

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!

Tone 6 podoben: Vsju otloživše

8 7 6

By its el - e - va - tion, the Cross is like an appeal to the whole cre - a - tion.

We a - dore the blessed passion of Christ our God, who was sus - pen - ded

on it. By this Cross, Christ destroyed the one who had de - stroyed us.

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

In his mer - cy he clothed us with beau - ty and made us wor - thy



the whole cre - a - tion rejoices, exalts, and glo - ri - fies Christ, whose good - ness



joined to - ge - ther 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 ven - er - a - ble Cross of the Lord, an - gels sur - round you with joy today



at your e - le - va - tion. You raise up those who had fallen and had been



de - li - vered to death for hav - ing eat - en of the for - bid - den tree.



There - fore, we praise you with our lips, beg - ging for sanctifica - tion, say - ing:



Ex - alt Christ our gracious God, O you na - tions, and for - ev - er

a - dore his di - vine foot - steps.

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 *Tone 2 samohlasen*

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,

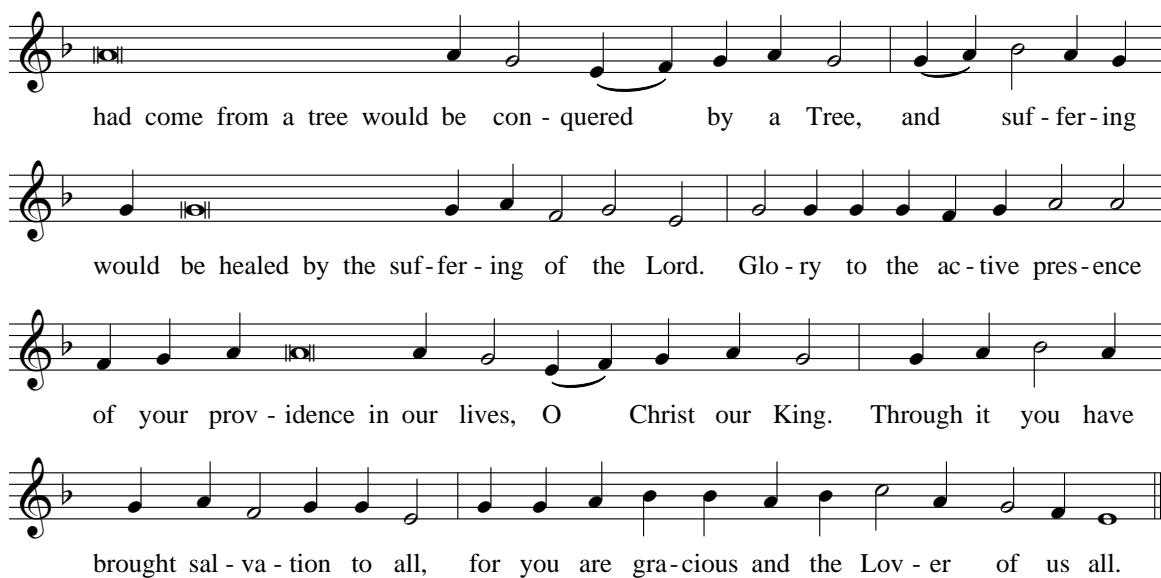
the first man, was con - quered by a tree, and the same who fettered the royal

cre - a - tion by his cun - ning, was cast down in - to noth - ing - ness.

The ven - om of the serpent 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



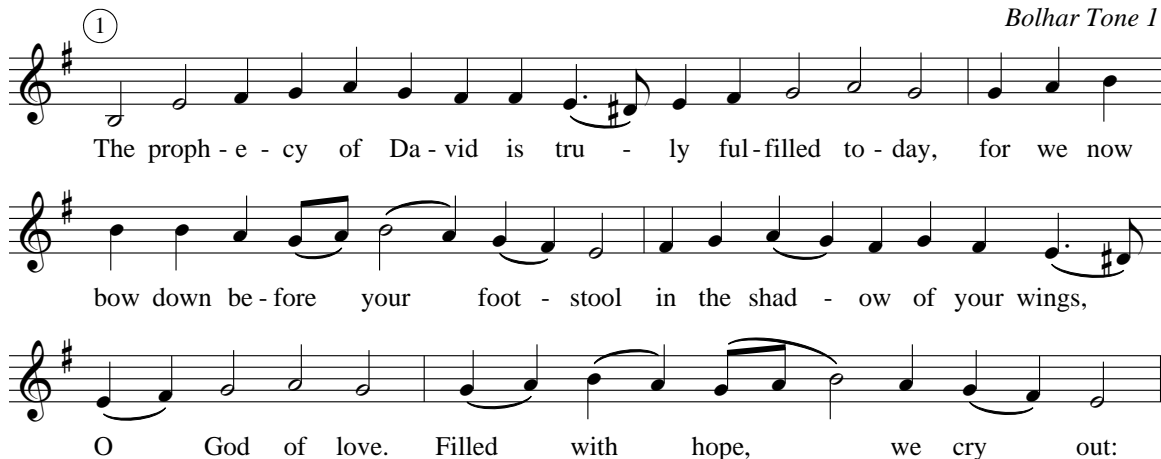
had come from a tree would be con - quered by a Tree, and suf - fer - ing
would be healed by the suf - fer - ing of the Lord. Glo - ry to the ac - tive pres - ence
of your prov - idence in our lives, O Christ our King. Through it you have
brought sal - va - tion to all, for you are gra - cious and the Lov - er of us all.

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




① *Bolhar Tone 1*

The proph - e - cy of Da - vid is tru - ly ful-filled to - day, for we now
bow down be - fore your foot - stool in the shad - ow of your wings,
O God of love. Filled with hope, we cry out:

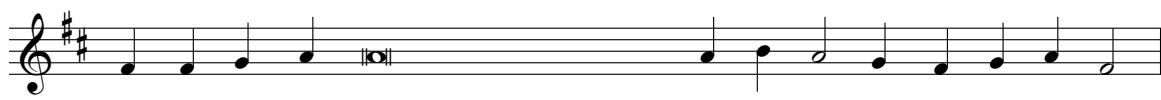
Let the light of your face shine up - on us, and raise up all
the faith - ful Chris - tians by the ex - al - ta - tion of your
pre - cious Cross, O Christ, our God of ten - der - ness and mer - - - cy.

②
The Tree of life which was plant - ed in the place of the Skull,
the Tree upon which the King of the Ages brought a - bout our sal - va - tion,
is raised up in the mid - dle of the earth to - day. It sanc - ti - fies
the ends of the earth, and the Church of the Res - ur - rec - tion celebrates
its re - ded - i - ca - tion now. The an - gels re - joice in heav - en,
and those up - on the earth ex - alt with joy and say with Da - vid:






Giv - er of Life now ap - peared in the heav - ens to the god - ly king,



and its in - scrip - tion spiritually signified his vic - to - ry o'er the en - e - my.




Re - - - joic - ing with faith and love, he was in - spired by God and



has - tened to raise on high the Cross that he had seen in his vi - sion.



With great zeal he brought it forth from the bos - om of the earth



for the de - liv - rance of the world and the sal - va - tion of our souls.


⑤



In bles - sing his chil - dren by cross - ing his hands, the Pa - tri - arch



Ja - cob foreshadowed the pow - er - ful sign of the Cross. We now have it



as our safe - - - guard that can - not be o - ver - thrown,



and with its strength we drive out the hosts of de - mons. Cast-ing down the



ar - ro-gance of Be - li - al with it, we put to flight the de-destroy-ing pow'r



of A - ma - lek. Now that it is lift - ed on high,



we the faith-ful of - fer it in de - vo - tion for the cleans-ing of our



sins be - fore the good - ness of God. We cry a-loud with the full - ness



of our voic - es: Have mer-cy on us, O Lord made flesh of a Vir - gin;



take pit - y on us, O Gra - cious One, for we are the works



which you fash - ioned in your wis - dom.



O tri - ple-branched Cross of Christ, you are my strong

pro - tec - - - tion. Sanc - ti - fy me by your might
 that I may ven - erate and glo - ri - fy you in faith and love.

Tone 4 Bolhar

⑦

Let us raise our voic - es to - day and sing in hon - or of this feast, and with ra - diant
 fac - es let us cry out in a loud voice: For us you ac - cept - ed
 con - dem - na - tion, O Christ; you were spat up - on and scourged;
 you were wrapped in a pur - ple robe and have as - cend - ed the Cross.
 See - ing you, the sun and moon hid their light, the earth quaked
 in fear, and the veil of the tem - ple was torn in two.
 Now give us your pre - cious Cross as our guard - i - an, our pro - tec - tor

which drives a - way the de - mons, that, em - brac - ing it,
we may all cry out: Save us, O Cross, by your might,
and strength-en us through your ex - al - ta - tion for you have been giv-en
to us as the light and sal - va - tion of our souls.

⑧

O Cross, you are the ra - diant sign a - mong the stars. In proph - e - cy
you have re - vealed the sign of vic - t'ry to the god - ly king;
and when his moth - er Hel - e - na found you, she dis - played you in
the sight of all the world. To - day the choirs of the faith - ful shout a - loud
as they raise you on high: En - light - en us by your bright - ness, O life - giv - ing



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

Tone 4 Bolhar



Mo - ses pre - fig - ured the pow'r of your pre - cious Cross, O Christ, when he



con-quired 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 - - - - ened. 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

down be - fore you and say; How mar - vel - ous are your works, O
 Lord, glo - - - ry to you!

The service continues with the Litany of the Litija, p 116.

Aposticha

Tone 5 samopodoben: Radujsja živonosnyj Kreste

①
 Joy to you, life-bear-ing Cross of the Lord, in - vin - ci - ble triumph
 of the true faith. You are the gate to Pa - ra - dise, the strength
 of the faith - ful and the strong - hold of the Church. Be - cause of you,
 cor - rup - tion no long - er has mean - ing or pow'r. By you, we have been lifted
 up from earth to heav - en. You are an invincible weapon a - gainst
 e - - - vil, a glo - ry in - deed for saints and mar - - - tyrs,

and a ha-ven for sal-va - tion. You are the source of mer-cy to the world.

Cantor

Ex - tol the Lord our God and worship at his foot - stool: ho - ly is he.

②
Joy to you, most honorable Cross of the Lord. Through you, the human race

has been de-liv-ered from the curse. In your exaltation, you are a sign of true joy.

O Cross all - ven - erable, you scat - ter all our en - e - mies. You are the

help of Chris-tians, the glo - ry of kings, the strength of the just and the

splen-dor of priests. All who sign themselves with you are freed from per - il.

You are the strength un - der which we are tend - ed like sheep.

The an - gels gath - er around you in awe as the source of peace.

You are the glo - ry of Christ, who grants great mer - cy to the world.

Cantor

God is our King from time past, the giv - er of help through all the land.

③
Joy to you, pre-cious Cross of the Lord, guide to the blind and phy - si - cian

to the sick, and re - sur - rec - tion to the dead. You raised us out

of corruption and re - moved the curse. Through you we have been

made di - vine, and the pow - er of Hades has been de - stroyed in full.

There - fore, seeing you lifted-up to - day by our priests, we ex - alt Christ

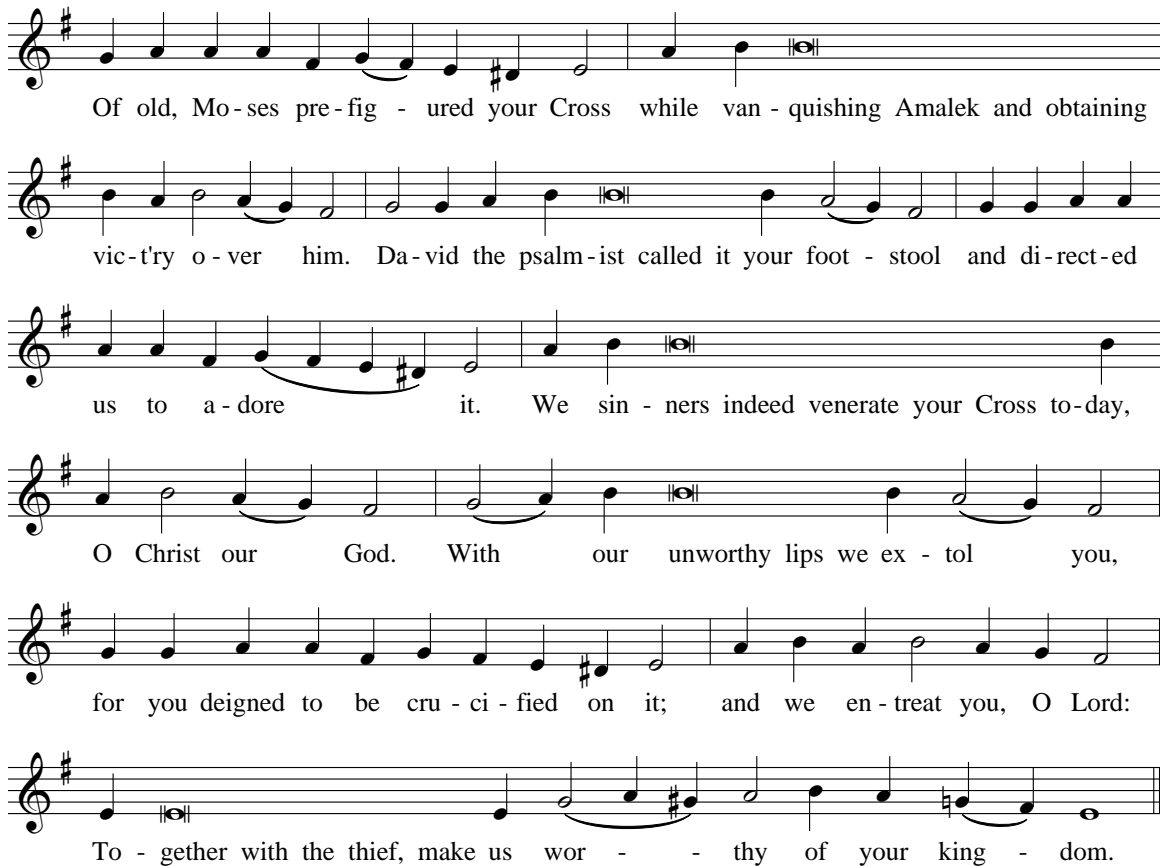
who was sus-pend - ed on you, and we bow deep - ly be - fore you,

seek - ing for - give - ness and great mer - - - cy.

Cantor: (Tone 8) Glory...now and ever...

Doxastikon

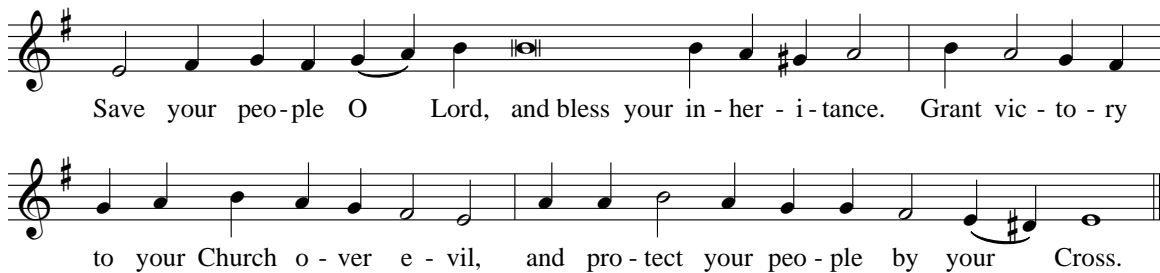
Tone 8 samohlasen



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-rect-ed
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