

1 AUGUST
*** The Seven Maccabean Martyrs**
Procession of the Holy Cross

VESPERS

Lord I have cried

Tone 4

O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;
 O Lord, listen to me.

O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;
 Note the voice of my plea when I cry to you.
 O Lord, listen to me.

² Let my prayer be directed before you like incense,
 the raising of my hands be an evening sacrifice.
 O Lord, listen to me.

S6: O Lord, if you mark offences, who will stand?
 But there is forgiveness with you.

Let us honour the precious cross as the universal way of protection and the source from which all holiness flows. It calms the passions, makes sickness cease and rescues sufferers from all pain. It pours out miracles in streams more numerous than those of the sea on the faithful who venerate it and bow down in worship before it.

S5: O Lord, I have waited for you for your name's sake;
 my soul has waited for your word,
 my soul has hoped in the Lord.

As we sail on the waves of life and are tossed by the storms of passion, we take refuge by placing faith in the redeeming and precious cross, as though in a ship which can tow us. It will calm waves, spirits and passions. Through it we will come with joy to the safe harbour of salvation and will not be overcome by the rough sea.

S4: Let Israel hope in the Lord
 from morning watch until night,
 from morning watch.

The all-holy cross shone brighter than the sun. It radiated marvels like rays and healings like arrows in flight. Let all of us who are restrained every day by the darkness of evil approach it, and receive light-giving grace and healing. Glorify the God who was nailed in the flesh on this wood.

Tone 1

S3: For there is mercy with the Lord
 and abundant redemption with *him*.
 He will redeem Israel from all his offences.

Persecution did not shake the roof of the law which was firmly supported by seven pillars. For *the martyrs*, these noble young men and brothers, guardians of the oracles of Moses, bravely endured the senseless fury of their tormentor and gave their bodies to the executioners.

S2: Every nation, praise the Lord;
 every people, acclaim him!

After they had raised their minds above visible things and their bodily limbs were cut down, the courageous and just youths, with their divinely-wise mother, were strengthened by the great hopes which have been fulfilled, for they now rest in the bosom of their forefather Abraham.

S1: For his mercy is strengthened over us
 and the truth of the Lord remains for ever.

The most holy Eleázer, the young men and their divinely wise mother, armed themselves firmly with youthful boldness of soul, gathered strength from zeal, and steadfastly attacked the adversary for the sake of holiness *and* to preserve the law of their fathers.

Glory: Tone 8

The holy Maccabees said to the tyrant, "O Antíochos, there is only one King for us, the God in whom we have our being and to whom we turn. A world higher and more lasting than the one we see waits for us. Our homeland is the sure and invincible Jerusalem which now keeps this solemn feast with the angels above." O Lord, have mercy on us and save us through their prayers.

Both now:

In ancient times Moses prefigured the Cross when he cast down Amalek in defeat. Your Cross is the footstool which David the psalmist proclaimed worthy of veneration. O Christ our God, we sinners honour it today with unworthy lips. We implore you, since you were willingly nailed to it, "O Lord, together with the thief, make us worthy of your kingdom."

Entrance

Phos Ilarón

P/D: Wisdom! Stand upright!
 O Jesus Christ, joyful light of the holy glory
 of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father,
 when we come to the setting of the sun
 and see the light of evening,
 we praise God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

For it is right at all times to worship you
 with voices of praise,
 O Son of God *and* Giver of life.
 Therefore the world glorifies you.

Prokeímenon

Of the Day

Ektení

Prayer

O Lord, allow us this night to be guarded from sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers! Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. O Lord, let your mercy be on us, for we have hoped in you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes. Blessed are you, O Master; make me understand your statutes. Blessed are you, O Holy *One*; enlighten me with your statutes. O Lord, your mercy lasts for ever; do not overlook the work of your hands. To you belongs worship, to you belongs praise, to you belongs glory, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and to ages of ages. Amen.

Plírotiká

Prayer

P: Peace be with you all. R: And with your spirit
 D: Bow down your heads to the Lord. R: To you, O Lord.

P: For blessed and glorified is the power of your Kingdom, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*.

Apósticha

Tone 1

O lovers of solemn assemblies, come and celebrate the Procession of the Cross. Let us reveal our joy and cry out in the fullness of faith, "O Cross of Christ, sanctify us and save us from all harm by your might and by the grace of the *Lord* who was raised on you."

S1: Exalt the Lord our God

and worship at his footstool. ps 98

The holy Cross prepares the way to heaven for all those who bow before it with reverence and love. The *Lord* who was nailed to it joins all those, who praise it with love, to the choirs of the bodiless angels.

S2: God *was* our King in the past;

he has brought about salvation in the midst of the earth. *Ps 73*

As we venerate the precious Cross with faith, we worship the Master whom it crucified. We purify our souls with the honour from our lips and reveal our joy as we praise the sacred radiance of the Cross.

Glory: Tone 8

The souls of the just, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the forefathers before the law, together with their descendants, the Maccabees, whom we now praise, are in the hands of God. For these sons of Abraham followed him in the faith with strength of soul; they wrestled even to death for the sake of godliness. They were raised in reverence, fought worthily and rebuked the godless Antiochos. For the sake of eternal life they scorned the things of this world and set on one side their lives, both soul and body, for God. O holy mother, who gave birth to these seven sons for us, O Maccabees together with her, and O wise priest Eleázar, as you stand before Christ our God for whom you laboured and as you enter the fruits of your reward, continually pray to him for the human race, for he answers those who faithfully pray to him in accordance with his will.

Both now:

O God, the voice of your prophet Moses cried out, "See your life as it hangs before your eyes." So today the Cross is raised and the world set free from error. Today Christ's resurrection is renewed. The ends of the earth rejoice with David in songs and cymbals, "O God, you have accomplished salvation in the midst of the earth." This is the crucifixion and resurrection by which we are saved. All-powerful and good Lord, O Lover of the human race, glory to you!

Song of Simeon

B/P: O Master, now let your servant depart in peace according to your word,
² for my eyes have seen your salvation,
 which you have prepared before all peoples,
³ a light of revelation for *the* nations
 and *the* glory of your people Israel.

Triságon Prayers

Apolytikia

Tone 1

O Lord and Lover of the human race, we implore you, to cover and heal all our infirmities by the sufferings of your saints which they endured for you.

Tone 1

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over the adversaries and preserve your commonwealth through your cross.

Dismissal

ORTHROS

God is the Lord Ps 117

R: God is the Lord and has appeared to us.

Blessed is the one who comes in the Lord's name. *Ps 117*

S1: Thank the Lord, for he is good,
 for his mercy lasts for ever.

S2: All the nations surrounded me,
 but I opposed them in the Lord's name.

S3: This *is* the Lord's doing
 and it is wonderful in our eyes.

Apolytikia

Tone 1

O Lord and Lover of the human race, we implore you, to cover and heal all our infirmities by the sufferings of your saints which they endured for you.

Tone 1

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over the adversaries and preserve your commonwealth through your cross.

Small Litany

P: For yours is the might, and yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Kathisma 1

Tone 1

The whole creation assembles today to observe a festival and mystically to dance, for the wood of the cross is placed before us. The one who was placed on it is a Physician who freely grants healing to those who run to him with reverence and love. Let us glorify Christ who was crucified for our sake on the cross. *X2*

Kathisma 2

Tone 4

Today the cross comes out in procession. It is a cause of joy for us all, for it sanctifies the souls and bodies of those who venerate it with faith. *X2*

Small Litany

P: For blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Psalm 50

O God, have mercy on me in your abundant mercy
 and wipe out my offence through your great compassion.
⁴ Wash me thoroughly from my lawless act
 and cleanse me from my sin.
⁵ For I know my lawlessness
 and my sin is always before me.
⁶ I have sinned against you alone
 and done this evil before you
^{6b} so that you might be justified in your words
 and overcome when you are judged.
⁷ For see, I was conceived in lawlessness
 and my mother gave birth to me in sin.
⁸ For see, you have loved truth
 and revealed to me the hidden and secret *things* of your wisdom.
⁹ You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I will be clean;
 you will wash me and I will become whiter than snow.
¹⁰ You will make me hear about joy and gladness;
 the humbled bones will rejoice.
¹¹ Turn your face from my sins
 and wipe out all my lawlessness.
¹² O God, create a pure heart within me
 and renew an upright spirit within me.
¹³ Do not banish me from your presence
 or remove your Holy Spirit from me.
¹⁴ Restore the joy of your salvation to me
 and make me firm with your directing Spirit.
¹⁵ I will teach the lawless your ways
 and the ungodly will return to you.
¹⁶ O God, set me free from the guilt of blood;
 O God of my salvation,
 my tongue will rejoice in your justice.
¹⁷ O Lord, you will open my lips
 and my mouth will proclaim your praise.
¹⁸ For if you had wanted sacrifice, I would have given it;
 you will not be pleased with burnt offerings.
¹⁹ Sacrifice for God is a broken spirit;

God will not despise a broken and humbled heart.

²⁰ O Lord, be good to Zion in your pleasure
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built.

²¹ Then you will be pleased with a sacrifice of justice,
with an offering and burnt sacrifices;
then they will offer calves on your altar.

Kontákia

Tone 4

O Christ our God, as you were willingly raised on the cross, grant mercies to your new community called by your name. Make firm our faithful rulers with your power and grant them victories over their enemies. May your help be a weapon of peace and an invincible trophy.

Tone 2

Most wise Maccabees, seven pillars of the wisdom of God, divinely lit seven-branched candlestick, great martyrs before the martyrs of Christ, join them and ask the God of all to save those who honour you.

Íkos

O Zion, praise your God. He has strengthened the bars of your gates and blessed your sons within you. They formed an unyielding line to resist the assaults of the adversary. O Maccabees since you rejoice in the crowns of victory from heavenly Zion, approach the throne of God and continually pray for all people. Ask him to rescue those who honour you.

Synaxáριον

Today we remember the seven holy martyred Maccabee brothers, Avím, Antónios, Gourías, Eleázar, Efsevoná, Achím and Markéllos, as well as their mother Solomoni, and their teacher, Eleázar. The Syrian king Antíochos wanted to Hellenise his empire. In Palestine the Law was to be burnt, circumcision discontinued and the Sabbath observance banned. The seven brothers, their mother and the aged Eleázar refused, were taken to Antioch and killed after torture. The First saw the devout woman reunited with her seven triumphant sons because of the fire.

We also remember:

The Procession of the Cross

Hermit Kenneth of Llangenith C6

Bishop Ethelwold of Winchester C10

O God, have mercy on us through their holy prayers. Amen

Katavasías

1: Moses inscribed the invincible weapon of the cross on the waters and marked a straight line before him with his staff. He divided the Red Sea and opened a path for Israel who went over dry shod. Then he marked a second line across the waters and united them in one, overwhelming the chariots of Pharaoh. Therefore let us sing to Christ our God, for he has been glorified.

3: The rod of Aaron is an image of this mystery; it comes into bud to show who should be priest. So the wood of the cross has now flowered in the Church that once was barren and filled her with strength and steadfastness.

4: O Lord, I have heard the mystery of your dispensation. I have considered your works and I glorified your divinity.

5: O three times blessed tree, on which Christ the King and Lord was stretched, the beguiler who tempted the human race with the tree fell because of you. He was caught in the trap set by God who was crucified on you in the flesh and grants peace to our souls.

6: Jonah stretched out his hands in the form of a cross within the belly of the whale and plainly prefigured your redeeming passion. He was cast out after three days and foreshadowed the mighty

resurrection of Christ our God who was crucified in the flesh and enlightened the world by his rising on the third day.

7: The senseless decree of the wicked tyrant confused the people and breathed out threats and blasphemy hateful to God. Yet neither the fury of wild beasts nor the roaring of the fire could frighten the three children. When they stood together in the flame and were fanned by the wind which brought refreshment like the dew, they sang, "Blessed are you and praised above all, our God and the God of our fathers!"

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord.

O children, equal in number to the Trinity, bless God the Father and Creator. Sing the praises of the Word who descended and changed the fire to dew and exalt above all for ever the most Holy Spirit who gives life to all.

Ode 9

My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour. **R**

R: *You are* more honourable than the Cherubim
and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim.
You gave birth to God the Word without defilement;
O true Theotokos, we glorify you.

² For he has regarded his servant's humility;
see, from now all generations will call me blessed. **R**

³ For the Almighty has accomplished great *things* for me
and his name is holy.

His mercy is from generation to generation
on those who fear him. **R**

⁴ He has accomplished strength with his arm
and scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. **R**

⁵ He has put down the mighty from *their* thrones
and exalted the humble.

He has satisfied the hungry with good *things*
and dismissed the rich with nothing. **R**

⁶ He has helped his servant Israel
in remembering his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and his seed for ever. **R**

9: O Theotokos, you are a mystical Paradise in which Christ blossomed. Through him the life-bearing wood of the Cross was planted on earth. Now at its elevation we bow in worship before it and glorify you.

Small Litany

P: For all the powers of heaven praise you, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Exaposteilária

Tone 2

Let us sing the praises of the Maccabees, children of Eleazar and Solomoni, for they laid low the arrogance of the enemy and were crowned in the service of the law.

Tone 2

The cross is the guardian of the whole earth; the cross is the beauty of the Church. The cross is the strength of kings; the cross is the support of the faithful. The cross is the glory of angels and the wounder of demons.

Praises

Tone 4

Let everything with breath praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights.
To you, O God, is due a song.

Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his powers.
To you, O God, is due a song.

S6: Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him for the abundance of his majesty.
Let us cry out with shouts of victory and glorify the precious Cross
with song. Let us venerate it and say aloud, "Most blessed Cross,
sanctify our souls and bodies by your might; preserve from every
danger those who reverently honour you.

S5: Praise him with the trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp.
Come and draw the eternal water which flows from the grace of the
cross. See the holy tree which lies before you, the source of grace
which comes through the water and blood of the Lord of all. He
freely determined to be raised, so that he might raise mortals
through it.

S4: Praise him with cymbal and dance;
praise him with strings and flute.
O holy cross, you are the adornment of the Church, the strength of
kings and the salvation of monastics. Through your veneration we
are enlightened today in heart and soul by divine grace from the one
who was nailed on you. We lay low the power of the enemy and
put the curse to death.

Tone 1

S3: Praise him with tuneful cymbals;
praise him with joyful cymbals.
Let everything with breath praise the Lord.
The mother who laboured greatly called her own children to the
struggle. She said, "Follow the venerable Abraham and share in the
sacrifice of Isaac. They accepted her guidance and followed what
she taught; they saw one another as they paid the penalty of torture.
O God, have mercy on us through their prayers.

Tone 4

S1: God is wonderful in his saints;
the God of Israel will give power and strength to his people. Ps 67
Seven chosen pillars were hewn from one living rock and they
showed that the tower of the law was unshaken. O Saviour,
preserve our souls in peace through them.

S2: The Lord is wonderful in the saints on his earth;
all his goodwill *is* for them. Ps 15
The sons of Solomoní, the guardians of the law, cried aloud as they
struggled in the arena. "Antiochos, we are steadfast for the law of
our fathers. Neither fire, sword, wild animals or flogging can part
us. We will die with our mother, our teacher and father. We will
live and rejoice throughout all ages.

Glory: Tone 4

War has been raised against the Maccabees. O faithful, come and
see their courage. The king and tyrant who ruled over all nations
was conquered by an old man, seven children and a woman. O
God, have mercy on us through their prayers.

Both now:

O Lord, you gave our ancestor David strength to defeat the alien. O
King, in our faith and you have struggled with us and thrown down
our enemies with the weapon of the Cross. O Compassionate One,
reveal your mercy to us as of old; may our adversaries know that
you are God indeed. Then those of us who put our trust in you will
be victorious through the prayers of your Mother who continually
intercedes for us to be granted great mercy.

Great Doxology

Glory to you who have shown us the light!
glory to God in the highest!
Peace on earth and goodwill to men!
² We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we thank you for your great glory,
³ O Lord King, heavenly God, almighty Father,
O Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
and you, O Holy Spirit!
⁴ O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us,
for you take away the sin of the world.
⁵ Receive our prayer,
for you sit on the right of the Father,
and have mercy on us.
⁶ For only you are holy, only you are Lord,
O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.
⁷ I will bless you every day
and always praise your name for ever and ever. Ps 144
⁸ O Lord, allow us this day
to be guarded from sin.
⁹ Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers!
Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. Daniel 3
¹⁰ O Lord, let your mercy *be* on us,
for we have hoped in you. Ps 32.
¹⁶ Blessed are you, O Lord!
Teach me your statutes. X3 Ps 118
¹² O Lord, you have been our refuge
from generation to generation. Ps 89
I said, "O Lord, have mercy on me;
heal my soul, for I have sinned against you." Ps 40
¹⁴ O Lord, I have fled to you;
teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Ps 142
¹⁵ For with you is the source of life
and in your light we will see light. Ps 35
¹⁶ Stretch out your mercy
to those who know you. Ps 35

Triságion

Apolytikion

Tone 1

O Lord and Lover of the human race, we implore you, to cover and
heal all our infirmities by the sufferings of your saints which they
endured for you.

LITURGY

Antiphon 1 Ps 91 Tone 5

S1: It is good to thank the Lord
and make melody to your name, O Most High.
R: At the prayers of the Theotokos, Saviour, save us!

S2: To announce your mercy in the morning
and your truth by night,
S3: For the Lord our God is upright
and there is no injustice in him.
S4: Glory: Both now:

Antiphon 2 Ps 94 Tone 2

S1: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord,
and shout with joy to God our Saviour.
R: Save us, O Son of God. You are wonderful in your saints.
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"
S2: Let us enter his presence with gratitude
and shout with gladness to him in psalms.

For the Lord is a great God
and an exalted king over all the earth.
S3: For the ends of the earth are in his hand
and the summits of the mountains are his.
For the sea is his and he made it;
his hands have formed the dry land.

Monogenes

Antiphon 3 Ps 98 & 27 Tone 1

S1: Exalt the Lord our God
and worship at his footstool. ps 98

R: O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries and preserve your commonwealth through your cross.

S2: O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance. ps 27

S3: Guide them and exalt them for ever. ps 27

Entrance Ps 94

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.
Save us, O Son of God
You are wonderful in your saints.
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

Apolytikia

Tone 1

O Lord and Lover of the human race, we implore you, to cover and heal all our infirmities by the sufferings of your saints which they endured for you.

Tone 1

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over the adversaries and preserve your commonwealth through your cross.

Of the Church

Kontákion

Tone 4

Since you were willingly crucified for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by your name. Make all Orthodox Christians glad in your power. Grant them victories over their adversaries by giving them the invincible trophy - your weapon of peace.

Triságion Substitute

O Master, we bow before yours cross
and glorify your resurrection. X3

Glory: Both now:

and glorify your resurrection.
Dynamis

O Master, we bow before yours cross
and glorify your resurrection.

Prokeímenon Ps 67 Tone 4

R: God is wonderful in his saints;.

S: Bless God, in *the* churches.

Apóstolos

From the Letter of Paul to the Hebrews (11:33 – 12:2)

Brothers, all the saints through faith subdued kingdoms, worked out justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, grew mighty in war, and turned to flight armies of aliens. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others were tried by mocking and scourging, yes, moreover by bonds and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned. They were sawn apart. They were tempted. They were slain with the sword. They went around in sheep skins and in goat

skins; being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated ³⁸(of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts, mountains, caves, and the holes of the earth. ³⁹These all, having had testimony given to them through their faith, did not receive the promise, ⁴⁰God having provided some better thing concerning us, so that apart from us they should not be made perfect. ¹Therefore let us also, seeing we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Alleluia Ps 33 Tone 4

S1: The just cried and the Lord heard them;
he released them from all their afflictions.

2: The afflictions of the just are many,
but the Lord will deliver them from everything.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (10:16-22)

The Lord said to his disciples: "See, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷Beware of men; for they will deliver you up to councils, and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear testimony before them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹When they deliver you up, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour; ²⁰for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹Brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; ²²and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

Communion Ps 4

O Lord, the light of your face has been signed on us. Alleluia!