

**Sunday, September 12**  
**Sunday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**  
**Post-feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God**

**Sunday Tropar, tone 7:** By Your cross You destroyed death; \* You opened Paradise to the thief; \* You changed the lamentation of the myrr-bearers to joy, \* and charged the apostles to proclaim\* that You are risen, O Christ, our God, \* offering great mercy to the world.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:

**Kondak of the Nativity, tone 4:** Through your holy birth, O Immaculate One, \* Joachim and Anne were freed from the reproach of childlessness, \* and Adam and Eve \* from the corruption of death. \* Delivered from the guilt of sin, \* your people celebrate this when they cry out to you: \* She who is barren gives birth to the Mother of God \* and the Sustainer of our life.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen!

**Sunday Kondak, tone 7:** No longer shall the dominion of death be able to hold humanity, \* for Christ went down shattering and destroying its powers. \* Hades is bound. \* The Prophets exult with one voice. \* The Savior has come for those with faith, saying: \* "Come forth, O faithful, to the resurrection!"

**Prokimen, tone 6:** Save Your people, O Lord, and bless Your inheritance.

Verse: Unto You I will cry, O Lord my God, lest You turn from me in silence.

**Epistle:** Galatians 6: 11-18

Brothers and Sisters! See, I write to you in my own large handwriting! Those who are trying to force you to be circumcised are making a play for human approval --- with an eye to escaping persecution for the cross of Christ. The very ones who accept circumcision do not follow the law themselves. They want you to be circumcised only that they may boast about your bodily observance. May I never boast of anything but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ! Through it, the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. It means nothing whether one is circumcised or not. All that matters

is that one is created anew. Peace and mercy on all who follow this rule of life, and on the Israel of God. Henceforth, let no man trouble me, for I bear the brand marks of Jesus in my body. Brothers, may the favour of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

**Alleluia Verses:** I have promoted the one chosen from my people and anointed him with my holy oil. My hand will be constantly with him, he will be able to rely on my arm.

**Gospel:** John 3: 13-17

The Lord said, "No one has gone to heaven except the One who came down from there -- the Son of Man who is in heaven. Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that all who believe may have eternal life in him. Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him may not die but may have eternal life. God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

**Instead of 'It is truly right...':** O my soul, extol the Virgin Mary, born of a barren womb. Mothers cannot be virgins, nor virgins be mothers; but in you, O Mother of God, both virginity and motherhood were present. Therefore, all the people of the earth unceasingly extol you.

**Communion Hymn:** I will take the chalice of salvation; and I will call upon the name of the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!