

## **The 17<sup>th</sup> Day of September**

### **The Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross; the Holy Martyr Sophia and her Three Daughters: Faith, Hope and Charity**

#### **Evening Service**

**At “Lord, I have called...,” 6 stikhera**

**3 stikhera of the Afterfeast, in Tone 1: *To the melody, “Joy of the ranks of heaven....”***

**T**he Cróss is lífted up! /  
And demons are dríven away; /  
The good thief ópens again the gates of Páradise, /  
And deáth is óverthrown; /  
It now lies pówerless and Christ is mágnified! /  
Therefore, let those bórn on eárh be glad, ///  
For the curse has been lífted from us!

**C**óme, all ye God-loving peóple, /  
And let us behold the precious Cross as it is lífted úp today! /  
Let us exált and let us glórfify /  
The one Redeemer and Gód as we crý aloud: /  
O Thóu, who wast crucified on the Woód of the Cross, ///  
Disdain us not who práy to Thee!

**M**óses, in the dáys of old, /  
Prefiguring the Woód of the Cross, /  
Delivered Ísrael by making the bitter waters sweet by the woód of a tree. /  
Therefore, let us the faithful, mystically make the sígn of the Cróss in our hearts, ///  
That we may be saved by its pówer!

**And 3 stikhera of the Martyrs, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “Thou hast given a sign....”***

**T**he three virgin maídens /  
Bound together by the laws of náture, /  
Were bóundlessly strengthened by their love for the Creátor, /  
And by faith they loosed the bonds of decéption, /  
And filled with courage, they trampled beneath their feet the powerless ényemy; /  
Thus they were adorned with the radiant crowns of víctory, ///  
And rejoicing, they now dwell in the spiritual bridal chambers of heáven.

**F**aith, the all-praised maíden, /  
And Charity, imbúed with love, /  
Togéther with Hope, their sister, wíse in God, /  
Revealed themselves as worthy namesakes of the splendid vírtues, /  
And by their witness through suffering cast down the évil one, /

17 SEPTEMBER: AFTERFEAST OF THE EXALTATION; MARTYR SOPHIA AND HER  
DAUGHTERS: FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY

Who had cunningly deceived our first móther, Eve; /  
And having been thus deified, they regained the mansions of Páradise, ///  
Where they pray to God on behálf of us all.

**F**aith, together with Hope and Chárity, /  
And Sophia their móther /  
Sought with faíth the beautiful Brídegroom; /  
And adorning themselves with the scarlet of their mány wounds, /  
They united themséives to Him. /  
In that they had no regard for any torture, fíre, nor death, ///  
For their sake, O Lord, preserve us from every evil misfortune.

**Glory..., now and ever..., of the Feast in Tone 1: in the usual melody**

**T**he Tree of true lífe was planted in the pláce of th skull, /  
And upon it hast Thou, the etérnal King. /  
Worked salvátion in the mídst of the earth. /  
Exalted today, it sáncitifies the énds of the world, /  
And the Chúrch of the Resurrection celebrates its dedicátion. /  
Angels in heaven greatly rejoice and men upon eárth make glad, /  
Crying aloúid with David and saying: Extol the Lórd our God; /  
Worship at His footstool for ít is hólý, ///  
Granting the world great mércy.

*Or, the Dogmatic Theotokion, if a Resurrection service.*

**At the Apostikha, these stikhera of the Feast, in Tone 2: To the melody, “O House of Ephratha....”**

**L**ike a bride the Chuch is spléndidly adorned /  
With Thy blood and the wáter of grace ///  
And it proclaims the glóry of Thy Cross!

**Verse:** Extol the Lord our God; worship at His footstool for it is holy.

**R**aising up the speár and the Cross, /  
The nails, and áll the rest /  
With which the bódý of Chríst was pierced, ///  
Let us vénerate them!

**Verse:** God is our King before the ages: He hath wrought salvation in the midst of the earth.

**W**hen Moses defeated Ámelek /  
Stretching out his arms in the fórm of a cross, ///  
He prefigured the Most-pure súfferings of Christ.

**Glory..., now and ever..., in Tone 1: *in the usual melody***

**P**refíging Thy Cróss, O Christ, /  
Jacob the Patriarch, when he gave his blessing to his descéndants, /  
Laid his hánds crosswise upón their headas. /  
And today as we exalt Thy Cróss, O Sáviour, we cry: /  
Grant víctory to the Orthodox Chrsitians over their ádversaries, ///  
As Thou once granted victory to Cónstantine.

**The Troparion of the Feast, in Tone 1:**

**O** Lórd, save thy peóple /  
And bless Thine inhéritance. /  
Gránt victories to the Orthodox Chrístians /  
Over their ádversaries; /  
And by vírtue of Thy Cróss ///  
Presérve Thy habitátion.

**Morning Service**

The second canon of the Feast, with 8 troparia including the irmos,  
and that of the martyrs with 4 troparia each

*Incomplete as of 6/2017*

**The Troparion of the Martyrs, in Tone 5:**

**T**hou didst blóssom in the cóurts of the Lord /  
As a fruitful ólive tree, /  
O hólý martyr Sophía. /  
In thy cóntest thou didst offer to Christ the sweet fruít of thy womb: /  
Thy daughters Faith, and Hope, and Cháritý. ///  
Together with them intercède on behálf of us all.

**After the Third Ode:**

**The Kontakion of the Martyrs, in Tone 1: *To the melody, “Thy tomb, O Savior....”***

**T**he three sísters Faith, and Hope and Cháritý, /  
Have blossomed as the sacred branches of the blessèd Sophia, their móther. /  
For by gráce, they made foolish the wisdom of idólatry; /  
And having suffered, they revealed themselves as bearers of víctory. ///  
And were granted incorruptible crowns by Chríst, the Máster of all.

**After the Sixth Ode:**

**The Kontakion of the Feast, in Tone 4:** *The model for the special (podoben) melody:*

**A**s Thou wast voluntarily crucified for our sake, /  
Grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name. /  
Make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power /  
Granting them victories over their adversaries ///  
By bestowing upon them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace.

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