Stichera at the Litya

The Elevation of the Holy Cross – September 14

The holy saying of David truly has come to pass, for behold, in the sight of all, we venerate the footstool of Thine undefiled feet, and, putting our hope in the shadow of Thy wings, we cries aloud to Thee, O [all-compassionate . . .]

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all-compassionate Lord: "May the light of Thy countenance be marked as a sign upon us! Exalt the horn of Thine Orthodox people by the Exaltation of Thy precious Cross, // O Christ of many mercies!"

Sept. 14 - Elevation of the Cross - Litya stichera, Kievan chant - p. 2
The Tree of True Life was planted in the Place of the Skull and upon it hast Thou, the eternal King, worked salvation in the midst of the earth. Exalted today, it sanctifies the ends of the world, and the church of the Resurrection celebrates its dedication. Angels in heaven rejoice,
heaven rejoice, and men upon earth are glad,

crying aloud with David and saying: “Exalt the Lord

our God and worship at His footstool, // for He is

ho-ly, granting the world great mer-
cy!”

Sticheron 3

Prefiguring Thy Cross, O Christ, Ja-

[Patriarch, when he . . . ]
Patriarch, when he gave the blessing to his descendents,
laid his hands cross-wise upon their heads. And today

as we exalt Thy Cross, O Savior, we cry: "Give victory to Thine Orthodox people, as Thou once
gavest it to Constantine!"
Divine treasure hidden in the earth, the Cross of the Giver of Life appeared in the heavens to the godly king, and its inscription spiritually signified his victory over the enemy. Rejoicing with faith and love, and inspired by God he made haste to [raise on high the ...]
When the Patriarch Jacob crossed his hands while blessing his children,
blessing his children, he foreshadowed the mighty symbol of Thy Cross. Having this as our unshakable safeguard, we drive out with almighty strength the ranks of demons; and, casting down by it the arrogance of *Be-li-al we put to flight the all-destroying power of hateful Am-a-

*Pronounced: BEE - lee - uhl
lek. Now as the Cross is lifted on high, we the faithful piously offer it to Thy goodness for the cleansing of our sins, crying out in a loud voice: “Have mercy, O Lord, made flesh of the Virgin; take pity, O Good One, on the works that Thou hast fashioned in Thy wisdom.”
Sticheron 6

O three-branched Cross of Christ, thou art my strong protection. Sanctify me by thy might, that I may venerate and glorify thee in faith and love!

Tone 4

Let us proclaim today a festival of song, and with radiant faces and with our tongues let us cry aloud:

[“O Christ, Thou hast . . .”]
“O Christ, Thou hast accepted condemnation for us,

and, being spat upon, and scourged, Thou wast robed in purple and didst ascend the Cross. Seeing Thee,

sun and the moon hid their light, the earth quaked in fear,

and the veil of the Temple was torn in two.
Grant us Thy precious Cross as our guardian and protector,
driving demons away, that we may all embrace it and
cry out: ‘Save us, O Cross, by thy might! Sanctify us
by thy radiance, O precious Cross, and strengthen us
through thine Exaltation; // for thou hast been
[given to us as the ...]
given to us as the light and salvation of our souls!"

Thou, O Cross, as a sign radiant with light, formed of stars, hast prophetically revealed a trophy of victory to the heavenly king; and when his mother Hel-en found thee, she displayed thee in the sight of all the world. And we the choirs of faithful [shout aloud, as we ...]
shout aloud, as we exalt thee today: "Enlighten us with thy brightness, O life-bearing Cross! Sanctify us by thy might, O all venerable Cross, and strengthen us through thine Exaltation, // when thou art lifted on high before the ranks of our enemies!"