

# August 1

**Procession of the Honorable and Life-giving Cross;  
Commemoration of the Seven Holy Maccabee Youths, their  
mother Salome, and their instructor, the Elder Eleazar**  
(4th Class)

## VESPERS

*Stichera for the Cross (Tone 4)*

6. Let us venerate the precious Cross as the universal means of protection and the source from which all holiness flows. It stills the passions, makes sickness cease and delivers sufferers from all pain. It pours forth miracles in streams more numerous than those of the sea upon the faithful who honor it and bow down in worship before it.
5. As we sail upon the waves of life, tossed by the storms of the passions, we take refuge in faith in the redeeming and precious Cross as in a ship that can tow us. It will calm waves, spirits and passions. By it, we shall come with joy to the safe harbor of salvation without being overcome by the rough sea.
4. The all-holy Cross shone more brightly than the sun, radiating wonders like rays and healings like arrows in flight. Let all of us who are daily bound by the darkness of evil things draw near to it and receive light-giving grace and healing. Magnify the God who was nailed in the flesh upon this wood.

*For the Martyrs (Tone 1)*

3. Cruelty could not shake down the roof of the Law which rested on the seven pillars, the Maccabee brothers. They

courageously endured the senseless persecution, surrendering their bodies to the executioners. They were guardians of the traditions of Moses, those noble young men and blood brothers.

2. Lifting up their minds above visible things, these pious and noble young men, together with their wise mother, allowed their bodies to be butchered, for they were strengthened by their great hope. They have found their fulfillment now that they rest in the bosom of their father Abraham.
1. The wise young men, their holy mother and the venerable Eleazar armed themselves with courage in the nobility of their hearts. As they aroused the fury of their enemy, they conducted themselves with steadfastness before him for the sake of the Faith and the observance of the Law.
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

*Doxastikon (Tone 8)*

The holy Maccabee brothers said to the tyrant: "O Antiochos, for us there is only one King, and He is God. Through Him we have come into being, and to Him we return. Another world, higher and more lasting than the one we see, awaits us. Our homeland is the heavenly and indestructible Jerusalem; and for us, she now keeps feast with the angels above!" By their prayers, O Lord, have mercy on us and save us!

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

*Theotokion*

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 Your footstool." Wherefore with unworthy lips we sing a hymn of praise to You who condescended to be nailed upon this Cross; and with the Thief we cry out to You: "O Lord, make us worthy of Your Kingdom!"

*"O Joyful Light..." Prokimenon of Wednesday evening.*

**APOSTICHA** (*Tone 1*)

1. All you who love the feasts, come now and celebrate this solemn festival with the procession of the Cross. Let us rejoice and sing in the security of our Faith: "O Cross of Christ, by the grace of Him who was elevated on you, sanctify us; and deliver us from all evil by your power!"

All: Exalt the Lord our God; bow down before His footstool; He, the Lord, is holy.

2. The holy Cross prepares the way to Heaven for all those who humbly prostrate themselves before it with reverence and love. He who was nailed upon it joins to the choirs of bodiless angels all those who praise it with love.

All: The Lord is King from of old, and He has brought about salvation in the midst of the earth.

3. As we fall prostrate before the precious Cross with faith, let us worship the Lord who was crucified upon it. At His invitation, let us purify our lips and hearts, and let us rejoice in its mystical light as we praise it.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

*Doxastikon* (*Tone 8*)

The souls of the just are in the hands of the Lord. Thus it is with the forefathers before the Law: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; and thus it is also with their descendants, the Maccabees, whom we celebrate today. For these men of undaunted courage, as worthy sons of Abraham, imitated his faith, and fought for it unto death. Brought up together in piety, they struggled together according to the Law. They stood up to the impiety of the evil Antiochos. Counting the things of this passing life as nothing in the light of eternal blessedness, they consecrated everything to the Lord: their souls, their strength, their hearts, their young bodies and the fruits of a holy upbringing. What a root filled with Faith that blossomed you forth as fruit, O Maccabees: that mother who gave birth to you, children equal in number to the days of the week. Thus we pray to you, O holy brothers, together with your mother Salome and your wise teacher, the priest Eleazar: since you now enjoy the fruits merited by your pains, ceaselessly intercede for all mankind; for He does whatever He wills, and He hears the prayers of those who fear Him.

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

*Theotokion*

O Lord, behold the fulfillment of the words of Your prophet Moses, who said, "You will see your life hanging before your eyes!" Today the Cross is exalted and the world is set free from error. Today the Church of the Resurrection of Christ is renewed; the ends of the earth exult with joy, offering You a hymn of praise to the sound of cymbals with David, saying, "O our God, You have brought about salvation in the midst of the earth,

in Your goodness and love for mankind: the Cross and the Resurrection by which You have saved us! O Lord almighty, glory to you!"

**TROPARION OF THE MARTYRS** *(Tone 1)*

Regard the sufferings which Your holy martyrs have endured for Your sake; and heal all our sufferings, we beg You, O loving Lord.

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!

*After the Dismissal of Vespers, the priest and deacon put on all their vestments. The Deacon incenses the Cross on the prothesis, then says "Give the blessing.. "The priest intones, "Blessed is our God... The Trisagion Prayers follow, then the Troparion and Kontakion of the Cross. Meanwhile, the priest carries the Cross to the altar preceded by the deacon carrying a candle. It is placed over the antimimension (the Gospel book is put upright as at the Offertory of the Liturgy) with a candle before it until the procession the following day.*