

Tuesday, September 14

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

First Antiphon: My God, my God, look upon me, why have You forsaken me? Why can't my sinful words reach You, my salvation.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us.

When I cry to You during the day, O my God, You do not listen, and there is no rest for me at night. Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us.

Nonetheless You are there in the holy place, O Israel's boast.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us.

Glory be to the Father... Only Begotten Son...

Third Antiphon: The Lord is king; the peoples tremble; he is throned upon the cherubim; the earth quakes.

Tropar of the Exaltation, tone 1: Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance. * Grant victory to Your faithful people against enemies, * and protect Your community by Your cross.

The Lord in Zion is great, he is high above all the peoples.

Tropar: Save Your people, O Lord...

Let them praise your great and awesome name; holy is he!

Tropar: Save Your people, O Lord...

At the Little Entrance: Extol the Lord, our God, and worship at his footstool; holy is he!

Tropar: Save Your people, O Lord...

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kondak of the Exaltation, tone 4: By your own choice, O Christ our God, * you were lifted on the cross. * Grant your mercies to your new community * that bears your name. * By your power gladden the faithful people * and grant them victory against enemies. * May they have the help of your instrument of peace, * the invincible sign of victory.

Instead of "Holy God, Holy Mighty...": To Your cross, O Master, we bow in veneration, and we glorify Your holy Resurrection.

Prokimen, Tone 7: Exalt the Lord our God, and bow in worship at the footstool of His feet for it is holy.

Verse: The Lord reigns, let the peoples tremble.

Epistle: 1st Corinthians 1: 18-24

Brothers and Sisters! The message of the cross is complete absurdity to those who are headed for ruin, but to us who are experiencing salvation it is the power of God. Scripture says, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and thwart the cleverness of the clever." Where is the wise man to be found? Where the scribe? Where is the master of worldly argument? Has not God turned the wisdom of this world into folly? Since in God's wisdom the world did not come to know him through "wisdom," it pleased God to save those who believe through the absurdity of the preaching of the gospel. Yes, Jews demand "signs" and Greeks look for "wisdom," but we preach Christ crucified --- a stumbling block to the Jews and an absurdity to Gentiles; but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Alleluia Verses: Remember your congregation which you acquired from the beginning.

But God is our king before all ages; He has wrought salvation in the midst of the earth.

Gospel: John 19: 6-11; 13-20; 25-28; 30-35

At that time, after the high priests and elders decided to put Jesus to death, they led him to Pilate saying, "Take him! Take him! Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said, "Take him and crucify him yourselves; I find no case against him." "We have our law," the Jews responded, "and according to that law he must die because he made himself God's Son." When Pilate heard this kind of talk, he was more afraid than ever. Going back into the praetorium, he said to Jesus, "Where do you come from?" Jesus would not give him any answer. "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate asked him "Do you not know that I have the power to release you and the power to crucify you?" Jesus answered: "You would have no power over me whatever unless, it were given you from above. That is why he who handed me over to you is guilty of the greater sin." Hearing these words, Pilate then brought Jesus outside and took a seat on a judge's bench at the place called the Stone

Pavement -- Gabbatha in Hebrew. (It was the Preparation Day for Passover, and the hour was about noon.) He said to the Jews, "Look at your king!" At this they shouted, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" "What!" Pilate exclaimed, "Shall I crucify your king?" The chief priests replied, "We have no king but Caesar." In the end, Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified. Jesus was led away, and carrying the cross by himself, went out to what is called the Place of the Skull (in Hebrew, Golgotha). There they crucified him, and two others with him, one on either side. Jesus in the middle. Pilate had an inscription placed on the cross which read 'Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews.' This inscription, in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, was read by many of the Jews, since the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city. Near the cross of Jesus there stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Seeing his mother there with the disciple whom he loved, Jesus said to his mother, "Woman, there is your son." In turn he said to the disciple, "There is your mother." From that hour onward, the disciple took her into his care. After that, Jesus realizing that everything was now finished, bowed his head, and delivered over his spirit. Since it was the Preparation Day the Jews did not want to have the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, for that sabbath was a solemn feast day. They asked Pilate that the legs be broken and the bodies be taken away. Accordingly, the soldiers came and broke the legs of the men crucified with Jesus, first of the one, then of the other. When they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. One of the soldiers thrust a lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. This testimony has been given by an eyewitness, and his testimony is true.

Instead of "It is truly right...": My soul, extol the venerable cross of the Lord. O Mother of God, you are a hidden paradise which mysteriously brought forth Christ by whom a life-giving tree of the cross has been planted on earth. Today this cross is being exalted, and we, adoring it, glorify You.

Communion Hymn: The Light of Your face, O Lord, is raised over us. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!