Stichera Aposticha

The Elevation of the Cross - September 14

Optina Hermitage Melody
Original melody “Rejoice”
arr. by G. Ealy & V. Morosan

Tone 5
Sticheron 1

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Rejoice, O life-bearing Cross: invincible

triumph of godliness, gate of Paradise,

and protection of the faithful! The Cross is

the might of the Church, through which corruption

*) In some harmonizations, an F♯ is sung here. The original chant melody does not have an F♯, however. In this arrangement, the use of an F♯ in the places marked with † is optional.

NOTE: May be sung a half-step or a step higher.

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is abolished, through which the power of death is crushed, and we are raised from earth to heaven. O invincible weapon, the adversary of demons, the glory of the martyrs,
the true adornment of venerable saints,

and the haven of salvation, //

which grants the world great mercy.

v. Extol the Lord our God: and worship at His footstool, for He is holy! (Ps. 98:5)

Sticheron 2

Rejoice, O Cross of the Lord, through which mankind has been delivered from the curse! You are a

[sign of true joy]
sign of true joy, shattering our enemies by your

Exaltation. O Cross, worthy of all

honor, you are our help, you are the

strength of kings. You are the power of the

righteous. You are the majesty of priests.

[All who sign . . .]
All who sign themselves with you are freed from danger. O rod of strength, under which we like sheep are tended, you are a weapon of peace around which the angels stand in fear.

You are the divine glory of Christ, // Who grants the

[world great mercy.]
v. God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth! (Ps. 73:13)

Sticheron 3

Rejoice, O guide of the blind, physician of the sick and resurrection of all the dead; you have raised us up when we were fallen into mortality. O precious Cross, through you corruption has been destroyed,
been destroyed, and incorruption has blossomed forth. We mortals are made di-
vine, and the devil is completely overthrown.

Today, as we see you exalted by the hands of bishops, we exalt Him Who was lifted up up-
[upon you, . . .]
on you, and we fall down in worship be-fore

you, // draw-ing rich streams of great mer- cy.