**AUGUST 1**

**Procession of the Honorable Wood of the Lifegiving Cross of the Lord**

**Holy Seven Maccabean Martyrs**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 4**

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon You!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Your sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!//

Hear me, O Lord!

V. (6) *If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.*

**Tone 4** *(for the Cross) (Called from on high)*

Today the divine assembly of the faithful rejoices,

for the Cross appears throughout the world.

It illumines the heavens with ineffable light.

It brightens the air, adorning the face of the earth.

The Church of Christ exults with divine singing,

venerating and serving the holy and wondrous Cross, which preserves her from above.

As we are strengthened by its power, let us approach the Master saying://

“Grant peace to the world, and enlighten our souls!”

V. (5) *For Your Name’s sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

Let all creation rejoice and dance,

for today the Cross shines from heaven to the ends of the earth!

It enlightens those born on earth, bringing them to unity.

Today mankind exults with the choirs of Angels,

for the Cross has destroyed the dividing walls and gathered all into one.

Shining brighter than the sun, it enlightens all creation with grace,//

showing salvation plainly to those who honor it in faith.

V. (4) *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

Shining brighter than the sun,

revealing itself to the world as the scepter of Christ the King,

the Cross shines to all the ends of the earth.

It has brought the human race out of hell.

And having despoiled hell and overthrown the Enemy,

it vanquishes the arrogance of demons.

Now it declares the Resurrection of the Savior, and saves all who cry://

“Grant peace to the world, and enlighten our souls!”

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

**Tone 1** *(for the Maccabees) (O all-praised martyrs)*

Persecution did not shake the roof of the Law,

firmly upheld by seven pillars.

For they bravely endured the senseless fury of their tormentor,

giving their bodies to the executioners.//

These noble young men and brothers were the faithful guardians of the oracles of Moses.

V. (2) *Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

Raising their minds above visible things,

their bodily limbs cut down,

the brave and righteous youths, with their divinely-wise mother,

were strengthened by the great hopes that have been fulfilled,//

as they now rest in the bosom of their forefather Abraham.

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

Most holy Eleazar, the young men, and their divinely-wise mother,

arming themselves firmly with youthful boldness of soul,

gathering strength from zeal,

steadfastly attacked the adversary for the sake of piety//

to preserve the Law of their Fathers.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 8** *(for the Maccabees, by John the Monk)*

The holy Maccabees said to the tyrant:

“Antíochus, there is for us one King alone:

God—in Whom we have our being and to Whom we turn.

A world higher and more lasting than the one we see awaits us.

Our homeland is the mighty and invincible Jerusalem.

Our festival is life with the Angels.”//

By their prayers, have mercy on us and save us!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 8** *(for the Cross, by John the Monk)*

Your 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 Your footstool:

this same Cross we sinners worship today with unworthy lips.

We praise You Who were pleased to be nailed upon it,

and we cry to You://

“With the thief, make us worthy of Your Kingdom, O Lord!”

**Litya**

*(If the rector desires the Litya, following the sticheron to the Patron Saint of the Temple,*

*these stichera are sung)*

**Tone 1** *(for the Maccabees)*

The mother who labored greatly

called her own children to the struggle, saying:

“Follow the gray hairs of Abraham,

that you may share in the slaying of Isaac!”

They accepted her guidance and followed her.

They beheld one another, paying the penalty of torture.//

By their prayers, O God, have mercy on us.

**Tone 4**

Seven chosen pillars were hewn from one living rock,

and they showed the pillar of the Law to be unshaken.//

Through them, O Savior, preserve our souls in peace!

**Tone 5**

The sons of Solomonía, the guardians of the Law,

cried out to Antíochus as they struggled in the arena:

“We stand fast for the Law of our Fathers.

Neither fire, nor sword nor wild beasts nor flogging shall part us.

Together we shall die with our aged mother and our father and teacher,//

living and rejoicing throughout all ages.”

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 4** *(for the Maccabees)*

Come, O believers, and let us behold the warfare against the Maccabees

and the courage of the holy children.

The king and tyrant who ruled over all nations

was conquered by an old man, seven children and a woman.//

By their prayers, O God, have mercy on us!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 4** *(Theotokion, of the Cross)*

O Lord, Who enabled the meek David to conquer the foreigner,

enable the Orthodox with the weapon of the Cross to cast down our enemies!

Show us Your mercy of old, O Compassionate One,

and let them know that You are our God,

and that we who put our trust in You will triumph!//

Through the prayers of Your Mother who ever intercedes, may we be granted great mercy!

**Aposticha**

**Tone 6** *(from the Octoechos; Prosomia of the Cross)*

Your Cross, O Lord,

is life and resurrection for Your people.

And we who put our trust in it

praise You, our God crucified in the flesh.//

Have mercy on us!

V. *I lift up mine eyes to You, enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till He have mercy upon us.*

*(Ps 122:1-2)*

Your Cross, O Lord,

has opened Paradise for all.

And we who are delivered from corruption,

praise You, our God crucified in the flesh.//

Have mercy on us!

V. *Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Too long our soul has been sated with the scorn of those who are at ease, the contempt of the proud. (Ps. 122:3-4)*

**Tone 6** *(for the Martyrs)*

Your martyrs, O Lord,

did not deny You,

nor did they forsake Your commandments.//

By their intercessions, have mercy on us!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 8** *(for the Maccabees, by Cosmas the Monk)*

The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God:

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the forefathers before the Law,

and their inheritance, the Maccabees, whom now we praise.

For these sons of Abraham followed him in the faith with strength of soul,

wrestling even to death for the sake of godliness.

Raised in reverence and striving worthily, they reproved the godless Antiochus.

For the sake of eternal life they scorned the things of this world

and offered everything to God: their souls and tender bodies.

O holy mother, who brought forth for us these seven sons,

O Maccabees, and the wise priest Eleazar,

as you stand before Christ our God, for Whom you labored,

and as you receive the fruits of your reward,

ever pray to Him for mankind!//

For, according to His will, He answers those who pray to Him in faith.

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 8** *(for the Cross)*

The voice of Your prophet Moses cried out, O God:

“Behold your Life as It hangs before your eyes!”

So today the Cross is lifted up and the world is freed from error.

Today the Resurrection of Christ is renewed.

The ends of the earth rejoice with David in songs and cymbals.

“O God, You have wrought salvation in the midst of the earth:

the Crucifixion and Resurrection by which we are saved.”//

O all-powerful, good Lord and Lover of man, glory to You!

**Tone 1 Troparion[[1]](#footnote-1)** *(Maccabees)*

We beseech You, O Lover of mankind,

to accept in supplication

the suffering which the Saints endured for You, O Lord,//

and heal all our infirmities!

**Tone 1 Troparion** *(Cross)*

O Lord, save Your people,

and bless Your inheritance!

Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians

over their adversaries;

and by virtue of Your Cross,//

preserve Your habitation!

***(Alternate Troparion for the Maccabees)***

**Tone 4** **Troparion** *(Maccabees)*

Let us praise the seven Maccabees,

with their mother Solomonía and their teacher Eleazar;

they were splendid in lawful contest

as guardians of the teachings of the Law.//

Now as Christ’s holy martyrs they ceaselessly intercede for the world.

***(at the Divine Liturgy)***

**Tone 1 Troparion** *(Cross)*

O Lord, save Your people,

and bless Your inheritance!

Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians

over their adversaries;

and by virtue of Your Cross,//

preserve Your habitation!

**Tone 1 Troparion** *(Maccabees)*

We beseech You, O Lover of mankind,

to accept in supplication

the suffering which the Saints endured for You, O Lord,//

and heal all our infirmities!

**Tone 2** **Kontakion** *(Maccabees)*

Seven pillars of the Wisdom of God

and seven lampstands of the divine Light,

all-wise Maccabees, greatest of the martyrs before the time of the martyrs,//

with them ask the God of all to save those who honor you!

**Tone 4** **Kontakion** *(Cross)*

As You were voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake,

grant mercy to those who are called by Your Name, O Christ God;

make all Orthodox Christians glad by Your power,

granting them victories over their adversaries//

by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Your weapon of peace!

**Tone 6** **Prokeimenon** *(Cross)*

O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance! *(Ps. 27:9a)*

V. *To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)*

**Tone 4** **Prokeimenon** *(Maccabees)*

The Lord has shown the wonders of His will / to the saints who are in His land. *(Ps. 15:3a)*

**Epistle**

(125) 1 Corinthians 1:18-24 *(Cross)*

(330) Hebrews 11:33-12:2 *(Maccabees)*

**Tone 4**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. *Remember Your congregation, which You have gotten of old! (Ps. 73:2)*

V. *God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth. (Ps. 73:13)*

**Tone 4**

V. *The righteous cried and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them from all their afflictions. (Ps. 33:17)*

**Gospel**

(60) John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35 *(Cross)*

(38) Matthew 10:32-36; 11:1 *(Maccabees)*

**Communion Hymn**

The light of Your countenance has shone on us, O Lord. *(Ps. 4:7a)*

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! *(Ps. 32:1)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Prepared by the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, Orthodox Church in America.*

1. An alternate troparion for the Maccabees is presented on the following page. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)