

14 September 2008

**GREAT FEAST OF THE UNIVERSAL EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS  
AND LIFE-CREATING CROSS**

APOLYTIKION OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE ONE

O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all adversaries, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thine Estate.

*Note; we do NOT sing the apolytikion of the patron saint of the parish temple.*

KONTAKION OF THE CROSS (from the altar)

Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will was lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

THE ANTI-TRISAGION HYMN

Before Thy Cross we bow down in worship, Master, and we glorify Thy Holy Resurrection.

THE EPISTLE

*Exalt ye the Lord our God. The Lord reigneth; let the people tremble.*

**The Reading is from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (1:18-24)**

Brethren, the word of the Cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart." Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

THE GOSPEL

**The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John.**

**(19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35)**

At that time, the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death. And they came to Pontius Pilate saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no crime in Him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by that law He ought to die, because He has made Himself the Son of God." When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid; he entered the praetorium again and said to Jesus, "Where art Thou from?" But Jesus gave no answer. Pilate therefore said to Him, "Wilt Thou not

“speak to me? Knowest Thou not that I have power to release Thee, and power to crucify Thee?” Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over Me unless it had been given you from above.”

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called “The Pavement”, and in Hebrew, “Gabbatha.” Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” They cried out, “Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” Then he handed Him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus and led him away, and He went out, bearing His own Cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew “Golgotha.” There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the Cross; it read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.

Now standing by the Cross of Jesus were His mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother, and the Disciple whom He loved standing near, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” Then He said to the Disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the Disciple took her to his own home. After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now fulfilled, said, “It is finished”; and He bowed His head and gave up the spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him; but when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true.

### MEGALYNARION OF THE FEAST IN TONE EIGHT

*Magnify, O my soul, the most precious Cross of the Lord.*

Thou art the mystical paradise, O Theotokos; for that thou, being untilled, didst bud forth Christ, by Whom was planted on earth the life-giving tree of the Cross. Wherefore, as we adore it being elevated, we magnify thee.

### KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF THE FEAST IN TONE EIGHT

The light of Thy countenance hath been impressed on us, O Lord. Alleluia.

- *Instead of “We have seen the true light”, sing “O Lord, save Thy people...”*

**\*\*\* Announcements for the Week of September 14<sup>th</sup> \*\*\***

- ❖ **Today’s feast is observed as a fast day; unusual on Sunday. Therefore, this Sunday’s agape meal is Lenten in diet.**
- ❖ **Orthodox School now is in session. Students are dismissed with a blessing...**

- ❖ **Parish study, “Where have we been for 2,000 years? The story of the Church from the beginning up til now.”** This is the next segment of catechesis for inquirers, catechumens, and all interested faithful. On **Tuesdays, 7 PM, here at church.**
- ❖ Our **NEW SCHEDULE OF WEEKDAY SERVICES** is now in effect:
  - Vespers at 6 PM on Tuesday and Friday
  - Matins at 6 AM on Wednesday and Friday
  - Matins at 7 AM on Saturday (note well: not 8 AM any more)
- ❖ **Our synod of west coast Canonical Orthodox Bishops** have issued a strong and very robust statement regarding our Orthodox Christian faith and the moral crisis regarding marriage. Please take the time to read it most carefully; it is posted on the episcopal bulletin board, right near the front door.
- ❖ **Youth group is now meeting! Monday evening, every other week. See you tomorrow, at 5:30 PM.**
- ❖ **Men’s Breakfast: this coming Saturday after Matins, at Fr Patrick’s.**
- ❖ **Women’s Group: this coming Saturday, at 3 PM, at the Land’s house.**
- ❖ **Next Sunday: Annual Parish Meeting, all Voting Members should be present.**

***Happy Church New Year to all!***