**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 TONE 6**

**15th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Sunday After the Exaltation of the Cross**

**Leavetaking of the Exaltation of the Cross**

**"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. (10) *Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy Name.*

**Tone 6** *(for the Resurrection)*

Possessing victory over hell, O Christ,

since Thou art free among the dead,

Thou didst ascend the Cross

raising with Thyself those who sat in the shades of death.//

Drawing life from Thy light, O almighty Savior, have mercy on us!

V. (9) *The righteous will surround me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.*

Today Christ tramples on death,

for He is risen as He said!

Let us all sing this song,

for He has granted joy to the world:

O Light unapproachable, O Fountain of life!//

O Savior almighty, have mercy on us!

V. (8) *Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

Where shall we sinners flee from Thee, Who art in all creation?

In heaven Thou dwellest!

In hell Thou didst trample on death!

In the depths of the sea?

Even there is Thy hand, O Master!

To Thee we flee, and falling before Thee, we pray://

O Thou Who didst rise from the dead, have mercy on us!

V. (7) *Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

*(Resurrection stichera by Anatolius)*

In Thy Cross, we glory, O Christ.

We sing and glorify Thy Resurrection,

for Thou art our God,//

and we know no other than Thee.

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

**Tone 6** *(for the Feast) (Having placed all their hope)*

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.

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.*

(Repeat: “As the Cross is lifted on high…”)

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

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.

V. (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…”)

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

O most venerable Cross,

attended by ranks of rejoicing angels,

as thou art exalted today at the divine command,

thou dost 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!”

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

(Repeat: “O most venerable Cross…”)

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

**Tone 2** *(for the Feast)*

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 man!

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

**Tone 6** *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

Who will not bless thee, O most holy Virgin?

Who will not sing of thy most pure childbearing?

The only-begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father,

but from thee He was ineffably incarnate.

God by nature, yet Man for our sake,

not two persons, but one known in two natures.

Entreat Him, O pure and all-blessed Lady,//

to have mercy on our souls!

**Litya**

*(If the rector desires the Litya, these stichera are sung)*

**Tone 1** *Idiomela (for the Feast, by Andrew of Jerusalem)*

Today the holy saying of David truly has come to pass,

for behold, in the sight of all,

we venerate the footstool of Thine 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!”

The Tree of true Life was planted in the place of the skull,

and upon it hast Thou, the eternal King, worked salvation in the midst of the earth.

Exalted today, it sanctifies the ends of the world,

and the church of the Resurrection celebrates its dedication.

Angels in heaven rejoice,

and men upon earth make glad,

crying aloud with David and saying:

“Exalt the Lord our God and worship at His footstool,//

for He is holy, granting the world great mercy!”

Prefiguring Thy Cross, O Christ,

Jacob the Patriarch, when he gave the blessing to his descendants,

laid his hands crosswise upon their heads.

And today, as we exalt Thy Cross, O Savior, we cry:

“Give victory to Thine Orthodox people, //

as Thou once gavest it to Constantine!”

**Tone 2** *(by Theophanes*)

Divine treasure hidden in the earth,

the Cross of the Giver of Life appeared in the heavens to the godly king,

and its inscription spiritually signified his victory over the enemy.

Rejoicing with faith and love, and inspired by God

he made haste to raise on high the Cross which he had seen,

and with great zeal he brought it forth from the bosom of the earth//

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

*(by Cyprian)*

When the Patriarch Jacob crossed his hands while blessing his children,

he foreshadowed the mighty symbol of Thy Cross.

Having this as our unshakable safeguard,

we drive out with almighty strength the ranks of demons;

and, casting down by it the arrogance of Belial,

we put to flight the all-destroying power of hateful Amalek.

Now as the Cross is lifted on high,

we the faithful piously offer it to Thy goodness for the cleansing of our sins,

crying out in a loud voice:

“Have mercy, O Lord, made flesh of the Virgin; //

take pity, O Good One, on the works that Thou hast fashioned in Thy wisdom.”

*(by Emperor Leo)*

O three-branched Cross of Christ,

thou art my strong protection.

Sanctify me by thy might,//

that I may venerate and glorify thee in faith and love!

**Tone 4**

Let us proclaim today a festival of song,

and with radiant faces and with our tongues let us cry aloud:

O Christ, Thou hast accepted condemnation for us,

and, being spat upon, and scourged,

Thou wast robed in purple and didst ascend the Cross.

Seeing Thee, the sun and the moon hid their light,

the earth quaked in fear,

and the veil of the Temple was torn in two.

Grant us Thy precious Cross as our guardian and protector,

driving demons away,

that we may all embrace it and cry out:

“Save us, O Cross, by thy might!

Sanctify us by thy radiance, O precious Cross,

and strengthen us through thine Exaltation;//

for thou hast been given to us as the light and salvation of our souls!”

*(by Anatolius)*

Thou, O Cross, as a sign radiant with light, formed of stars,

hast prophetically revealed a trophy of victory to the godly king;

and when his mother Helen found thee,

she displayed thee in the sight of all the world.

And we the choirs of faithful shout aloud, as we exalt thee today:

“Enlighten us with thy brightness, O life-bearing Cross!

Sanctify us by thy might, O all-venerable Cross,

and strengthen us through thine Exaltation,//

when thou art lifted on high before the ranks of our enemies!”

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

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

**Tone 4** *(for the Feast, by Anatolius)*

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!”

**Aposticha**

**Tone 6** *(for the Resurrection)*

Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Savior,

the Angels in heaven sing!

Enable us on earth//

to glorify Thee in purity of heart!

V. *The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

Destroying the gates of hell,

breaking the chains of death,

Thou didst resurrect the fallen human race as almighty God!//

O Lord Who didst rise from the dead, glory to thee!

V. *For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.*

Desiring to return us to Paradise,

Christ was nailed to the Cross and placed in a tomb.

The Myrrhbearing Women sought Him with tears, crying,

“Woe to us, O Savior!

How dost Thou deign to descend to death?

What place can hold Thy life bearing body?

Come to us as Thou didst promise!

Take away our wailing and tears!”

Then the Angel appeared to them:

“Stop your lamentations!

Go, proclaim to the Apostles:

‘The Lord is risen,//

granting us purification and great mercy!’”

V. *Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!*

Having been crucified as Thou didst will,

by Thy burial Thou didst capture death, O Christ,

rising on the third day as God in glory,//

granting the world unending life and great mercy!

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

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

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

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 same Cross we sinners worship today with unworthy lips.

We praise Thee Who wast pleased to be nailed upon it,

and we cry to Thee://

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

***(at Great Vespers)***

**Tone 6** **Troparion** *(Resurrection)*

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;

the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Thy grave,

seeking Thy most pure body.

Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it.

Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.

O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead,//

glory to Thee.

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

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

**Tone 1 Troparion** *(Feast)*

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!

***(at Vigil)***

**Tone 4 Troparion to the Theotokos**

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos,

Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!

Blessed art thou among women,

and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb,//

for thou hast borne the Savior of our souls. *(twice)*

**Tone 1 Troparion** *(Feast)*

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! *(once)*

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

**Tone 6** **Troparion** *(Resurrection)*

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;

the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Thy grave,

seeking Thy most pure body.

Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it.

Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.

O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead,//

glory to Thee.

**Tone 1 Troparion** *(Feast)*

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!

**Tone 6** **Kontakion** *(Resurrection)*

When Christ God, the Giver of Life,

raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,

He bestowed resurrection on the human race.//

He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

**Tone 4** **Kontakion** *(Feast)*

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!

**Tone 6** **Prokeimenon** *(Resurrection)*

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

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

**Tone 7** **Prokeimenon** *(Feast)*

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

**Epistle**

(203) Galatians 2:16-20 *(Sunday After)*

(176) 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

**Tone 6**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. *He who dwelleth in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God. (Ps. 90:1)*

V. *He will say to the Lord: “My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust.”(Ps. 90:2)*

**Tone 1**

V. *Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast gotten of old! (Ps. 73:2)*

**Gospel**

(37) Mark 8:34-9:1 *(Sunday After)*

(92) Matthew 22:35-46

***(Instead of “It is truly meet…,” we sing:)***

**Tone 8**

Magnify, O my soul, the most precious Cross of the Lord!

Thou art a mystical Paradise, O Theotokos,

who, though untilled, hast brought forth Christ;

through Him the life-bearing wood of the Cross was planted on earth.

Now at its Exaltation,

as we bow in worship before it, we magnify thee.

**Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*

The light of Thy countenance has been signed upon us, O Lord. *(Ps.* *4:7)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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