Vesper Propers, September 14

THE EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS, HOLY, AND LIFE-CREATING CROSS, which is exalted and honored the day after the dedication of the basilica of the Resurrection built over the tomb of Christ, just as the trophy and sign of his paschal victory would appear in heaven, at last foretelling his second advent to all.

Supplement for The Order of Vespers for Sundays after Pentecost, 2006

"O Lord I have cried." Tone 6, p.82

Bring my soul out of this prison
and then I shall praise your name.

Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness to me.

Cantor: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Psalm 129
(on 8)

Lord, hear my voice!

By its elevation, the Cross is like an appeal to the whole creation.

We adore the blessed passion of Christ our God, who was suspended on it. By this Cross, Christ destroyed the one who had destroyed us.

In his great goodness, he brought us back to life after we had been dead.

In his mercy he clothed us with beauty and made us worthy

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of heaven. Therefore we exalt his name with great rejoicing,

and glorify his infinite compassion.

Cantor: Let your ears be attentive
(on 7) to the voice of my pleading. (Repeat “By its elevation...”)

Cantor: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord who would survive?
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. (Repeat “By its elevation...”)

Cantor: My soul is longing for the Lord. I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

O precious Cross of the Lord, Moses prefigured you when he stretched out
his arms to heaven, and thus defeated the haughty Amalek.

You are the pride of the faithful, and the strength of those who
struggle, the glory of the Apostles, the courage of the just, and the
salvation of the saints. Therefore, at the sight of your elevation,
the whole creation rejoices, exalts, and glorifies Christ, whose goodness
joined together those who had strayed.

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord. (Repeat “O precious Cross...”)

Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. (Repeat “O precious Cross...”)

Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations,
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!

O most venerable Cross of the Lord, angels surround you with joy today
at your elevation. You raise up those who had fallen and had been
delivered to death for having eaten of the forbidden tree.

Therefore, we praise you with our lips, begging for sanctification, saying:

Exalt Christ our gracious God, O you nations, and forever
a-dore his di-vine foot-stool.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
(on 1) he is faithful forever. (Repeat “O most venerable Cross...”)

Cantor: (Tone 2) Glory...now and ever...

Doxastikon

Come all you peo-ple, let us venerate the bless-ed Cross of the Lord,
through which e-ter-nal jus-tice came to us. He who de-ceived Ad-am,
the first man, was con-quer-ed by a tree, and the same who fettered the royal cre-a-tion by his cun-ning, was cast down into noth-ing-ness.

The ven-om of the serpents has been washed a-way by the di-vine blood of Christ. The curse of the rightful sen-tence was lift-ed when the just Christ was con-demned un-just-ly. By God's plan, death that
had come from a tree would be conquered by a Tree, and suffering would be healed by the suffering of the Lord. Glory to the active presence of your providence in our lives, O Christ our King. Through it you have brought salvation to all, for you are gracious and the Lover of us all.

The prophecy of David is truly fulfilled today, for we now bow down before your footstool in the shadow of your wings,

O God of love. Filled with hope, we cry out:

The service continues with the Hymn of the Evening, page 12.
Prokeimena for Weekdays, pp.114-115

Readings: Exodus 15:22 - 16:1 (EOT 305-306)
Proverbs 3:11-18
Isaiah 60:11-16

Hymns of the Litija

Bolhar Tone 1
Let the light of your face shine upon us, and raise up all the faithful Christians by the exaltation of your precious Cross, O Christ, our God of tenderness and mercy.

The Tree of life which was planted in the place of the Skull, the Tree upon which the King of the Ages brought about our salvation, is raised up in the middle of the earth today. It sanctifies the ends of the earth, and the Church of the Resurrection celebrates its rededication now. The angels rejoice in heaven, and those upon the earth exalt with joy and say with David:
Exalt the Lord our God and bow before his throne and before his foot-stool, for he is holy; it is he who grants great mercy to the world.

Jacob, the Patriarch, prefigured your Cross, O Christ, when he blessed his descendants by laying his hands on their heads in the form of a cross. Today we exalt it and cry out, O Savior:

Grant victory to your Church o'er her enemies, as you once did to your people.

Hidden in the earth as divine treasure, the Cross of the
Giver of Life now appeared in the heavens to the godly king, and its inscription spiritually signified his victory o'er the enemy.

Rejoicing with faith and love, he was inspired by God and has tended to raise on high the Cross that he had seen in his vision.

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.

In blessing his children by crossing his hands, the Patriarch Jacob foreshadowed the powerful sign of the Cross. We now have it as our safeguard that cannot be overthrown,
and with its strength we drive out the hosts of demons. Casting down the arrogance of Belial with it, we put to flight the destroying pow'\r
of Amalek. Now that it is lifted on high, we the faithful offer it in devotion for the cleansing of our sins before the goodness of God. We cry aloud with the fullness of our voices: Have mercy on us, O Lord made flesh of a Virgin; take pity on us, O Gracious One, for we are the works which you fashioned in your wisdom.

O triple-branched Cross of Christ, you are my strong
protection. Sanctify me by your might that I may venerate and glorify you in faith and love.

Let us raise our voices today and sing in honor of this feast, and with radiant faces let us cry out in a loud voice: For you accepted condemnation, O Christ; you were spat upon and scourged; you were wrapped in a purple robe and have ascended the Cross.

Seeing you, the sun and moon hid their light, the earth quaked in fear, and the veil of the temple was torn in two.

Now give us your precious Cross as our guardian, our protector.

Tone 4 Bolhar
which drives away the demons, that, embracing it, we may all cry out: Save us, O Cross, by your might, and strengthen us through your exaltation for you have been given to us as the light and salvation of our souls.

O Cross, you are the radiant sign among the stars. In prophecy you have revealed the sign of victory to the godly king; and when his mother Helena found you, she displayed you in the sight of all the world. Today the choirs of the faithful shout aloud as they raise you on high: Enlighten us by your brightness, O life-giving
and all-ven-‘ra-ble Cross. Make us ho-ly by your might; strength-en
us by your exalta-tion, for you are raised up a-gainst our en-e-mies.

Cantor: (Tone 4) Glory...now and ever...

Doxastikon

Moses pre-fig-ured the pow'r of your pre-cious Cross, O Christ, when he
con-quered A-ma-lek, his en-e-my in the wil-der-ness of Si-nai.

When he stretched out his arms in the form of a cross, the peo-ple were
strength-en. Now these im-a-ges are ful-filled in us.

To-day the Cross is ex-al-ted and the dev-ils are put to flight.

To-day all cre-a-tion is freed from cor-rup-tion. Through the Cross
ev-‘ry gift of grace has shone up-on us. There-fore, re-joic-ing, we bow
The service continues with the Litany of the Litija, p 116.

Aposticha

Tone 5 samopodoben: Radujsja živonosnyj Kreste

Joy to you, life-bearing Cross of the Lord, invincible triumph of the true faith. You are the gate to Paradise, the strength of the faithful and the stronghold of the Church. Because of you, corruption no longer has meaning or pow'r. By you, we have been lifted up from earth to heaven. You are an invincible weapon against evil, a glory indeed for saints and martyrs,
and a haven for salvation. You are the source of mercy to the world.

Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool: holy is he.

Joy to you, most honorable Cross of the Lord. Through you, the human race has been delivered from the curse. In your exaltation, you are a sign of true joy.

O Cross all venerable, you scatter all our enemies. You are the help of Christians, the glory of kings, the strength of the just and the splendor of priests. All who sign themselves with you are freed from peril.

You are the strength under which we are tended like sheep.

The angels gather around you in awe as the source of peace.
You are the glory of Christ, who grants great mercy to the world.

God is our King from time past, the giver of help through all the land.

Joy to you, precious Cross of the Lord, guide to the blind and physician to the sick, and resurrection to the dead. You raised us out of corruption and removed the curse. Through you we have been made divine, and the power of Hades has been destroyed in full.

Therefore, seeing you lifted-up today by our priests, we exalt Christ who was suspended on you, and we bow deeply before you, seeking forgiveness and great mercy.
Of old, Mo-ses pre-fig-ured your Cross while van-quishing Amalek and obtaining vic-t'ry o-ver him. Da-vid the psalm-ist called it your foot-stool and di-rec-ted us to a-dore it. We sin-ners indeed venerate your Cross to-day, O Christ our God. With our unworthy lips we ex-tol you, for you deigned to be cru-ci-fied on it; and we en-treat you, O Lord: To-gether with the thief, make us wor-thy of your king-dom.

The service continues with the Prayer of the Holy Prophet Simeon, p. 19.

Troparion (sung three times)

Save your peo-ple O Lord, and bless your in-her-i-tance. Grant vic-to-ry to your Church o-ver e-vil, and pro-tect your peo-ple by your Cross.

The service continues with the Blessing of Bread, p. 119