

**Vespers sung on Saturday 16th September 2023 for Sunday 17th September
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost ♦ Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross
Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross
The Holy Great-Martyr Sophia, and her daughters, the Holy Martyrs Faith, Hope, &
Love (Vera, Nadezhda & Lyubov; Pistis, Elpis, & Agape), at Rome**

“LORD, I CALL ...”

Tone 6

[Music on website / Sheet]

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 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!

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 1 *(For the Cross)*

The Cross is exalted;
the demons are driven away.
The thief opens the gates of Paradise;
death is slain and openly despised, as Christ is magnified.
Therefore, rejoice, all those born on earth, //
for the curse has been lifted!

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.

Come, all lovers of God,
beholding the Exaltation of the precious Cross,
let us magnify it together,
giving glory to the one Deliverer and God as we cry out:
"Thou wast crucified on the wood of the Cross. //
Do not turn from us who pray to Thee!"

From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

In days of old, Moses changed bitterness into sweetness.
He delivered Israel, prophetically inscribing the image of the Cross.
As we, the faithful, ever make the sign of the Cross mystically in our hearts, //
we are saved by its might.

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 the Martyrs)*

The virgin maidens, bound to one another by the law of nature,
manifestly made stronger by love of the Creator,
loosed the bonds of deception with faith.
They valiantly trampled the Enemy
and were radiantly adorned with fair crowns of victory. //
Now they rejoice, dwelling in the heavenly bridal chamber.

Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

The all-praised Faith and glorious Love
together with divinely wise Hope,
revealed themselves to be namesakes of the most splendid virtues.
As athletes, they overthrew the Evil One
who had deceived our First Mother with guile.
Now they are deified and dwell in Paradise //
where they fervently pray for us all.

For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Faith, Hope and Love, the daughters of Sophia,
sought with faith the beauty of the Bridegroom.
They united themselves to Him, adorning themselves with divine wounds;
they despised the fire, manifold tortures and a shameful death. //
Through their prayers, O Lord, deliver us from evils!

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

Tone 1 *(For the Cross)*

The Tree of true Life was planted in the place of the skull,
 and upon it, eternal King, Thou hast worked salvation in the midst of the earth.
 Exalted today, it sanctifies the ends of the world.
 Angels in heaven greatly 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, and grants the world great mercy!"

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)*

[Music on website / Sheet]

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 1 (For the Cross)

Prefiguring Thy Cross, O Christ,
the Patriarch Jacob, when blessing his descendants,
laid his hands crosswise upon their heads.
And today, as we exalt Thy Cross, Saviour, we cry: //
“Give victory to the Orthodox Christians, as Thou didst to Constantine!”

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,

Troparion of the Martyrs in Tone 5

[Music on website / Sheet]

Thou didst blossom in the courts of the Lord
as a fruitful olive tree,
Holy martyr Sophia;
in thy contest thou didst offer to Christ the sweet fruit of thy womb,
thy daughters Faith, Hope, and Love. //
Together with them intercede for us all!

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

Troparion of the Cross in Tone 1

[Music on website / White Book page 15]

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.
