

September 17

**Fourth day of the Holy Cross;
Commemoration of the Holy Martyr Sophia
and of her three daughters, Faith, Hope and Charity
(5th Class)**

GREAT VESPERS

At "O Lord, to You I call..."

Stichera of the Resurrection (Tone 7)

10. Come, let us rejoice in the Lord who crushed the power of Death and enlightened the human race; let us cry out with the angels of Heaven: "Our Maker and Savior, glory to You!"
9. You suffered crucifixion and burial for us, O Savior; but being God, You put Death to death by Your death. Wherefore we bow down before Your Resurrection on the third day, O Lord: glory to You!
8. When the disciples saw the Resurrection of the Maker, they were rapt in wonder and sang the angelic hymns of praise: "This is the glory of the Church! This is the wealth of the Kingdom! Glory to You who suffered for us!"

Stichera of Anatolios the Patriarch (Tone 7)

7. Even arrested and in the hands of the transgressors of the Law, You are still my God, O Christ; and my hope is not in vain. Even when I see You scourged, I will not deny You. When I see You on the Cross, I will not hide away, for I glory in Your Resurrection; and Your death is



my life! O Almighty One and Lover of Mankind, O Lord: glory to You!

6. Christ God fulfilled in Himself David's prophecies: He manifested His wondrous deeds in Sion when He proved Himself to be forever praised and glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit. A pure spirit before the incarnation, the Word of God, now incarnate, died for us as man and rose by His own power, for He is the Lover of Mankind.
5. O Christ, by Your own free will, You went down into Hades. Being Lord and Master, You despoiled Death; You rose on the third day; and from the fetters of Hades and its corruption, You raised up Adam who is crying and saying: "Glory to Your Resurrection, O You the only One who love mankind!"

For the Feast (Tone 6)

4. O precious Cross of the Lord, Moses prefigured you when he stretched out his arms to heaven and thus defeated the haughty Amalek. You are the pride of the faithful, the strength of those who struggle. You are the beauty of the apostles, the courage of the just and salvation of all the saints. Wherefore, at the sight of your elevation, the whole creation rejoices and exults and glorifies Christ whose goodness tied all things into one.
3. O precious Cross (*Repeat*)
2. O most venerable Cross of the Lord, the angels surround you with joy. By your elevation today, you raise those who had been cast down and delivered to death for having eaten of the forbidden tree. Wherefore we honor

you in the faith of our hearts and praise you with our lips, begging for sanctification and saying, "Exalt the supreme goodness of Christ our God, O you nations, and adore His divine footstool forever!"

1. O most venerable (*Repeat*)

v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

Stavrotheotokion - Feast (Tone 2)

Come, all you nations, let us bow in worship to the blessed Cross of the Lord through which eternal justice came to us. He who deceived Adam, the first man, was conquered by a tree; and the same who fettered the royal creation by his guile has been cast down into nothingness. The serpent's venom has been washed away by the divine blood of Christ, and the curse of sin has been lifted by a rightful sentence when the just Christ was condemned unjustly. By God' plan, death that had come from a tree would be conquered by a tree, and suffering would be healed by the suffering of the Lord. Glory be to the active presence of Your providence in our lives, O Christ our king: Through it, You have brought about salvation for all, O You who are gracious and the Lover of mankind!

- now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Dogmatikon (Tone 7)

Immaculate Mother of God, you became a mother outside the laws of nature, remaining a virgin in a way that exceeds all description and human understanding. The wonder of your birth-giving could not be told in human language, for your conception of Christ blinded intelligence, and your birth-giving exceeded



understanding: for whenever God so desires, the laws of nature are broken. Wherefore, we all firmly believe that you are the Mother of God, and we eagerly beseech you to intercede for the salvation of our souls.

Entrance. "O Joyful Light..." Prokimenon of Saturday evening.

APOSTICHA (*Tone 7*)

1. You rose from the dead, O Savior of the world, and through Your body You raised up mankind. O Lord, glory to You!
- v. The Lord has reigned and He is clothed in splendor. The Lord is robed, He is girt about with might.
2. Let us worship the One who rose from the dead and enlightened all mankind: through His Resurrection on the third day, He has delivered us from the oppression of Hades and bestowed life and great mercy upon us all.
- v. For he has settled the earth: it shall remain unmoved.
3. You went down into Hades and despoiled Death, O Christ; You rose on the third day and raised us up with You: we glorify Your all-powerful Resurrection, O Lord, Lover of Mankind!
- v. Righteousness is fitting for your house, O Lord, throughout eternity.
4. Even in the tomb as if asleep, You were awe-inspiring, O Lord. Being all powerful, You rose on the third day and with You, raised up Adam who cried out: "Glory to Your Resurrection, O You who alone are the Lover of Mankind!"

- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

For the Feast (Tone 8)

O Christ God, we poor sinners bow deeply today before Your precious Cross. Moses had prefigured it in himself when he defeated Amalek, and David the Psalmist, when he told us to "worship at His footstool". Wherefore, with unworthy lips we sing a hymn of praise to You who condescended to be nailed on this Cross and with the thief, we cry out to You: "O Lord, make us worthy of Your Kingdom!"

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION (*Tone 7*)

You destroyed Death by Your Cross, You opened Paradise to the Thief! You changed the weeping of the Myrrhbearers and commanded Your Apostles to proclaim that You, O Christ God, have risen, granting to the world great mercy!

- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

TROPARION OF THE CROSS (*Tone 1*)

O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Grant victory to our country over its enemies; and preserve Your community by the power of Your Cross!

(or) O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting peace to the world; and preserve Your community by the power of Your Cross!