**SEPTEMBER 13**

**Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Cross**

**Commemoration of the Founding of the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulchre) at Jerusalem**

**Hieromartyr Cornelius the Centurion**

**"Lord I Call..." 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!

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

**Tone 6** *Idiomela (for the Founding)*

Dedication is to be honored,

as was decreed in the Old Law;

even more should the New Law be honored through dedication;

for as Isaiah proclaims: “The islands are dedicated to God.”

By this we understand the churches now built by the Gentiles,

which receive a firm foundation from God.//

Therefore let us spiritually celebrate this present feast!

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

Be dedicated anew, O people!

Putting away the old man, live in newness of life,

placing a bridle on everything from which death may come!

Let us chasten all our members,

hating every evil fruit of the tree!

Mindful of this, let us avoid our ancient errors,

that mankind may thus be restored!//

Thus this day of dedication is honored.

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

*(by Anatolius)*

O Christ, the pre-eternal Word,

Thou hast set up Thy Church as a tower of strength,

founding it upon the rock of the faith.

Therefore it abides in Thee, unshaken forever,

for, without undergoing change,

Thou becamest Man in these latter times for its sake.

Therefore we give thanks to Thee and praise Thee in hymns, saying:

“Thou art our King since before time began;//

now and forever — glory to Thee!”

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 4** *(for St. Cornelius) (Thou hast given a sign)*

Beholding thy good works and divine supplications, O Cornelius,

Christ sent to thee a holy Angel,

who didst fully enlighten thee;

then He sent the leader of the sacred Apostles,

who renewed thee with water and the Spirit,

together with all thy household, O rightly glorious one,//

teaching thee sublime things through the grace of the Spirit.

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

After thou wast anointed with the oil of the priesthood,

thou didst hasten to announce the preaching of salvation to all lands,

uprooting the thorns of falsehood, O divinely-wise one,

planting the true faith in men’s souls through the Spirit.

Therefore we bless thee in gladness, O Cornelius,//

as a God-pleasing hierarch and invincible martyr.

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

The foolish ones, who were guided by the goodness of thy character,

became wise, O blessed one;

for when thou didst die and, according to the laws of nature, didst take up thy dwelling in a tomb,

thou didst show it to be a well-spring of many wonders, O wise Cornelius,

healing the sick and dispelling evil spirits//

through the Holy Spirit, O divinely-inspired one.

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

**Tone 6** *(for the Founding, by John the Monk)*

Celebrating the memory of the dedication, O Lord,

and glorifying Thee, the Giver of holiness,

we ask that Thou hallow the senses of our souls,

through the supplications of the glorious passion-bearers,//

O Thou Who art good and almighty!

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

**Tone 6** *(for the Forefeast)*

Today a Tree has been revealed.

Today the old nation has perished.

Today the faith is made manifest by faithful rulers.

Through a tree Adam fell,

and again through a Tree the demons tremble.//

O almighty Lord, glory to Thee!

**Old Testament Readings** *(Founding)*

 **3 [1] Kings 8:22-23, 27-30**

 **Proverbs 3:19-34**

 **Proverbs 9:1-11**

**Aposticha**

**Tone 5** *Automelon (for the Forefeast)*

Rejoice, O life-bearing Cross:
invincible triumph of godliness,
gate of Paradise, and protection of the faithful!
The Cross is the might of the Church,
through which corruption is abolished,
through which the power of death is crushed.
and we are raised from earth to heaven.
O invincible weapon, the adversary of demons,
the glory of martyrs, the true adornment of ven’rable saints,
and the haven of salvation,//
which grants the world great mercy.

V. *Extol the Lord our God: and worship at His footstool for He is holy! (Ps. 98:5)*

Rejoice, O Cross of the Lord,

through which mankind has been delivered from the curse!

Thou art a sign of true joy,

shattering our enemies by thine Exaltation.

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 round which the angels stand in fear.

Thou art the divine glory of Christ,//

Who grants the world great mercy.

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

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 are made divine,

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

**Tone 2** *(for the Founding, by Anatolius)*

We glorify Thee, O Lord,

as we celebrate the dedication of the most holy temple of Thy Resurrection.

Thou didst sanctify it and perfect it with Thine all-perfect grace.

Thou art adorned in it by the faithful

with sacrifices that are sanctifying, mystical and holy,

receiving them bloodless and all-pure from the hands of Thy servants.

To all those who rightly make offering,//

Thou dost give great mercy and cleansing from sins.

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

**Tone 2** *(for the Forefeast)*

The Cross of the Giver of life,

a divine treasure hidden in the ground,

was shown in the heavens to the pious emperor,

spiritually revealing a decree of victory over the enemy.

Joyfully and divinely hastening to see it on high with faith and love,

he zealously lifted it from the bosom of the earth,//

for the deliverance of the world and the salvation of our souls.

***(at Vespers)***

**Tone 4** **Troparion** *(Founding)*

Thou hast revealed the beauty of the holy dwelling place of Thy glory on earth

to be like the splendor of the heavenly firmament, O Lord.

Through the prayers of the Theotokos,

strengthen it for ever and ever

and accept our supplication

which we ceaselessly offer Thee therein,//

the life and resurrection of all!

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

**Tone 4** **Troparion** *(St. Cornelius)*

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles,

thou didst become a successor to their throne.

Through the practice of virtue, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God;

by teaching the word of truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith, even to the shedding of thy blood.//

Hieromartyr Cornelius, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

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

**Tone 4 Troparion** *(Forefeast)*

We offer in supplication

the life-creating Cross of Thy goodness, O Lord,

which Thou hast granted to us

although we are unworthy. //

Through the Theotokos, save all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of man!

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

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**Tone 4 Kontakion** *(Founding)*

The Church has been revealed to be a heaven filled with light,

which enlightens all the faithful.//

Standing within it we cry: “Establish this house, O Lord!”

**Tone 4** **Prokeimenon** *(Founding)*

Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, / forevermore. *(Ps. 92:7b)*

V. *The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty! (Ps. 92:1a)*

**Epistle**

 (307) Hebrews 3:1-4 *(Founding)*

(126) 1 Corinthians 2:6-9 *(Saturday Before)*

**Tone 2**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. *Thy foundations are in the holy mountains; the Lord loveth thy gates, O Zion, more than all the dwellings of Jacob. (Ps. 99:1)*

V. *Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God! (Ps. 99:2)*

 **Gospel**

 (67) Matthew 16:13-18 *(Founding)*

 (39) Matthew 10:37-11:1 *(Saturday Before)*

**Communion Hymn**

I have loved the beauty of Thy house, O Lord, and the place where Thy glory dwelleth. *(Ps. 25:7)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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