

Vespers sung on Saturday 20th September for Sunday 21st September 2025
Fifteenth 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!

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 Saviour, have mercy on us!

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 Saviour almighty, have mercy on us!

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 dweldest!
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!

Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

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.

If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

Tone 6 *(For the Feast)*

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.

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 ...

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.

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, O precious Cross ...

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!"

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 ...

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!

APOSTICHA

Tone 6 (*For the Resurrection*)

Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Saviour,
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 Saviour!
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)*

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!”

TROPARIA

Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 6

[Music on website / Green Book page 12]

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.*

Troparion of the Cross in Tone 1

[Music on website / White Book page 13]

O Lord, save Thy people,
and bless Thine inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians
over their adversaries;
and by the power of Thy Cross,//
preserve Thy habitation.
