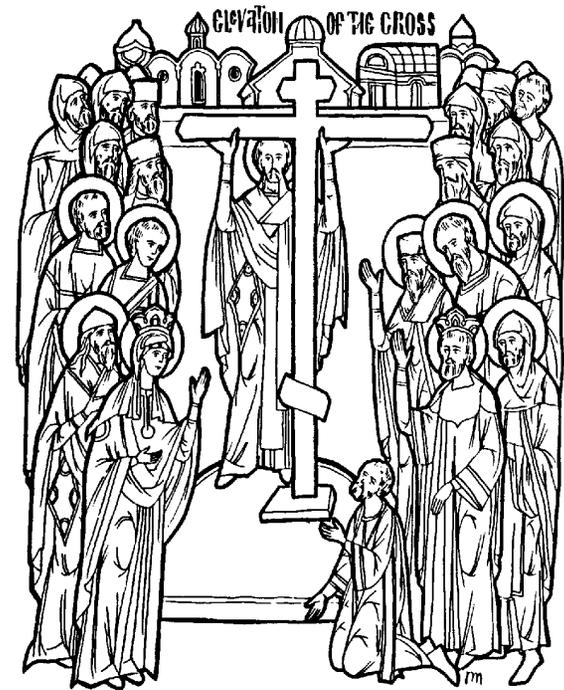
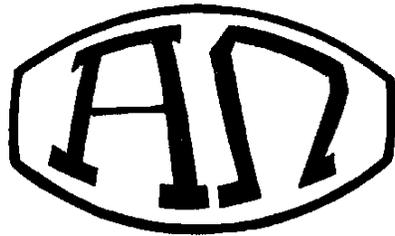


REVISED September 2015

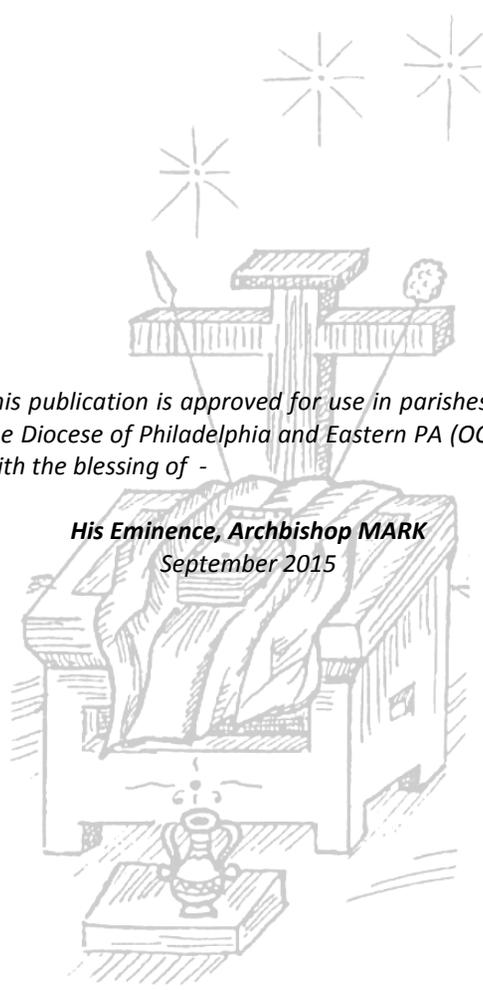
# ELEVATION OF THE CROSS



Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania  
[www.DOEPA.org](http://www.DOEPA.org)

**VESPERS, LITYA, AND  
CROSS PROCESSION**

*Adapted for use in the Diocese of  
Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania*



*This publication is approved for use in parishes of  
the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern PA (OCA),  
with the blessing of -*

***His Eminence, Archbishop MARK***  
*September 2015*

upon our beds, remember Thy name in the night. And, enlightened by the exercise of Thy commandments, may we rise up in joyfulness of soul to the glorification of Thy goodness, and offer supplications and prayers unto Thy tenderness of heart, for our own sins and those of all Thy people, whom do Thou look upon in mercy, through the intercessions of the holy Theotokos. For Thou art a good God who lovest man, and unto Thee do we (*ascribe/send up*) glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## ELEVATION OF THE CROSS

**T**he Elevation of the Cross, celebrated on the fourteenth of September, commemorates the finding of Christ's Cross by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine in the fourth century; and, after it was taken by the Persians, of its recovery by the Emperor Heraclius in the seventh century at which time it was "elevated" in the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. From this latter event the "universal elevation" of the Cross was celebrated annually in all of the churches of the Christian Empire.

The day of the Elevation of the Cross became, as it were, the national holiday of the Eastern Christian Empire similar to the Fourth of July in the United States. The Cross, the official emblem of the Empire which was placed on all public buildings and uniforms, was officially elevated on this day by the bishops and priests. They blessed the four directions of the universe with the Cross, while the faithful repeated the chanting of "Lord have mercy." This ritual is still done in the churches today after the solemn presentation and elevation of the Cross at the end of the Vigil service of the holy day following the Great Doxology of Matins.

The troparion of the feast which was, one might say, the "national anthem" sung on all public occasions in the Christian Empires of Byzantium and Russia, originally petitioned God to save the people, to grant victory in war and to preserve the empire "by the virtue of the Cross." Today the troparion, and all the hymns of the day, are "spiritualized" as the "adversaries" become the spiritually wicked and sinful including the devil and his armies, and "Orthodox Christians" replace the names of ruling officials of the Empire.

*(Troparion) O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation.*

**(Kontakion)** *As Thou was mercifully crucified for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Thy name; make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power, granting them victories over their adversaries, by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace.*

The holy day of the Elevation of the Cross, although it has an obviously “political” origin, has a place of great significance in the Church today. It remains with us as a day of fasting and prayer, a day when we recall that the Cross is the only sign worthy of our total allegiance, and that our salvation comes not by “victories” of any earthly sort but by the only true and lasting victory of the crucifixion of Christ and our crucifixion with him.

When we elevate the Cross and bow down before it in veneration and worship to God, we proclaim that we belong to the Kingdom “not of this world,” and that our only true and enduring citizenship is with the saints in the “city of God” (*Eph 2:19; Heb 11:10; Rev 21-22*).

**(Hymn of Veneration)** *Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy holy resurrection, we glorify!*

This central hymn of the Elevation of the Cross which lasts for eight days in the Church is sung many times. It replaces the Thrice-Holy of the Divine Liturgy. The normal antiphons are also replaced by special verses from the psalms which have direct reference to Christ’s crucifixion on the Cross (*Ps 22, 74, 99*).

Thus, at the Elevation of the Cross the Christians make their official rededication to the crucified Lord and pledge their undivided allegiance to him by the adoration of his holy feet nailed to the life-creating Cross. This is the meaning of this holy day of fasting and repentance in the Church today.

**Sixth Prayer:** O God, great and wonderful, who, with goodness indescribable and rich providence orderest all things and grantest unto us earthly goods, who hast given us a pledge of the promised kingdom through the good things already granted unto us, and hast made us to shun all harm during that part of the present day which is past, grant that we may also fulfill the remainder of this day blamelessly before Thy holy glory, and hymn Thee, our God, who alone art good and lovest man. For Thou art our God, and unto Thee do we (*ascribe/send up*) glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Seventh Prayer:** O great and most high God, who alone hast immortality, and dwellest in light unapproachable, who hast fashioned all creation in wisdom, who hast divided the light from the darkness, and hast set the sun to rule the day and the moon and stars to rule the night, who hast also vouchsafed unto us sinners at this present hour to come before Thy presence with confession and to present unto Thee our evening doxology, do Thou Thyself, O Lord, Lover of man, direct our prayer as incense before Thee, and accept it for an odor of sweet fragrance, and grant that our present evening and coming night be peaceful. Clothe us with the armor of light. Deliver us from the fear of night, and from everything that walketh in darkness, and grant that the sleep that Thou hast given for the repose of our infirmity may be free from every fantasy of the Devil. Yea, O Master of all, Leader of the good, may we, being moved to compunction

petitions which are unto salvation, and make us worthy to love and fear Thee with all our hearts, and to do Thy will in all things. For Thou art a good God who lovest man, and to Thee do we (*ascribe/send up*) glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Fourth Prayer:** O Thou to whom the holy Powers sing with unending hymns and unceasing doxologies, fill our mouths with Thy praise, that we may magnify Thy holy name. And grant unto us part and inheritance with all those that fear Thee in truth and keep Thy commandments, through the intercessions of the holy Theotokos and of all Thy Saints. For to Thee belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Fifth Prayer:** O Lord, Lord, who upholdest all things in the most pure hollow of Thy hand, who art long-suffering toward us all, and repentest Thee at our wickedness, remember Thy compassion and Thy mercy. Look upon us with Thy goodness; grant unto us also by Thy grace, through the remainder of the present day, to avoid the divers subtle snares of the Evil One, and keep our lives un-assailed, through the grace of Thine all-holy Spirit. Through the mercy and love of man of Thine only-begotten Son, with whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**DEACON:** Arise, Master bless!

**PRIEST:** Blessed is our God always now and ever and unto ages of ages!

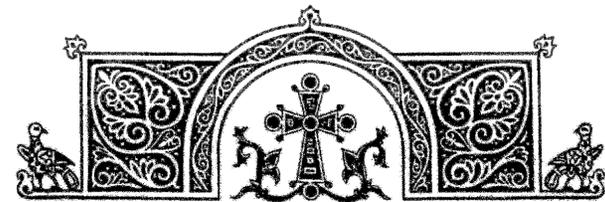
**CHOIR:** Amen.

**PRIEST/CHOIR:** 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!  
Come, let us worship and fall down before Him!

#### PSALM 104

**CHOIR:** Bless the Lord, O my soul! Blessed are Thou, blessed art Thou, O Lord! How glorious are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all! Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee. Who hast created, who hast created all! Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God! (3)**



## GREAT LITANY

**DEACON:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** **Lord, have mercy.** *Repeated 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, the welfare 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 Metropolitan \_\_\_\_, and for our Bishop (*Archbishop*) \_\_\_\_, the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For this country, its President, and for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city, for every city and countryside, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

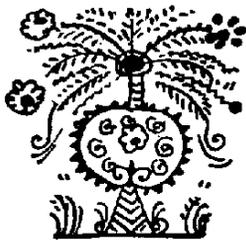
For seasonable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

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

**First Prayer:** O Lord, compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and of great mercy, give heed to our prayer, and attend to the voice of our supplication. Work upon us a sign for good. Guide us in Thy way, that we may walk in Thy truth. Gladden our hearts that we may fear Thy holy name. For thou art great and workest wonders. Thou alone art God, and among the gods there is none like unto Thee, O Lord, powerful in mercy, and good in might, to help and to comfort and to save all those that hope in Thy holy name. For to Thee belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Second Prayer:** O Lord, in Thy displeasure, rebuke us not, neither chasten us in Thy wrath, but deal with us according to Thy tenderness O Physician and Healer of our souls. Guide us unto the haven of Thy will. Enlighten the eyes of our hearts unto the knowledge of Thy truth, and grant unto us that the remainder of the present day and the whole time of our life may be peaceful and sinless, through the intercessions of the holy Theotokos and of all the Saints. For Thine is the strength, and Thine 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 unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Third Prayer:** O Lord our God, remember us Thy sinful and unprofitable servants when we call upon Thy holy, venerable name, and put us not to shame in our expectation of Thy mercy, but grant us, O Lord, all our



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

Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

**CHOIR: To Thee, O Lord.**

**PRIEST:** For unto Thee are due all glory, honor and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR: Amen.**

*The Kathisma is not appointed,  
instead we immediately sing "Lord I Call"*

### **LORD I CALL (PSALM 141)**

*(Tone 6)* **Lord I call upon Thee, hear me! Hear me, O Lord! Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me! Receive the voice of my prayer, when I call upon Thee, hear me O Lord!**

**Let my prayer arise, in Thy sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands, be an evening sacrifice, hear me O Lord!**

*10. Bring my soul out of prison that I may praise Thy name.*

9. *The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.*

8. *Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, 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.**

7. *Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.*

**Repeat: As the Cross is lifted on high...**

6. *If Thou, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who shall stand? For there is forgiveness with Thee!*

**Repeat: As the Cross is lifted on high...**

5. *For Thy namesake I have waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord!*

**Moses prefigured thee, O precious Cross, when he stretched out his hands on high, and put the tyrant Amalek to flight. Thou art the boast of the faithful, the support of those who suffer, the glory of the Apostles, the champion of the Right-**

*today, and of all those Saints who have shone forth in North America), and of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, have mercy on us and save us, for as much as He is good and loves mankind.*

**CHOIR: Amen.**

### **MAGNIFICATION**

**We magnify Thee, O Christ the Giver of Life, and we honor Thy Holy Cross by which Thou hast saved us from the slavery to the enemy.**

*The Priest may choose to offer a short sermon.  
Then as the faithful venerate the choir sings:*

### **TONE 2 (RECESSIONAL)**

**CHOIR: Come, ye 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, ye faithful, let us adore the wood, through which we have been made worthy to crush the heads of invisible enemies. Come, all ye kindred of the nations, let us honor in hymns the Cross of the Lord. Rejoice, O Cross, complete redemption of fallen Adam. With thee as their boast our faithful kings laid low by thy might the people of Ishmael. We Christians kiss thee now with fear and, glorifying God who was nailed upon thee, we cry: O Lord, who on the Cross was crucified, have mercy on us, for Thou art good and lovest mankind.**

**CHOIR:** Amen. Blessed be the name of the Lord, henceforth and forever more. (3)

**DISMISSAL**

**DEACON:** Wisdom!

**CHOIR:** Father, bless!

**PRIEST:** Blessed is *He Who Is*, Christ our God, always now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen. Preserve, O God, the Holy Orthodox faith of Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

**PRIEST:** Most holy Theotokos, save us!

**CHOIR:** More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim: without defilement you gave birth to God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you!

**PRIEST:** Glory to Thee, O Christ, our God and our only sure hope, glory to Thee!

**CHOIR:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. (3) *(Father/Master)*, bless!

**PRIEST:** May Christ our True God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross, of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles, *(of Saint \_\_ whose memory we keep*

*eous, and the preservation of all the Saints. Therefore, beholding thee raised on high, creation rejoices and celebrates, glorifying Christ Who has joined together through thee that which was divided in His infinite goodness.*

*4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope in the Lord.*

**Repeat: Moses prefigured thee...**

*3. For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all His iniquities.*

**Repeat: Moses prefigured thee...**

*2. Praise the Lord, all nations; praise Him all people!*

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

*1. For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever!*

**Repeat: O most venerable Cross...**

*Glory, now and ever in the 2nd Tone: 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 Thy dread dispensation for our sakes, O Christ the King, through which Thou hast saved us all since Thou art good and the Lover of mankind!**

#### **ENTRANCE**

**PRIEST:** *In the evening, and in the morning, and at noonday, we praise Thee, we bless Thee, we give thanks to Thee, and we pray unto Thee, O Master of all, Lord who loves mankind. Direct Thou our prayer as incense before Thee, and incline not our hearts unto words or thoughts of evil, but deliver us from all who seek after our souls. For unto Thee, Lord, O Lord, lift we up our eyes, in Thee have we hoped. Put us not to shame, O our God. For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**DEACON:** Wisdom! Let us attend!

#### **KONTAKION**

**CHOIR:** *(Tone 4) As Thou wast voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name, O Christ God; make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power, granting them victories over their adversaries by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace!*

**CHOIR:** *Eis polla, eti dhespota!* *(if a bishop is present)*

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#### **BEFORE THY CROSS**

**CHOIR:** Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master. And Thy holy Resurrection, we glorify! *(3)*

#### **BLESSING OF THE LOAVES**

**DEACON:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**PRIEST:** O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, who didst bless the five loaves in the wilderness and therewith didst feed the five thousand: do Thou the same Lord bless these loaves, wheat, wine and oil, and multiply them in this city and in all the world, and sanctify all the faithful who partake of them. For it is Thou, O Christ our God, who dost bless and sanctify all things; and unto Thee do we *(ascribe/send up)* glory with Thy Father Who has no beginning, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

### SPECIAL EXALTATION RITE

*NOTE: reserved for an occasion when a hierarch is present, or has blessed its use in the local parish. At each singing of "Lord, have mercy" the four directions are blessed: first East, then West, then North, and finally South)*

**DEACON:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray thee, hear us and have mercy!

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy! (40 times or 100 times) *East*

**DEACON:** Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy! (40 times or 100 times) *West*

**DEACON:** Again we pray for the holy Orthodox patriarchs, for our Metropolitan \_\_\_\_\_, for our Bishop (Archbishop) \_\_\_\_\_ and for all our brethren in Christ.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy! (40 times or 100 times) *North*

**DEACON:** Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation and pardon and remission of sins of the servants of God the faithful of our parish and all Orthodox Christians of True Worship, who live and sojourn in this community.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy! (40 times or 100 times) *South*

**DEACON:** Again we pray for the souls of all Orthodox Christians, their health, salvation, and forgiveness of their sins.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy! (40 times or 100 times)

### GLADSOME LIGHT

**CHOIR:** O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal heavenly, holy, blessed Father: O Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the sun and behold the light of evening, we praise God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For meet it is at all times to worship Thee with voices of praise, O Son of God and Giver of life; therefore all the world doth glorify Thee!

### EVENING PROKEIMENON

*NOTE: Usually according to the day (next page), but If the Feast is on Saturday, then this Great Prokeimenon (Tone 7) \**

**DEACON:** Let us attend!

**PRIEST:** Peace be unto all!

**DEACON:** Wisdom. \* The Prokeimenon in the \_\_\_ tone:

**\* The Great Prokeimenon in the 7th tone: Our God is in heaven and earth \* He does whatsoever He pleases.**

**Verse:** When Israel went forth from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language, Judah became his sanctuary, Israel his dominion.

**Verse:** The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back.

**Verse:** What ails you, O sea, that you fled?  
O Jordan, that you turned back?

**SUNDAY: 8th Tone**

**Behold now, bless the Lord, \* all you servants of the Lord!**

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

**MONDAY: 4th Tone**

**The Lord hears me \* when I call to Him!**

**Verse:** When I called, the God of my righteousness heard me!

**TUESDAY: 1st Tone**

**Thy mercy O Lord, \* shall follow me all the days of my life!**

**Verse:** The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; He makes me lie down in green pastures.

**WEDNESDAY: 5th Tone**

**Save me, O God, by Thy name \* and judge me by Thy strength!**

**Verse:** Hear my prayer, O God, give ear to the words of my mouth!

**RITE OF THE EXALTATION  
OF THE LIFE-GIVING CROSS**

*\* As the choir is singing "St. Symeon's Prayer" and the chanter is reading the Trisagion, the Priest censes the Cross at the four corners of the Holy Altar (thrice), and prepares to begin the procession following the Exclamation above, then:*

**CLERGY:** Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! *(sung thrice solemnly)*

**CHOIR:** Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! *(sung thrice solemnly)*

*As the choir sings "Holy God" the Priest processes the Cross around the Altar, past the high place, and out the North door of the Altar, and finally before the Royal gates, facing East. Once the choir finishes singing he proclaims:*

**PRIEST:** Wisdom, let us attend!

*The Priest then processes to the center of the Church and places the Cross on the tetrapod, and immediately censes it on the four sides (three times), as the choir sings the Troparion:*

**FESTAL TROPARION**

**CHOIR:** *(Tone 1)* O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance! Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by virtue of Thy Cross, preserve Thy habitation! *(3)*

*If the bishop is not present, and/or the blessing is not given to perform the **Special Rite**, we immediately sing "**Before Thy Cross**" on p. 31*

**TRISAGION (THRICE HOLY) \***

**READER:** Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3)

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy name's sake.

Lord have mercy. (3)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto 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 Thine 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 unto the ages of ages.

**CHOIR: Amen.**

**THURSDAY: 6th Tone**

**My help comes from the Lord \* who made heaven and earth!**

**Verse:** I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where my help will come.

**FRIDAY: 7th Tone**

**Thou, O God, art my helper \* and Thy mercy shall go before me!**

**Verse:** Deliver me from my enemies, O God, and protect me from those who rise up against me!

**OLD TESTAMENT READINGS**

**DEACON:** Wisdom!

**READER:** The reading is from Exodus (15:22-16:1)

**DEACON:** Let us attend!

**READER:** So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water to drink. Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called "Bitterness". And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" So he cried out

to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. And he cast it into the waters, and the waters were made sweet. There God set justifications and judgments for him, and there He tested him, and said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you. Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters. And they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt.

**DEACON:** Wisdom!

**READER:** The reading is from Proverbs (3:11-18)

**DEACON:** Let us attend!

**READER:** My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor grow weary being rebuked by Him; For whom the Lord loves He rebukes, and chastises every son whom He receives. Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, and the mortal who sees discernment; For it is better to purchase her than gain treasures of gold and silver. She is more precious than rubies, and nothing evil will withstand her. She is well known to all

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

*Glory, now and ever in the 8th Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

*(Tone 8)* **Thy 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 Thy footstool. This Cross we sinners worship today with unworthy lips, and praise Thee, Who deigned to be nailed upon it, and we cry to Thee: "With the thief, make us worthy of Thy Kingdom, O Lord!"**

#### **ST. SYMEON'S PRAYER**

**CHOIR/CHANTER:** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people: a light to enlighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people, Israel.

## APOSTICHA

**CHOIR:** *(Tone 5)* Rejoice, O Life-bearing Cross, the invincible trophy of godliness, door to Paradise, firm support of the faithful, a wall that encompasses the Church! Through thee corruption has been destroyed and abolished. The power of death has been swallowed up, and we are raised from earth to Heaven. Thou art a weapon that cannot be vanquished, the adversary of demons, the glory of the martyrs, the true adornment of saints, and the haven of salvation, which grant the world great mercy.

*Verse: Extol the Lord our God: worship at His footstool for it is holy!*

Rejoice, O Cross of the Lord, through which mankind has been delivered from the curse! Thou art a sign of true joy, thou dost shatter our enemies by thy Elevation. O Cross, worthy of all honor, thou art our help, Thou art the strength of kings. Thou art the power of the righteous. Thou art the majesty of priests. All who sign themselves with thee are freed from danger. O rod of strength, under which we like sheep are tended, thou art a weapon of peace around which the Angels stand in fear. Thou art the divine glory of Christ, Who grants the world great mercy.

*Verse: God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth!*

who come near her and no precious thing is equal to her in value. For length of days and years of life are in her right hand, and in her left hand are riches and honor. Righteousness proceeds from her mouth and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue. Her ways are good ways, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and she is security for those who lean upon her as upon the Lord.

**DEACON:** Wisdom!

**READER:** The reading is from the prophesy of Isaiah *(60:11-16)*

**DEACON:** Let us attend!

**READER:** Thus says the Lord: your gates, O Jerusalem, shall be opened continually; They shall not be shut day or night, that men may bring to you the wealth of the Gentiles, and their kings in procession. For the nation and kingdom which will not serve you shall perish, and the nations of desolation shall become desolate. "The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, the cypress, the pine, and the cedar together, to glorify My holy place; And I will make the place of My feet glorious. Also the sons of those who afflicted you shall come bowing to you, and all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet; And they shall call you the City of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One of Israel. "Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, and there was no one to help you, I will make

you an eternal joy, the gladness of generations to generations. You shall drink the milk of the Gentiles, and eat the wealth of kings; You shall know that I, the Lord, am your Savior and your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

### **AUGMENTED LITANY**

**DEACON:** Let us say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say.

**CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.**

**DEACON:** O Lord Almighty, the God of our Fathers, we pray Thee, hear us, and have mercy!

**CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.**

**DEACON:** Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hear us, and have mercy.

**CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. (3)**

**DEACON:** Again we pray for our Metropolitan \_\_\_\_\_, and for our Bishop (*Archbishop*) \_\_\_\_\_, and for all our brethren in Christ.

**CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. (3)**

Again we pray for this country, its President, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces.

**CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. (3)**

**CHOIR: Lord, have mercy. (3)**

**PRIEST:** Hear us, O God our Savior, Thou hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea; and be merciful, be merciful, O Master, regarding our sins, and have mercy on us. For Thou art a merciful God, Who lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR: Amen.**

**PRIEST:** Peace be unto all.

**CHOIR: And to your spirit.**

**DEACON:** Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

**CHOIR: To Thee, O Lord.**

**PRIEST:** O Master, great in mercy, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the prayers of our all-pure Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven;

*Here one may repeat from \* on p. 22,  
or simply continue...*

and of all Thy saints; make our prayer acceptable, grant us forgiveness of our trespasses, shelter us under the shadow of Thy wings; drive away from us every enemy and adversary, give peace to our life, O Lord; have mercy on us and on Thy world and save our souls, for Thou art good and lovest mankind.

**CHOIR: Amen.**

the peace and stability of the whole world; for the welfare of the holy Churches of God; for the salvation and help of our fathers and brethren who with diligence and fear of God, do labor and serve; For those who are gone away and those who are abroad; for the healing of those who lie in infirmity; for the repose, refreshment, blessed memory and forgiveness of sins of all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox gone to their rest before us who lie here and everywhere; for the deliverance of captives; for our brethren who are serving and for all who serve and have served in this holy temple, let us say:

**CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.** *(12 or 30)*

**DEACON:** Again we pray for this country, its President, for all civil authorities, and our armed forces, let us say:

**CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.** *(12 or 50)*

**DEACON:** Again we pray that He will keep this city and this holy church, and every city and countryside from wrath, famine, plague, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, foreign invasion, civil war, and sudden death; that our good God, who loves mankind, will be gracious and conciliatory, and turn away and dispel all the wrath stirred up against us and all sickness, and may deliver us from His righteous chastisement which impendeth against us, and have mercy on us.

**CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.** *(3)*

**DEACON:** Again we pray that the Lord God will hearken unto the voice of supplication of us sinners, and have mercy upon us.

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable holy Orthodox Patriarchs; and for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy house; *(for \_\_\_)* and for all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

**CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.** *(3)*

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation and pardon and remission of sins of the servants of God the faithful of this holy temple and all Orthodox Christians who live and sojourn in this community.

**CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.** *(3)*

Again we pray for those who bring offerings and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for those who labor, and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await Thy great and rich mercy.

**CHOIR: Lord, have mercy.** *(3)*

**PRIEST:** For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR: Amen.**

## VOUCHSAFE, O LORD

**CHOIR/CHANTER:** Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen. Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on Thee.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes! Blessed art Thou, O Master, make me to understand Thy commandments! Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy precepts!

Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever. O despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

## EVENING LITANY

**DEACON:** Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy.

**DEACON:** That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

*ceva; of Alban the protomartyr of Britian, Cosmas of Aitola, and Maksym of Carpatho Rus; of the martyrs of America, Juvenaly the Protomartyr of America and his companion, Peter the Aleut, and the hieromartyrs John of Chicago, Alexander of New York City, Seraphim and Vasily who labored in America; and of all the holy new-martyrs and confessors;*

Of our venerable and God-bearing fathers and mothers,

*Anthony of Egypt, Sabas the Sanctified, Mary of Egypt, and Pelegia the Penitent; Anthony and Theodosius and the other Wonderworkers of the Caves in Kiev, Sergius of Rodenezh, Job of Pochaev, Seraphim of Sarov, Paisius Velichkovsky, Nicodemus and Siloun of the Holy Mountain; and Herman, the Wonderworker of Alaska and all America; of the holy blessed and righteous priests Alexis of Wilkes-Barre, Jacob of Alaska, and John of Kronstadt, the Wonderworker; and of the holy and righteous Juliana the Merciful of Lazarevo; of the holy blessed Xenia of St. Petersburg and Matrona of Moscow;*

*of saint(s) \_\_\_ whose memory we keep this day; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna and of all the saints, we beseech Thee O most merciful Lord, hearken to us sinners who make our supplications unto Thee, and have mercy on us!*

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. *(12 or 40)*

**DEACON:** Again we pray for our Metropolitan \_\_\_\_\_, our Bishop (*Archbishop*) \_\_\_\_\_ and all our brotherhood in Christ; and for every Christian soul, afflicted and weary, in need of God's mercies and help; for the protection of this city and those who dwell therein; for

giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles;

Of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom;

*Athanasius and Cyril of Alexandria, Ignatius of Antioch, Polycarp of Smyrna, Ireneus of Lyons, and Cyprian of Carthage; of our Fathers among the Saints, Nicholas of Myra in Lycia, the Wonderworker; Leo and Gregory of Rome, Ambrose of Milan, and the holy Confessor Patrick of Ireland; of the holy Nina, Enlightener of Georgia, holy Methodius and Cyril, the teachers of the Slavs, of the holy Great Prince Vladimir, the blessed Princess Olga, and Nicholas, equal-to-the-Apostles, and Enlightener of Japan. Of our fathers among the saints the hierarchs of all Rus: Peter, Alexis, Cyprian, Jonah, Macarius, Philip, Job and Hermogenes; of our Fathers among the Saints Clement of Ochrid, Sava of Serbia, and Euthymius of Trnovo; of Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts; the holy confessor Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow, Enlightener of North America, Raphael of Brooklyn, Nikolai of Zicha, who labored in America, and John the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Shanghai and San Francisco;*

Of the holy, glorious, and right-victorious martyrs;

*the holy Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen, the great-martyr and healer Panteleimon, the great-martyrs Demetrius the Myrrh-Streamer, and George the Trophy-bearer; of the proto-martyr among women Thekla, and of the holy great-martyrs Catherine, Barbara, and Paras-*

**CHOIR: Grant *(it/this)*, O Lord.**

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

**CHOIR: Grant *(it/this)*, O Lord.**

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

**CHOIR: Grant *(it/this)*, O Lord.**

All that is good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

**CHOIR: Grant *(it/this)*, O Lord.**

That we may spend the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

**CHOIR: Grant *(it/this)*, O Lord.**

A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless and peaceful, and a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

**CHOIR: Grant *(it/this)*, O Lord.**

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

**CHOIR: To Thee, O Lord.**

**PRIEST:** For Thou art a merciful God, who loves mankind and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen.

#### PRAYER AT THE BOWING OF OUR HEADS

**PRIEST:** Peace be unto all.

**CHOIR:** And to your spirit.

**DEACON:** Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

**CHOIR:** To Thee, O Lord.

**PRIEST:** *O Lord our God, who didst bow the heavens and come down for the salvation of mankind: Look upon thy servants and Thine inheritance; for unto Thee, the fearful Judge who yet lovest mankind, have Thy servants bowed their heads, and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting not help from men but entreating Thy mercy and looking confidently for Thy salvation. Guard them at all times, both during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every foe, from all adverse powers of the devil and from vain thoughts and from evil imaginations.*

Blessed and glorified be the might of Thy Kingdom: of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**CHOIR:** Amen

#### LITYA

**CHOIR:** *(Tone 1)* Today the holy saying of David truly has come to pass, for behold, in the sight of all, we venerate the footstool of Thy undefiled feet, and, putting our hope in the shadow of Thy wings, we cry aloud to Thee, O all-compassionate Lord: "May the light of Thy countenance be marked as a sign upon us! Exalt the horn of Thine Orthodox people by the Exaltation of Thy precious Cross, O Christ of many mercies!"

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

*(Tone 4)* Moses prefigured the power of Thy precious Cross, O Christ, when he put to flight his adversary Amalek in the wilderness of Sinai; for when he stretched out his arms in the form of a cross, the people prevailed. Now the fulfillment of these images has come to pass for us. Today the Cross is exalted, and the demons are put to flight. Today all creation has been set free from corruption, for through the Cross all the gifts of grace have shone upon us. Therefore, rejoicing, we all fall before Thee and cry: How marvelous are Thy works, O Lord! Glory to Thee!

**DEACON:** O God, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. Visit Thy world with mercy and compassions. Exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians, and send down on us Thy rich mercies. Through the intercessions of our all-pure Lady the Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary; by the might of the precious and life-