

## 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*

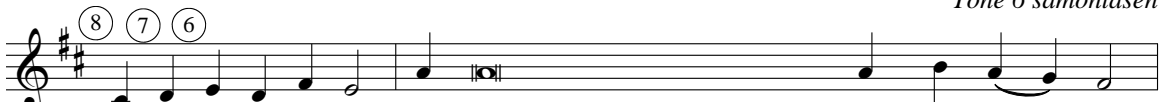
Bring my soul out of this prison  
and then I shall praise *your* name.

Around me the just will assemble  
because of your goodness *to* me.

**Cantor:** Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;  
(on 8) Lord, hear my voice!

**Psalm 129**

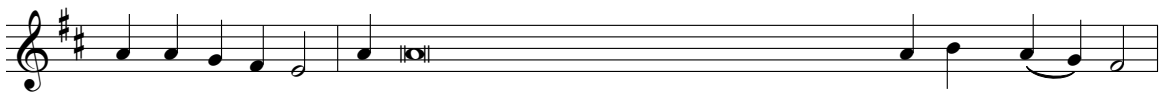
*Tone 6 samohlasen*



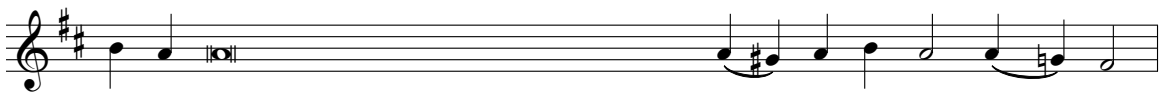
By its el - e - va-tion, the Cross is like an appeal to the whole cre - a - tion.



We a - dore the bless - ed pas - sion of Christ our God, who was



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



In his great goodness, he brought us back to life af - ter we had been dead.



In his mer - cy he clothed us with beau - ty and made us wor - thy of heav - en.

There-fore we exalt his name with great re - joic - ing, and glo - ri - fy  
his in - fi - nite com - pas - - - sion.

**Cantor:** Let your ears be attentive  
(on 7) to the voice of my pleading. (*Repeat "By its elevation..."*)

**Cantor:** If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord who would survive?  
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. (*Repeat "By its elevation..."*)

**Cantor:** My soul is longing for the Lord. I count on his word.  
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

O pre-cious Cross of the Lord, Mo - ses prefigured you when he stretched out his  
arms to heav - en, and thus defeated the haugh - ty A - ma - lek.  
You are the pride of the faith - ful, and the strength of those who strug - gle,  
the glo - ry of the Apostles, the cour - age of the just, and the  
sal - va - tion of the saints. There - fore, at the sight of your el - e - va - tion,

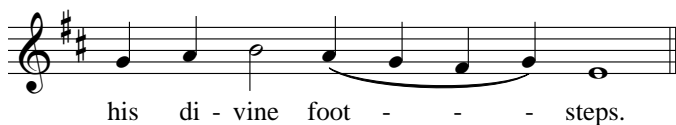
the whole creation rejoices, ex - alts, and glo - ri - fies Christ, whose good-ness  
 joined to - ge - ther those who had strayed.

**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 - erable Cross of the Lord, an - gels surround you with joy today at your  
 el - e - va - tion. You raise up those who had fallen and had been de - liv - ered  
 to death for hav - ing eaten of the for - bid - den tree. There - fore, we  
 praise you with our lips, beg - ging for sanctifi - ca - tion, say - ing:  
 Ex - alt Christ our gracious God, O you na - tions, and for - ev - er a - dore



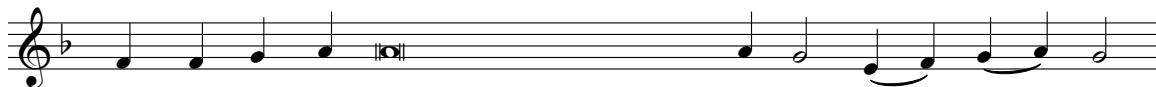
his di - vine foot - - - steps.

**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.



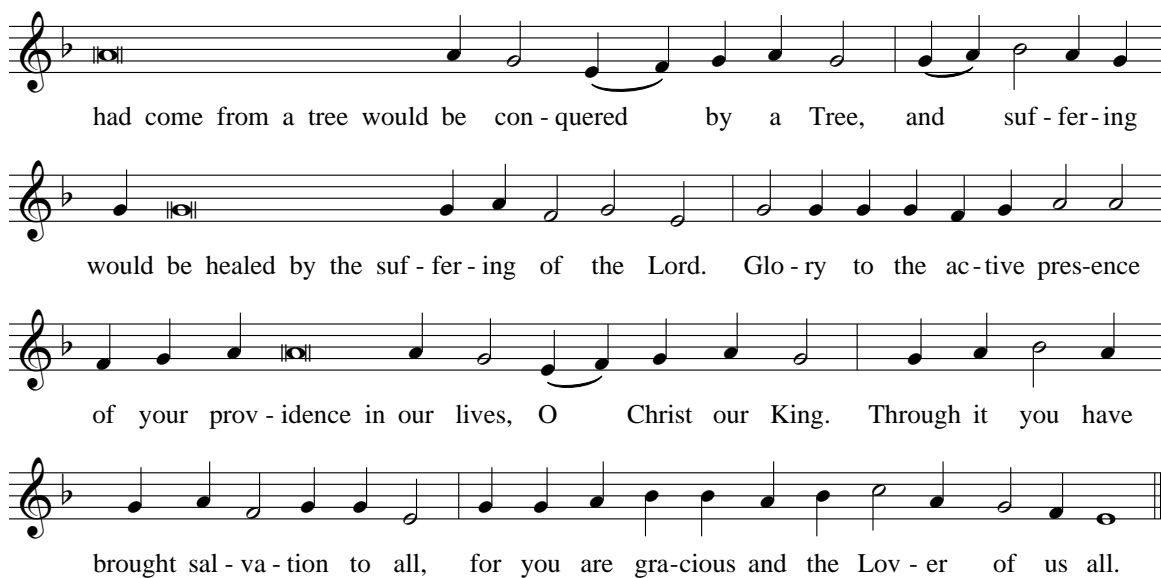
The ven - om of the serpent has been washed a - way by the di - vine



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

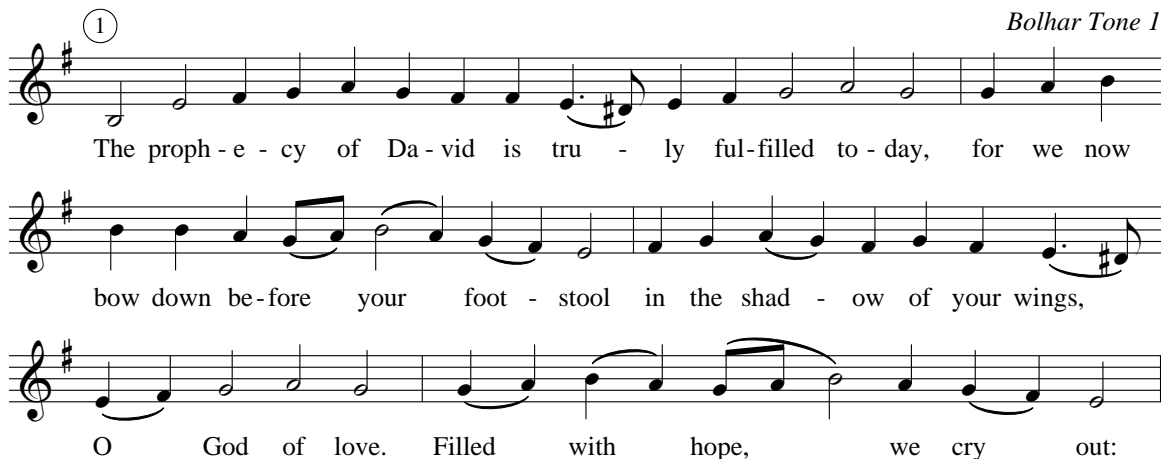


had come from a tree would be con- quered by a Tree, and suf- fer- ing  
 would be healed by the suf- fer- ing of the Lord. Glo- ry to the ac- tive pres- ence  
 of your prov- idence in our lives, O Christ our King. Through it you have  
 brought sal- va- tion to all, for you are gra- cious and the Lov-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

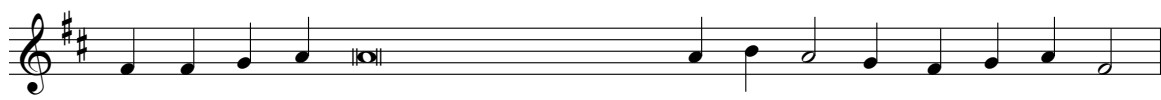
②

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. Casting 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,



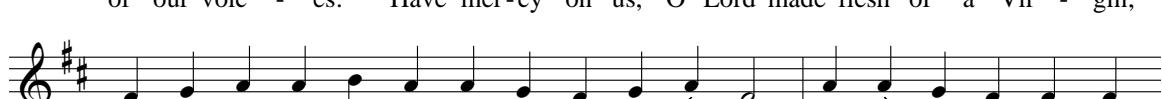
we the faith-ful of - fer it in de - vo - tion for the cleans-ing of our



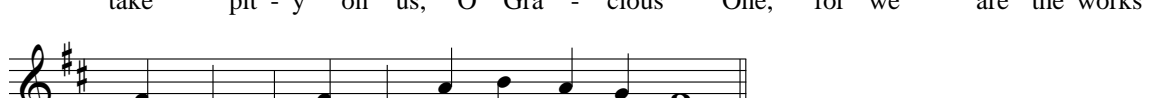
sins be - fore the good - ness of God. We cry a-loud with the full - ness



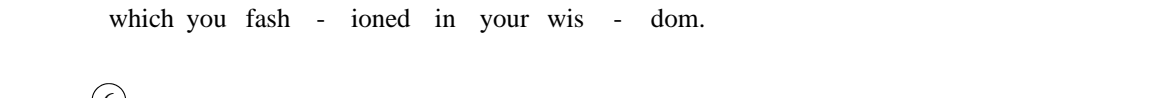
of our voic - es: Have mer-cy on us, O Lord made flesh of a Vir - gin;



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-against 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-quer-ed 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 samohlasen*

①  
 Joy to you, life-bearing Cross of the Lord, in - vin - cible triumph of the true faith.  
 You are the gate to Par - a - dise, the strength of the faithful and the stronghold  
 of the Church. Be - cause of you, corruption no longer has mean - ing or pow - er.  
 By you, we have been lifted up from earth to heav - en. You are an invincible  
 weapon a - gainst e - vil, a glo - ry indeed 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 - alt the Lord, our God, and wor-ship at his foot - stool, for he



is ho - - - ly.



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



de - liv - ered from the curse. In your ex - altation, you are a sign of true joy.



O Cross all - venerable, you scatter 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 gather 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 all ages; he has accomplished salvation in the



middle of the earth.

③



Joy to you, precious Cross of the Lord, guide to the blind and physician to the sick,



and resurrection to the dead. You raised us out of corruption and removed



the curse. Through you we have been made divine, and the power of Hades has



been destroyed in full. Therefore, seeing you lifted up today by our priests,



we exalt Christ who was suspended on you, and we bow deeply before you,



seeking forgiveness and great mercy.

**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 today,  
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*