

9th Sunday after Pentecost
The Procession of the Precious Wood of the Honourable & Life-Creating Cross
Commemoration of the 7 Holy Maccabee Children,
Their Mother, Solomonia, & Their Teacher, Eleazar

VESPERS: Tone 8

- P. Regular Beginning
 C. Lord I have cried... (Tone 8)
1. We **offer** up to **Thee**, O Christ,/ our evening hymn and reasonable **service**/ for it hath pleased Thee to have **mercy** upon us// by Thy Resurrection.
 2. Lord, **Lord**, cast us not **away** from Thy face,/ but be pleased to have mercy upon us// by Thy Resurrection.
 3. **Rejoice**, O holy **Zion**,/ Mother of Churches and **dwelling**-place of God,/ for Thou hast been the first to **receive** remission of sins// by the Resurrection.
 4. **Begotten** before all ages of God the **Father**,/ the Word, Who in the **latter** time/ willed to take flesh of a maid who **knew** not a man,/ endured the death of the Cross and by His own Resurrection// saved man who in the past was made **subject** to death.

Stichera for the Cross (Tone 4)

5. **Today** the godly multitude of the faithful **rejoiceth**,/ for the heavenly Cross appeareth to the **ends** of the world,/ illumining the firmament with un**approachable** light./ It maketh the air brilliant and adorneth the **face** of the earth./ The Church of Christ hymneth it in **divine** songs,/ worshipping it with **veneration**,/ and the divine and all-wondrous Cross preserveth it **from** on high./ By its power are we **strengthened**;/ wherefore, let us approach the Master, **saying**:// Grant peace to the world and **enlighten** our souls!
6. **Let** creation leap **up** and rejoice,/ for the Cross hath shone forth today from heaven illumining **those** on earth,/ and hath **shown** those who have been scattered to be **unified**./ Today the angelic choirs join **chorus** with men,/ for the rampart of resistance hath been **destroyed** by the Cross,/ which hath manifestly united **all** into one./ Wherefore, shining forth more brightly **than** the sun,/ it illumine**th** all creation with grace,// and maketh radiant and saveth those who honour it **with** faith.
7. **Behold!** the divine Cross clearly shineth forth upon the **ends** of the earth/ more brightly than the **radiance** of the sun,/ **indicating** the end of all things, as the precious scepter of **Christ** the King./ It hath raised the human race up from hades, sending hell into great **captivity**;/ and, casting down the enemy, it hath utterly destroyed the pride of the **demons**./ And now it showeth forth the resurrection

of the Saviour and saveth **those** who cry:// Grant peace to the world and enlighten our souls!

Stichera for the Maccabees (Tone 1)

8. **Tyranny** could not shake the summit **of** the law/ raised aloft on seven **pillars**;/ for the right noble youths and **brethren**,/ the preservers of the Traditions of **Moses**,/ manfully **endured** the bestial wrath of the **tyrant**,// giving themselves over to those who cut the body **asunder**.
9. **Animated** by the great expectations which they have now **received**,/ the pious and valiant children, with their divinely wise mother **Solomon**,/ endured the severing of the members **of** their flesh,/ truly elevating their mind far above **visible** things,// finding rest in the bosom of Abraham their fore**father**.
10. **Having** armed themselves firmly with valor of soul, as ones who **vanquished** wrath/ the most sacred Eleazar and the **all-wise** youths,/ together with their divinely wise mother **Solomon**,/ mightily attacked the enemy by their preservation of the law of their **fathers**,// for the sake of **piety**.

Glory... (Tone 8)

To Thy precious Cross, O **Christ** God,/ which Moses prefigured in himself of old when he cast down and vanquished **Amalek**,/ and of which David the psalmist commanded, **saying**:/ "Worship the **footstool** of His feet",/ do we sinners now offer homage today with **unworthy** lips;/ and chanting, we entreat Thee Who wast well-pleased to be **nailed** thereto:// O Lord, vouchsafe unto us a place with the thief in Thy **kingdom**!

Both... Dogmatikon (Tone 8)

In His **love** for mankind,/ the King of Heaven appeared upon earth and **dwelt** among men./ For He took flesh of a pure Virgin, and thus incarnate He came **forth** from her./ The only **Son** is He:/ twofold in nature, but not in **person**./ In proclaiming Him perfect man and perfect **God** indeed,/ we confess **Christ** our God.// Beseech Him, O Mother without wedlock to have mercy upon our souls.

- P. Wisdom. Aright!
- C. O Joyful Light...
- P. Prokimenon. The Lord is King...
- P. Wisdom! (And readings, if any)
- P. Augmented Litany
- R. Vouchsafe...
- P. Litany of Fervent Supplication

C. Litya - *first sticheron is of the temple and then the following:*

For the Maccabeen Martyrs (Tone 1)

The much-suffering mother,/ calling her children to struggle, said:/ "Follow after the gray hairs of Abraham,/ that ye may share in the sacrifice of Isaac!"/ And, accepting this instruction, they went before her/ who

taught them, as she watched each of them, one by one,/ undergo the torments of cruelty.// Through their supplications, O God, have mercy upon us!

(Tone 4)

The seven chosen pillars were hewn from a single noetic rock,/ and were shown to be an unshakable pillar of the law./ Wherefore, be Thou well-pleased, O Saviour,// to preserve our souls in peace.

(Tone 5)

The children of Solomonia,/ the preservers of the law,/ suffering at the tribunal of Antiochus,/ cried out to him: "O Antiochus, we are enduring all for the law of our fathers;/ and neither fire, nor the sword, nor wild beasts,/ nor wounds shall separate us therefrom./ We will die together, with our aged mother and our father and teacher,// living and rejoicing together for endless ages!"

Glory... (Tone 4)

Come, O ye faithful, let us behold the force assembled against the Maccabees,/ and the valor of the holy children!/ For the tyrannical king who held sway over all nations/ was thwarted by an elderly man,/ seven children and one woman!// Through their supplications, O God, have mercy upon us!

Both... (Tone 4)

Look **down**, O all-pure **Virgin**,/ upon the supplications of thy **servants**;/ Thou dost **crush** the savage assaults that **beset** us/ and dost calm **all** our distress./ Thou art the only steadfast support **that** we know:/ Suffer us not, our Lady, to be **put** to shame,/ we who in thee have found an intercessor and who call **upon** thee./ Make speed to hearken to the **entreaties**/ of those who in faith cry **unto** thee:/ Hail! O our Lady, thou art the **help** and the joy,// the protection and **salvation** of our souls.

P. *Litya prayers in back of Church.*

APOSTICHA: (Tone 8)

1. O **Jesus** Who came down from **heaven**,/ Thou didst ascend upon the Cross and didst **come** to die,/ O **Immortal** Life,/ true Light for those sitting in **darkness**:/ and the Resurrection of all the **fallen**:// Glory unto Thee, our Saviour, Who **enlightens** us.

V. The Lord is King,/ and hath put on glorious **apparel**.

2. **Let** us glorify Christ risen **from** the dead,/ Who took upon Himself **body** and soul,/ and separated them one from another by His **Passion**:/ for His most pure soul went down to hell which **He** despoiled;/ and in the tomb the Holy Body of the **Deliverer** of our souls// knew not **corruption**.

V. He hath made the world so sure/ that it **cannot** be moved.

3. We **glorify** Thy Resurrection from the **dead**, O Christ,/ in **psalms** and song,/ for by it Thou hast freed us from the **torments** of hell,/ and hast, since **Thou** art God,// granted eternal life and Thy great **mercy**.

V. Holiness becometh Thine house/ O Lord, **forever**.

4. O **Lord** of all, incomprehensible Maker of **heaven** and earth,/ through Thy passion **on** the Cross,/ Thou hast freed me from **passions**./ After enduring burial, Thou hast risen in **glory**,/ raising up Adam with Thy **mighty** arm./ Glory be to Thy Resurrection on the **third** day,/ by which Thou hast endowed us with **eternal** life/ and granted us the **cleansing** of our sins,// for Thou alone art **compassionate**.

Glory... (Tone 8)

The **souls** of the righteous are in the **hands** of the Lord:/ Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the forefathers before the law was **given**,/ the ancestors of the Maccabees whom we **now** praise./ For, as descendants of Abraham, mighty in soul, zealous for the Faith of their forefather **Abraham**,/ they struggled lawfully even unto death for **piety**;/ for, having been raised in **devoutness**,/ in suffering lawfully they reprov'd the ungodliness of the prideful Antiochus,/ and in valuing this transitory life as naught for the sake of that which is **everlasting**,/ they offered all unto God: their souls, courage, understanding, their tender **bodies**,/ and their rewards for having been raised in **purity**./ O the pious root from whom ye sprang forth, O **Maccabees**!/ O thy holy mother, who gave birth to sons equal in number to the **days** of the week!/ Yet pray ye for us, together with your mother Solomonia/ and the wise priest Eleazar, O **Maccabees**,/ when ye stand before Christ God, for Whose sake ye labored to receive from Him the fruits of thy **labors**,/ and make ye earnest entreaty for **mankind**;/ for whatsoever He desireth He **doth** do,// and fulfillleth the desires of you who **fear** Him.

Both... O **God**, the words of Moses Thy prophet have been **fulfilled**, who said:/ "Ye shall see your life hanging **before** your eyes!"/ Today the Cross is exalted, and the world is freed from **deception**./ Today the resurrection of **Christ** is renewed,/ and the ends of the **earth** rejoice,/ offering to Thee a hymn on cymbals, like David, and **saying**:/ "Thou hast wrought salvation in the midst of the **earth**, O God:/ the Cross and **resurrection**!/ For their sake Thou hast saved us, O Good One Who **lovest** mankind!// O Almighty Lord, glory **be** to Thee!"

C. St. Symeon's Prayer

R. Trisagion

C. Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos x2

Troparion for the Cross (Tone 1) x1

O Lord, save Thy people/ and bless Thine inheritance./ Grant victory to the Orthodox Christians/ over their adversaries,/ and by the virtue of Thy Cross,// preserve Thy habitation.

P. Blessing of loaves.

C. Amen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord... x3

Psalm 33:1-10

MATINS: Tone 8

- P. Regular Beginning
 P. Great Ectenia
 C. God is the Lord...

C. Sunday Troparia (Tone 8) 2x
 Thou didst descend from on high, O merciful one./ Thou didst endure the three day burial/ to free us from our sufferings.// O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, Glory to Thee.

Glory... For the Maccabees (Tone 1)
 By the pangs of the saints, which they suffered for Thee, O Lord,/ be Thou entreated,/ and heal Thou all our infirmities, we pray Thee,// O Thou Who lovest mankind.

Both... For the Cross (Tone 1)
 O Lord, save Thy people/ and bless Thine inheritance./ Grant victory to the Orthodox Christians/ over their adversaries,/ and by the virtue of Thy Cross,// preserve Thy habitation.

Lord Have Mercy 3x
 Glory...

- R. Now...
 R. Kathisma II
 P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:
 Thou didst arise from the dead, O Life of all, and the radiant angel cried to the women: "Cease your weeping! Declare unto the apostles, and cry aloud, singing: Christ the Lord hath risen, Whose good pleasure, as God, it hath been to save the human race!"

V. Arise, O Lord my God, let Thy hand be lifted high; forget not Thy paupers to the end.

O Thou Who didst truly rise from the dead, Thou didst command the venerable women to proclaim Thine arising to the apostles, as it is written; and speedy Peter ran quickly to Thy tomb and, beholding a light within the sepulcher, was filled with awe. Wherefore, seeing the grave-clothes lying without the divine body in them, he cried out with faith: "Glory to Thee, O Christ God our Saviour, for Thou savest all, in that Thou art the Effulgence of the Father!"

G/B... Thou, O good Lord, for our sakes wast born of a Virgin and hast endured crucifixion, despoiling death by death, and as God, Thou hast shown forth the Resurrection. Despise not the work of Thine hands. Show Thy love for man, O merciful Lord. Accept the intercession made on our

behalf by the Theotokos who bore Thee, and, O our Saviour, save Thy despairing people.

R. Kathisma III
P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:

Men sealed Thy tomb, O Saviour, but an angel rolled the stone away from its entry. The women beheld Thee risen from the dead, and in Sion they proclaimed to Thy disciples the glad tidings that Thou hadst arisen, O Life of all, and that the bonds of death are broken. O Lord, glory be to Thee!

V. I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart, I will tell of all Thy wonders.

The women who bore the burial spices heard from the tomb the voice of the angel, saying: "Cease your weeping, and receive joy instead of grief! Cry aloud, singing that Christ the Lord hath risen, Whose good pleasure it hath been, as God, to save the human race!"

G/B... All creation—the assembly of angels and the human race—rejoiceth in thee, O thou who art full of grace, O sacred temple and reason-endowed paradise, thou boast of virgins, from whom God, Who existeth from before time, was incarnate and became a child; for He made thy loins a throne, and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All creation rejoiceth in thee, O thou who art full of grace. Glory to thee!

R. Psalm 118
C. Evlogitaria (Blessed art Thou, O Lord...)
P. Small Ectenia

R. Ypakoe:

Standing before the tomb of the Bestower of life, the myrrh-bearing women sought the immortal Master among the dead; and receiving the joyous announcement from the angel, they exclaimed to the apostles that Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon One)

From my youth hath the enemy tempted me, causing me to burn with pleasures; but, trusting in Thee, O Lord, I vanquish him.

Let those who hate Sion be as grass before it is mowed down; for Christ will cut through their necks with the scythe of torments.

G/B... By the Holy Spirit are all things given life. Him do we praise with the Father and the Word, as Light from Light, the great God.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Two)

Let my heart, humble of mind, be covered with the fear of Thee, O most Compassionate One, and let it not, exalting itself, fall away from Thee.

May he who setteth his hope on the Lord not be terrified when all things will be tried by fire and torment.

G/B... Through the Holy Spirit doth every godly man see and prophesy, working exalted miracles, and hymning the one God in Three Persons; for though Three shine together, the Godhead ruleth as One.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Three)

I have cried unto Thee: Hearken, O Lord, and incline Thine ear to me who cry out; and before Thou takest me away from hence make me pure.

Everyone who returneth to his mother, the earth, is released to receive torments or honours for those things he did during life.

G/B... Through the Holy Spirit proceedeth the theology of the thrice-holy Unity: for the Father is unoriginate, and from Him hath the Son been begotten timelessly, and the Spirit is equally enthroned and hath the same image, shining forth from the Father.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Four)

Behold now, what is so good or so beautiful as for brethren to dwell together? For therein hath the Lord promised life eternal.

He Who adorneth the lilies of the field doth warn that it is not fitting for man to give thought to his raiment.

G/B... By the Holy Spirit, the single Cause, are all things sustained through the bestowal of peace; for He is God, Who in dominion is consubstantial with the Father and the Son.

P. Prokimenon: (Tone 8)

The Lord shall be king unto eternity;/ Thy God, O Zion, unto generation and generation.

V. Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord in my life.

C. Let every breath praise the Lord.

P. GOSPEL #9

C. Having Beheld the Resurrection of Christ...

R. Psalm 50

C. Glory... Now... Have mercy on me... Jesus having risen...

P. Save, O God, Thy People...

(The anointing will be at the end of the service)

Canticle One

Irmos: The staff of Moses, once working a wonder,/ striking the sea in the form of the Cross and dividing it,/ drowned the mounted tyrant Pharaoh,/ and saved Israel// who fled on foot, chanting a hymn unto God.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

How shall we not wonder at the almighty divinity of Christ, Who through His sufferings sheddeth dispassion and incorruption upon all the faithful, and poureth forth a wellspring of immortality from His holy side and life ever-lasting from His tomb?

The magnificent angel hath now appeared to the women, bearing splendid tokens of natural and immaterial purity, by his appearance proclaiming the light of the resurrection, crying: The Lord is risen!

Theotokion

All-glorious things have been said of thee among generations of generations, O thou who contained God the Word in thy womb, remaining pure, O Mary Theotokos; wherefore, we all honour thee, our help after God.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

O all-pure Theotokos, who in manner transcending nature gavest birth to the eternal and all-divine Word incarnate: we hymn thee.

O Christ, the Virgin gave birth unto Thee, the Life-bearing Cluster of grapes which exudeth the sweetness of universal salvation.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross, O Lord.

I bow down before the Cross, the salvation of the faithful, and I kiss it fervently, and, embrace it, crying out: O most blessed Tree of Christ, illumine my soul and mind, I pray!

Today the sign of the Cross hath shown itself to be victorious over the passions and the demons. Wherefore, O ye faithful, radiantly illumined in soul, let us all kiss it now.

The precious Cross emitteth brilliant rays and illumineth those who bow down before it with faith today, sanctifying our souls and bodies.

Holy Martyrs pray to God for us!

Appearing among the cruel ones with a single resolve, the choir of the seven athletes did not refuse to die, that they might confirm the law of their fathers.

Disdaining glory on this earth, with their desire for the divine kingdom the godly Maccabees endured every pang; wherefore, they are honoured today as is meet.

Glory... The preservers of the law of Moses, the truly valiant Maccabees, showed themselves to be brethren one to another when they trampled the ungodliness of Antiochus underfoot.

Both... The ranks of angels and men praise thee unceasingly, O unwedded Mother; for in thine arms thou didst bear the Creator of all as a babe.

C. Katavasia (Tone 8)

Inscribing the invincible weapon of the Cross upon the waters,/ Moses marked a straight line before him with his staff/ and divided the Red Sea,/ opening a path for Israel who went over dry-shod./ Then he marked a second

line across the waters and united them in one,/ overwhelming the chariots of Pharaoh.// Therefore let us sing to Christ our God, for He has been glorified.

Canticle Three

Irmos: O Christ Who in the beginning/ established the heavens in wisdom/ and founded the earth upon the waters,/ make me steadfast upon the rock of Thy commandments;// for none is holy as Thee, O Thou Who lovest mankind.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Adam, who was condemned by his sinful tasting, didst Thou justify by the saving suffering of Thy flesh, O Christ; for Thou Thyself wast not subject to the trial of death, O Sinless One.

Jesus my God, the Light of the resurrection, shone forth upon those sitting in darkness and the shadow of death, and binding the mighty one with His divinity, He despoiled his vessels.

Theotokion

O Theotokos, thou hast been shown to be more exalted than the cherubim and seraphim; for thou alone didst receive the uncontainable God in thy womb, O undefiled one. Wherefore, all of us, the faithful, bless thee with hymns, O pure one.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Grant us help through thy supplications, O most pure one, repelling the attacks of grievous circumstances.

Thou wast the correction of our first mother Eve, having given birth to Christ, the Author of the life of the world, O Theotokos.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross, O Lord.

Of old, a sword was set to guard the blessed tree of life after the disobedience of Adam the first-created; but the Cross hath opened a path thereto.

With eyes, mouth and soul, with our faces and hearts, let us all bow down before the all-holy Cross of Christ, the Bestower of life, whereby the whole world is sanctified.

Becoming temples of God today, as the prophets said, bowing down before the wood of the all-holy Cross, all of us who are the heirs thereto kiss it with fear.

We chant hymns to thee, O Christ, and with faith entreat thy power: Rescue us from the snares of the enemy, and direct all of us who hymn thee to the haven of salvation.

Holy Martyrs pray to God for us!

Having walked according to the precepts of the law of your fathers, O blessed athletes of Christ, with your blood ye have acquired the life which ageeth not, O all-lauded ones.

Neither fire nor the sword were ever able to alter the valor of your resolve for the Faith, O blessed ones, and therein ye set at naught the arrogance of the tormenters.

Glory... Ye endured tortures for Christ God, O all-praised martyrs, and have received trophies of victory from on high, praying continually that He save our souls.

Both... As a virgin thou gavest birth, O thou who knewest not wedlock, and a virgin didst thou remain, O unwedded Mother. O Theotokos Mary, entreat Christ our God, that we be saved!

C. Katavasia (Tone 8)

The **rod** of Aaron is an image of this **mystery**,/ for when it budded it **showed** who should be priest./ So in the Church that once was **barren**,/ the wood of the Cross has now put forth **flower**,// filling her with strength and **steadfastness**.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion for the Martyrs (Tone 2)

O ye seven pillars of the wisdom of God,/ seven-branched lamp of the Light divine,/ O most wise Maccabees who before the martyrs were martyrs most great:/ with them entreat ye the God of all,// that we who honour you may be saved!

R. Ikos

Praise thy God with fervor, O Sion, for He hath strengthened the chains of thy gates and blessed thy children; for, like an invincible army, a legion truly valiant and mighty of mind, they stood with divine wisdom against the wiles of the ungodly, receive together the wreaths of victory of the heavenly Sion, and stand before the throne of God, praying unceasingly for all. Ask ye that those who hymn you may be saved.

R. Sessional Hymns

Having been raised in piety, O wise children, as martyrs ye manfully put to shame the threats of the tormenters; as champions of the law, ye were obedient to your fathers, O saints, and with your divinely wise mother ye suffered patiently. Wherefore, having truly purchased the life of heaven by your death, ye rejoice eternally, O Maccabees mighty in soul. Entreat Christ God, that He grant remission of offenses unto those who honour your holy memory with love.

G/B... Thy Cross, O Lord, is sacred, for therein have healings been wrought for those sick in sins; wherefore, we fall down before Thee, and cry: Have mercy upon us!

Canticle Four

Irmos: Thou art my strength, O Lord,/ Thou art my power, Thou art my God,/ Thou art my joy,/ Who, without leaving the bosom of the Father,/ hast visited our lowliness./ Wherefore, with the Prophet Habakkuk I cry to Thee:// Glory to Thy power, O Thou Who lovest mankind.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Thou didst love me, Thine enemy, exceedingly, for in a strange abasement Thou didst descend to earth, O Saviour of loving-kindness, refusing to reject mine utter reproach; and abiding in the heights of Thine all-pure glory, Thou hast glorified that which before was dishonoured.

Who is not filled with awe, beholding death destroyed by Thy Passion, O Master? For by the divine power of Thee Who wast crucified was corruption put to flight by the Cross and hades emptied of its riches by Thy death. Wondrous are Thy works, O Thou Who lovest mankind!

Theotokion

Thou art the boast of the faithful, O thou who knewest not wedlock, and thou art also the refuge, bulwark and haven of Christians; for thou bearest entreaties to thy Son, O most immaculate one, and savest from misfortunes those who with faith and love know thee to be the pure Theotokos.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

O Theotokos, thou unploughed field which gave rise to the life-creating Grain Who giveth life to the world: Save those who hymn thee.

All of us who are enlightened proclaim thee to be the Theotokos, O most pure one; for thou gavest birth to the Sun of righteousness, O Ever-virgin.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross, O Lord.

Let the whole earth drop forth joy, and let the trees of the forest be glad, deified today by the most precious Cross which illumineth the ends of the world.

O all-glorious Cross, who wast intended to be an instrument of execution, but becamest an invincible weapon of victory bearing life into the world: illumine our hearts!

O most honoured Cross, thou art the divine triumph, thou art the accomplishment of our salvation, thou art the victory of the faithful and the divine oblation: Sanctify those who hymn thee!

With all the earth is heaven gladdened. The passion-bearers, martyrs and apostles, and the souls of the righteous now joyfully rejoice, and the life-imparting Tree, which lieth visibly in our midst, saveth all and sanctifieth the faithful with grace.

Holy Martyrs pray to God for us!

Offering unto God the sacrifices of the law, and being zealous for the life of Moses, the athletes of Christ prevailed over the laws of the tyrant.

As stones withstand the onslaught of the waves, O Maccabee athletes, so did ye endure many tortures with manly resolve, even unto death.

Glory... O unoriginate Trinity, worshipful Unity, equally enthroned, O hymned Trinity: by the entreaties of the martyrs deliver from misfortunes and perils us who hymn Thee.

Both... Accept the cry, "Rejoice!" from us, O holy Theotokos! Rejoice, O thou who gavest birth to Joy for the world! Rejoice, O blessed and pure Theotokos, who alone art the help of men!

C. Katavasia (Tone 8)

O Lord, I have heard the mystery of Thy dispensation;/ I have considered Thy works,// and I have glorified Thy Godhead.

Canticle Five

Irmos: Wherefore hast Thou turned Thy face from me,/ O Light never-waning?/ And why hath a strange darkness covered me, wretch that I am?/ But turn me, and guide my steps// to the light of Thy commandments, I pray.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Mocked, Thou didst deign to be clad in a purple robe before Thy sufferings, O Saviour, thus covering the ugly nakedness of the first-created man; and, naked, Thou wast nailed to the Cross in the flesh, O Christ, stripping off our robe of mortality.

Arising, Thou didst fashion anew from the dust of death my fallen essence, O Christ, and didst render it never-aging, showing it again to be a royal image, resplendent in the life of incorruption.

Theotokion

Possessed of maternal boldness before thy Son, O most pure one, dismiss not the thought of us as thy kin, we pray thee; for thee alone do we Christians set before the Master, to obtain merciful purification.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Still thou the unbearable tempest of my passions, O thou who gavest birth to God, the Helmsman and Lord.

The ranks of the angels and the assembly of men minister to thine Offspring, O all-pure Theotokos.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross, O Lord.

With joy let us uplift the all-blessed Cross which is set forth in the churches and cities, and let us bow down before it, that we may receive remission of our debts.

The wicked serpent, the prince of darkness, is now slain, unable to bear the radiance which the life-bearing Cross emitteth, the precious scepter of the divine King.

Like a most brilliant star, like a magnificent pearl and the all-radiant sun doth the Cross of the Lord, which we venerate, illumine all the ends of the earth.

Lift up your voices in jubilation, ye nations! Leap up, ye tribes, and chant unto God Who hath given us the indestructible confirmation of the Cross, which He now setteth before us! Rejoice, all ye faithful, receiving good things for its sake!

Holy Martyrs pray to God for us!

In that ye never violated the law of your fathers, O holy martyrs, Christ Himself hath set upon you crowns of righteousness.

Standing with Eleazar as equals in resolve, O blessed children, with him ye offered yourselves unto Christ as a spiritual holocaust.

Glory... O Lord Who freest all from deception by Thy saints, save us by their supplications, in that Thou art full of loving-kindness.

Both... Having been shown to be more honourable than the cherubim, O most hymned Virgin, pray to thy Son, that He save the souls of those who hymn thee.

C. Katavasia (Tone 8)

O thrice-blessed Tree, on which Christ the King and Lord was stretched!/
Through thee the beguiler fell, who tempted mankind with the tree./
He was caught in the trap set by God,/ Who was crucified upon thee in the flesh,//
granting peace unto our souls.

Canticle Six

Irmos: Cleanse me, O Saviour,/ for many are my transgressions/ and lead me up from the abyss of evils, I pray,/ for to Thee have I cried,// and Thou hast hearkened unto me, O God of my salvation.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

By a tree the author of evil mightily cast me down; but, having been uplifted upon the Cross, Thou, O Christ, didst with greater might cast him down, putting him to shame; and thou didst raise up him who was fallen.

Rising from the grave, Thou didst take pity on Sion, by Thy divine blood making it new instead of old, in that Thou art compassionate; and Thou now reignest therein forever, O Christ.

Theotokion

Let us be delivered from grievous transgressions through thine entreaties, O pure Theotokos, and let us receive the divine effulgence of the Son of God, Who ineffably became incarnate of thee, O all-pure one.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

O Theotokos, we, the faithful, declare thee the temple and ark of God, the animate bridal-chamber and the gate of heaven.

Thine Offspring, the Destroyer of the temples of the idols, is worshiped as God with the Father and the Spirit, O Mary Bride of God.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross, O Lord.

Seeing the Cross set forth today as a divine vessel, as a radiant lamp in churches, temples and cities, we hymn the One Who hath caused it to shine.

Death is slain, corruption is put to death, and the hordes of the demons, unable to endure its touch, flee, beholding the victorious and awesome Cross of Christ set forth today.

Hymning Thee, God the King and Lord, in that Thou hast given us the Cross as an impregnable bulwark, we now kiss it with joy and thus escape evils.

Theotokion

Our first mother in Eden was poisoned by absorbing the serpent's venom; but the Virgin, having given birth to the Author of life, hath poured forth incorruption and resurrection upon the world.

Holy Martyrs pray to God for us!

Having arrayed yourselves in the vesture of martyrdom, O saints, ye embroidered it with the feats of your suffering.

Desiring to be with Christ, O most glorious martyrs, ye have run the course of suffering with unwavering resolve.

Glory... Preserving the law which Moses handed down, O holy ones, ye suffered lawfully, putting the tyrant Antiochus to shame.

Both... O thou who alone gavest birth to the Word in the flesh at His word, deliver our souls from the snares of the enemy, we pray.

C. Katavasia (Tone 8)

Jonah stretched out his hands in the form of a Cross in the belly of the sea **monster**,/ plainly prefiguring the redeeming **Passion**./ Cast out from hence after **three** days,/ he foreshadowed the marvelous Resurrection of **Christ** our God,/ Who was crucified in the flesh and **enlightened** the world// by His Rising on the **third** day.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion of the Feast (Tone 4)

O Thou Who wast lifted up willingly upon the Cross,/ bestow Thy compassions upon the new community called after Thee, O Christ God;/ gladden by Thy power Orthodox Christians,/ granting them victory over all adversaries.// May they have as an ally the invincible trophy, the weapon of peace.

R. Ikos of the Feast

He who was caught up to the third heaven of paradise and heard unspeakable and divine words which the human tongue cannot utter, what writeth he to the Galatians, which, as lovers of the Scriptures, ye have both read and come to understand? - God forbid, saith he, that I should glory, save only in the Cross of the Lord, -- whereon having suffered He slew the passions. Let us all then firmly hold this boast, the Cross of the Lord; for this Wood is our salvation, the invincible trophy, the weapon of peace!

Canticle Seven

Irmos: Once, in Babylon,/ the fire stood in awe of the condescension of God;/ wherefore, the youths, dancing with joyous step in the furnace,/ as in a meadow, chanted:// Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Thy glorious abasement, the divine riches of Thy poverty, O Christ, amaze the angels who behold Thee nailed to the Cross to save those who cry out with faith: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

By Thy divine descent Thou didst fill the nether regions with light, and darkness which before reigned as tyrant was driven away. Wherefore, those held prisoner from ages past arose, crying: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers.

Triadicon

Theologizing in Orthodox manner concerning Thee, we declare Thee unto all as the Lord, the only Father of the only-begotten Son, acknowledging that from Thee proceedeth the one upright Spirit, Who is of the same nature and is equally eternal.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Thou didst appear incarnate of the Virgin's womb for our salvation; wherefore, acknowledging Thy Mother as the Theotokos in Orthodox manner, we cry out: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

O Virgin, from the root of Jesse thou didst cause the Rod to spring forth, bearing the Fruit of salvation for those who chant with faith unto thy Son: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Glory to Thy Precious Cross, O Lord.

O ye faithful, let us bow down before the saving Tree, the all-holy Cross, which all the armies of the angels serve, beholding it displayed, pouring forth sanctification and life upon us.

The all-holy Cross of Christ, the Bestower of life, hath been shown to be victorious, from on high driving away a multitude of the demons and the audacity of the barbarians, and showing our Orthodox hierarchs forth as conquerors of all heresies.

We hymn, glorify, magnify and bow down before Thy might, O Christ, for Thou hast given Thy divine Cross to us, Thy servants, as inexhaustible sweetness and a guardian for our souls and bodies.

Theotokion

The furnace did not consume the three youths, prefiguring thy birthgiving; for the divine Fire, dwelling within thee, did not consume thee, teaching all to chant: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

Holy Martyrs pray to God for us!

In suffering the pain of martyrdom, ye were undaunted by the threats of the tyrant, crying out to Christ: Blessed is the God of our fathers!
(2x)

Glory... Enduring pain with patience, ye vanquished the cruel wiles of the enemy, crying out to Christ: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

Both... O God of our fathers, Who madest Thine abode within the Virgin's womb, and for her sake restored Adam, blessed art Thou!

C. Katavasia (Tone 8)

The senseless decree of the wicked tyrant,/ breathing forth threats and blasphemy hateful to God, confused the people./ Yet neither the fury of wild beasts nor the roaring of the fire could frighten the three Children,/ but standing together in the flame,/ fanned by the wind that brought

refreshment as the dew, they sang:/ 'Blessed art Thou and praised above all,// O our God and the God of our fathers.'

Canticle Eight

Irmos: Madly did the Chaldaean tyrant/ heat the furnace sevenfold for the pious ones;/ but, beholding them saved by a higher Power,/ he cried out to the Creator and Deliverer:/ ye children, bless; ye priests, hymn;// ye people, exalt Him supremely for all ages.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The all-divine power of the divinity of Jesus shone forth divinely within us; for, having in the flesh tasted death on the Cross for all, He destroyed the might of hades. Him do ye unceasingly bless, O children! Ye priests, hymn; ye people, exalt Him supremely for all ages!

The Crucified hath arisen! The braggart hath fallen! He who fell and was broken hath been set aright! Corruption hath been cast away, and incorruption hath blossomed forth! For death is swallowed up by Life. Ye children bless; ye priests, hymn; ye people, exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Triadicon

The thrice-radiant Godhead which shineth forth the one Ray from Its one nature in three Hypostases—the unoriginate Father, the Word, Who shareth the Father's essence, and the equally reigning Spirit Who is one in essence with Them—ye children, bless; ye priests, hymn; ye people, exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Quench the burning and fiery arrows of the adversary, which are aimed at us, that we may hymn thee for all ages.

Thou didst supernaturally give birth to God the Word, the Creator and Saviour, O Virgin; wherefore, we hymn and exalt thee supremely for all ages.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross, O Lord.

Prefiguring Thy Cross, Jacob once laid his arms cross-wise over his grandsons, blessing them and teaching grace among the nations. Ye children, bless; ye priests, hymn; ye people, exalt God supremely forever!

O Thine ineffable condescension and Thine indescribable good things, O Christ! Thou becamest incarnate, and, being crucified and accepting death, didst decide to release man from the curse, pouring forth incorruption upon the thrice-blessed Tree, this all-glorious Cross, forever.

Let us praise today the all-holy Cross of the Lord, the divine victory, the origin of life, the destroyer of falsehood, the annihilator of the demons, the repeller of barbarians, the protector and champion of kings.

Theotokion

Beholding Christ pierced with nails, His incorrupt side run through with a spear, beaten about the head with a reed, and given gall to eat, the Virgin cried aloud: "Whither hath Thy beauty gone, O all-comely Word, more glorious than all the children of men?"

Holy Martyrs pray to God for us!

Let us truly honour, as is meet, the seven Maccabees, the seven-lobed fruit of a holy root, as martyrs of the Lord.

Let us honour as is meet the zealots of the law, the faithful athletes one in soul, the seven Maccabees and their mother.

Let us bless Father, Son, Holy Spirit, the Lord!

O indivisible Trinity and Unity, I glorify Thee alone in divinity, and hymn Thee, one Power in three Persons.

Both... O ye priests, hymn and exalt God supremely forever, for He became incarnate of the Virgin for our sake in latter times.

We praise, we bless, we worship the Lord, praising and supremely exalting Him unto all ages.

C. Katavasia (Tone 8)

O ye children, equal in number to the **Trinity**,/ bless ye God the Father and **Creator**;/ Sing ye the praises of the Word Who descended and changed the **fire** to dew;/ and exalt ye above all forever the Most Holy **Spirit**,// Who gives **life** to all.

P. Magnificat

C. Song of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Canticle Nine

Irmos: Heaven was stricken with awe,/ and the ends of the earth were amazed,/ that God hath appeared in the flesh, / and that thy womb became more spacious than the heavens./ Wherefore, the ranks of men and angels// magnify thee as the Theotokos.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Being simple in Thy divine and beginningless nature, Thou didst render Thyself compound by taking on flesh, subsuming it within Thyself, O Word of God; and having suffered as a man, as God Thou didst remain beyond

suffering. Wherefore, we magnify Thee in two natures, indivisible and unconfused.

O Most High, Who becamest man by nature while of the divine nature of God the Father, coming down to Thy servants Thou didst tell them of God; and having risen from the tomb, Thou didst endow mortals with the grace of the Father Who is by nature God and Master, and with Whom we all magnify Thee.

Theotokion

In manner transcending nature, O Virgin Mother of God, thou wast shown to be her who gave birth in the flesh unto God the Word, Whom the Father begot from His heart before time began, in that He is good, and Whom we now understand as transcending the human body, even though He clothed Himself in a body.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Thy memorial is full of joy and gladness, pouring forth healings upon those who approach and piously declare thee to be the Theotokos.

We hymn thee with psalms, O thou who art full of grace, and we continually offer thee "Rejoice!;" for thou hast poured forth joy upon all.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross, O Lord.

Through disobedience we became corrupt, being shown to be violators of the commandment of God; wherefore, death came upon men. For this cause immortality hath blossomed forth today: the victorious Cross of Christ, which we venerate.

Lo! the all-holy Tree hath appeared: the mighty hope of the faithful, the deliverance from the curse; and it setteth joy before men, denouncing the prince of darkness. O ye faithful, let us bow down before it with gladness.

The desired Tree, the invincible weapon, the origin of blessing, the confirmation and bulwark of Christians, the steadfast aid, the deliverance from the curse, hath appeared to us; and it hath illumined and sanctified us who bow down before it.

Theotokion

O temple and portal of sanctity, O throne of God, cloud and most radiant lamp, O most immaculate one, thou ark of grace: protect and preserve those who offer veneration to the precious image of thine only-begotten Son.

Holy Martyrs pray to God for us!

O valiant advocates before the Creator of all, ask for our souls a tranquil life.

Preserve us who with divine zeal and ardor of soul celebrate your memory, undevoured by the evil one.

Glory... Let us worship the Father, the Spirit and the Son, crying out with the angels: Glory to God in the highest!

Both... Rejoice, O holy gate which openeth unto God Who alone is all-wise, O thou whom the all-holy Spirit overshadowed!

C. Katavasia (Tone 8)

O Theotokos, thou art a mystical **paradise**,/ who untilled hast **brought** forth Christ./ He has planted upon earth the life-giving **tree** of the Cross:/ Therefore at its exaltation on this day,// we worship Him and thee do we **magnify**.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Holy is the Lord our God...

R. Exapostilarion Nine, (John 20:19-31)

The doors were shut as Thou didst enter, O Master, and hast filled the Apostles with the Holy Spirit by peacefully breathing upon them; and Thou hast said to them that they would bind and set loose sins; and after eight days Thou hast shown Thomas Thy side and Thy hands. With him we cry: Thou art Lord and God.

Glory... Exapostilarion of the Martyrs

We hymn the wondrous Maccabees: Eleazar, the children and Solomonia; for they cast down the arrogance of the serpent, the author of evil, and have been crowned as servants of the law.

Both... Exapostilarion for the Cross for the Cross

The Cross is the guardian of the whole world! The Cross is the beauty of the Church! The Cross is the dominion of kings! The Cross is the confirmation of the faithful! The Cross is the glory of the angels and the wounding of the demons!

C. Lauds: Tone 8 Stichera

Let every breath **praise** the Lord/
Praise the Lord from the **Heavens**/
Praise Him in the **highest**/
To Thee is due a **hymn**, O God/
Praise Him, all ye His **Angels**://
Praise Him, all **ye** His hosts.//
To Thee is due a **hymn**, O God.

R. (The following may be read or sung antiphonally)

Praise Him, O sun and moon; praise Him, all ye stars and light.

Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and thou water that art above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord; For He spake, and they came to be; He commanded, and they were created.

He established them forever, yea, forever and ever; He hath set an ordinance, and it shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons and all ye abysses,
Fire, hail, snow, ice, blast of tempest, which perform His word,
The mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees, and all cedars,
The beasts and all the cattle, creeping things and winged birds,
Kings of the earth, and all peoples, princes and all judges of the earth,
Young men and virgins, elders with the younger; let them praise the name
of the Lord, for exalted is the name of Him alone.

His praise is above the earth and heaven, and He shall exalt the horn of His people.

This is the hymn for all His saints, for the sons of Israel, and for the people that draw nigh unto Him.

Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the church of the saints.
Let Israel be glad in Him that made him, let the sons of Sion rejoice in their king.

Let them praise His name in the dance; with the timbrel and the psaltery let them chant unto Him.

For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people, and He shall exalt the meek with salvation.

The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds.
The high praise of God shall be in their throat, and two-edged swords shall be in their hands.

To do vengeance among the heathen, punishments among the peoples,
To bind their kings with fetters, and their nobles with manacles of iron,

V. To do among them the judgment that is written/ This glory shall be to all His saints.

1. Though **Thou** hast stood for trial to be judged of **Pilate**,/ Thou hast not ceased, O Lord, to sit on the throne with the **Father**,/ and risen from the dead, Thou hast set the **world** free/ from the bondage of the **stranger**::// for Thou art compassionate and **lovest** mankind.

V. Praise ye God in His saints,/ praise Him in the firmament of His power.

2. **Though** the Jews laid Thee as dead in the **tomb**, O Lord,/ yet the guards watched Thee as a **sleeping** King,/ and they sealed Thee with seals as a **treasure** of life,// but Thou hast risen and granted our souls **incorruption**.

V. Praise Him for His mighty acts,/ praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

3. **Thou** gavest us Thy Cross as a weapon against the **devil**, O Lord:/ for he **trembles** and quakes,/ unable to bear the **sight** of its strength;/ for it raised up the dead and laid **death** low:// Therefore, we venerate Thy tomb and Thy **Resurrection**.

V. Praise Him with the sound of trumpet,/ praise Him with psaltery and harp.

4. The **angel**, having proclaimed the Resurrection, O Lord,/ frightened Thy guards, yet he cried to the women, **saying**:/ Why do ye seek the living **among** the dead?// God is risen, bestowing life upon the **inhabited** earth!

V. Praise Him with timbrel and dance,/ praise Him with strings and flute.

Stichera for the Cross (Tone 1)

5. The precious **Cross** maketh the paths of heaven ready for **all** to cross/ who bow down before it with **steadfast** faith;/ and He Who was nailed thereto joineth those who **hymn** it with love// to the choirs of the **immaterial** hosts.

V. Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation./ Let every breath praise the Lord.

6. Bowing **down** with faith before the **precious** Cross,/ we hymn the Master Who was **crucified** thereon,/ **purifying** our lips and souls at **His** behest;// and, praising Him, we are illumined with its noetic **radiance**.

V. Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship the footstool of His feet, for it is holy.

7. **Sweetening** the bitter waters of old, Moses delivered **Israel**,/ using an **image** of the Cross;/ and **we**, O ye faithful, mystically and divinely tracing its **image** in our hearts,// are ever **saved** by its might.

V. God is our King before the ages; He hath wrought salvation in the midst of the earth.

(Tone 4)

8. O **Lord** Who enabled the meek David to conquer the **Philistine**,/ ally Thyself also with our pious Orthodox **hierarchs**/ and enable them to bring down all proponents of heresy and schism with the **weapon** of the Cross./ O Compassionate One, show forth upon us Thine ancient **mercies**,/ that they may truly know that **Thou** art God,/ and that we who set our hope on Thee may **triumph**,/ entreating Thine all-pure Mother, as **is** our wont,// that we be granted great **mercy**.

Glory... Gospel Sticheron (Tone 5)

As in the **latter** times/ it being late on the evening of the **Sabbath**,/ Thou hast **come** and stood with Thy **friends**, O Christ,/ and by a **wonder**, the entrance do-ors **being** closed,/ Thou hast confirmed a miracle that is Thy Resurrection from the dead./ And **joy** filled the disciples/ and **Thou** hast given to them the Holy **Spirit**,/ and hast dispensed to them the power of **remitting** sins,/ and **Thou** hast not left Thomas, to be overwhelmed by the rough waters of **disbelief**./ **Therefore**, O compassionate Lord,// grant us also true knowledge and **remission of** our faults.

Both now and ever... (Tone 2)

Most Blessed art Thou, O Virgin Theotokos,/ for through Him Who became incarnate of thee is hades led **capt**ive,/ Adam recalled, the curse annulled, Eve set free, **death** slain,/ and we are given life. Wherefore, we cry **aloud** in praise:/ Blessed art Thou, O **Christ** God, // Who hast been thus well-pleased, **glory** to Thee.

The Great Doxology

(Candles are handed out for the faithful and lit when the Cross is brought out)

*(During the stichera of Lauds the officiating priest puts on all his vestments. While the choir sings the Great Doxology, he takes incense and goes three times around the Holy Table, on which lies the Precious Cross upon a tray with branches of basil or flowers; and he censens the Cross from the four sides. Then, while the choir sings the concluding **Holy God** to a slow and solemn melody, he takes the Cross with the tray and, placing it upon his head, he proceeds round the Holy Table and out of the sanctuary through the north door, preceded by candles and by the deacon with the incense. The priest stops in front of the Holy Doors, facing to the east, and when the final **Holy God** has ended, he says:)*

P. Wisdom, let us attend.

C. Troparion of the Resurrection (**not the Cross**), (Tone 8) x3
 Thou didst descend from on high, O merciful one./ Thou didst endure the three day burial/ to free us from our sufferings.// O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, Glory to Thee.

(The priest proceeds to the center of the Church, and places the Cross on a table or analogion especially prepared for it; and he censens the Cross from the four sides of the table, going around it three times. Then the priest sings three times:)

P/C. (Tone 6) (**See Choir Music**) x3
 We venerate Thy Cross, O Master, and we glorify Thy holy Resurrection.

(This is repeated three times by the choir and people. Meanwhile the priest makes two prostrations in front of the Cross and kisses it, after which he makes another prostration. The Cross is then venerated by the other clergy in order of rank and by all the faithful. During the veneration of the Cross and the anointing, the choir sings the following:)

C. (Tone 2)

Come, ye faithful, and let us venerate 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 despoiled of old through pleasure, making us exiles **far** from God./ Come, ye faithful, and let us venerate the **Wood** whereby/ we have been counted worthy to crush the heads of our invisible **enemies**./ Come, all ye kindred of the **nations**,/ and let us honor in hymns the **Cross** of the Lord./ Rejoice, O Cross, perfect

redemption of fallen **Adam**./ Glorifying in thee, our faithful kings laid low by thy might the people of **Ishmael**./ We Christians kiss thee **now** with awe,/ and glorifying God Who was nailed on thee, we **cry** aloud:/ O Lord, Who on the Cross was crucified, have mercy **upon** us,// for Thou art good and **lovest** mankind.

(Tone 5)

Beholding Thee, the Author and Creator of all, hanging naked **upon** the Cross,/ all creation was moved with fear and lamented./ The **sun** dimmed its light, and the **earth** quaked,/ the rocks split **asunder**,/ and the splendid veil of the temple was **rent** in twain./ The dead arose from their graves, and the angelic hosts were filled with awe, **saying**:/ "O the wonder! The Judge is condemned and **suffereth**,// desiring to save and **restore** the world!"

(Tone 8)

Today the Master of the creation and the Lord of **Glory**/ is nailed to the Cross and His **side** is pierced;/ and He Who is the sweetness of the Church tastes gall and **vinegar**./ A crown of thorns is put upon Him Who covers the **heaven** with clouds./ He is clothed in a cloak of **mockery**,/ and He Who formed man with His hands is struck by a **hand** of clay./ He Who wraps the heaven in clouds is smitten **upon** His back./ He accepts spitting and scourging, reproach and **buffeting**;/ and all these things my Deliverer and God endures for me that **am** condemned,// that in His compassion He may save the world from **error**.

G/B... (Tone 8)

Today He Who is in essence un**approachable**,/ becomes approachable for me and suffers His Passion, delivering me from **passions**./ He Who grants light unto the blind is spat upon by the mouths of the trans**gressors**,/ and He gives His back to scourging for the sake of those that are held **captiv**e./ When the pure Virgin His Mother saw Him on the Cross, she cried **aloud** in pain:/ 'Woe is me, my Child! What is this that **Thou** hast done?/ Thou Who wast in beauty fairer than all **mortal** men,/ dost now appear without life and form, having neither shape nor **comeliness**./ Woe is me, **my** Light!/ I cannot bear to look upon Thee sleeping, and I am wounded **inwardly**,/ a harsh sword has **pierced** my heart./ I sing the praises of Thy Passion, I venerate Thy merciful **kindness**:// O long-suffering Lord, **glory** to Thee!

P. Litanies
Dismissal

R. Hours
Tropar: Resurrection & Cross/Martyrs alternating
Kontak: Resurrection/Cross/Martyrs/Resurrection

At Liturgy:

Order of Troparia & Kontakia:

Tropar Sunday
Tropar Cross
Tropar Martyrs

Kontak Sunday
 Glory... Kontak Martyrs
 Both... Kontak Cross

Prokimenon for the Cross (Tone 6)
 O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance.
 V. Unto Thee, O Lord, will I cry; O my God, be not silent unto me.

Prokimenon for the Martyrs (Tone 4)
 In the saints that are in His earth hath the Lord been wondrous; He hath wrought all His desires in them.

Epistle(s): ICor 3:9-17 & ICor 1:18-24 & Heb 11:33-12:2

Alleluia for the Cross (Tone 4)
 V. Remember Thy congregation which Thou hast purchased from the beginning.
 V. God is our King before the ages, He hath wrought salvation in the midst of the earth.

Alleluia for the Martyrs (Tone 4)

V. The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them out of all their tribulations.

Gospel(s): Matt 14:22-34 & John 19:6-11, 13-20,25-28,30-35 & Matt 10:32-33,37-38,19:27-30

Communion Verse: The light of Thy countenance, O Lord... (for the Cross) & Rejoice in the Lord... (for the Martyrs)