

July 31

**Commemoration of the Holy and Just Eudocimos;
Forefeast of the Procession
of the Holy and Life-giving Cross
(5th Class)**

VESPERS

Stichera for the Cross (Tone 1)

6. Today the whole human race exults with joy, celebrating the forefeast of the Cross. Its wood will be placed before the faithful as an inexhaustible source of healing to deliver us from illness, passions and all types of danger.
5. Come, O faithful, let us honor a new wonder! Behold, the wood of the Cross stops fevers and soothes pain, delivering the suffering from all their misery. Let us celebrate it in advance, that its procession may fill us with joy.
4. Let us all make ready, both the ill and the healthy: the tree of life, which brought death to Adam in Paradise, but saved mankind and brought resurrection to the dead, is now to be carried forth to grant the inexhaustible grace of God to all those who seek it with faith.

For Eudocimos (Tone 1)

3. Eudocimos, you found blessedness at the end of your life, after being tried in the divine virtues, as your name signifies. You were not swayed by the seductions of this world. You shine forth more brightly than the rays of the sun, shedding light upon all believers.
2. Today let us acclaim Eudocimos, the man with the compassionate heart, that flame of charity, who came to the aid of orphans, cared for the needy, and kept a pure heart as he carried out the precepts of the Lord.

1. In the purity of your heart, O divinely-minded Eudocimos, you sought God, renouncing all the delights of this world. Thus, you received from the Lord the recompense for your labors, as your blessed end revealed.

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

Doxastikon (Tone 2)

The just are remembered with praise; and so are you, O servant of Christ: for your weapon was the Cross, and your shield was your invincible faith in the consubstantial Trinity, O never-to-be-forgotten Eudocimos. Thus, you rest with the angels in Heaven.

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

Stavrotheotokion

O three-branched Cross of Christ: you are my strong protection. Sanctify me by your might, that I may venerate and glorify you in faith and love.

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

APOSTICHA (Tone 6)

1. Once when Your Apostles were tossed about on their ship by a storm, they cried aloud: "Master save us, for we are perishing!" And now it is we who cry out: "We entreat You, O Savior, Lover of Mankind, deliver us from all danger!"

All: To You I have lifted up my eyes, to You who live in heaven. Behold: the eyes of the servants are turned to the hands of their masters, and the eyes of the maid-servants to the hands of their mistresses: thus do our eyes watch the Lord our God until He takes pity on us.

2. O Lord, Your Apostles touched the very depths of the sea with their nets, then the very heights of the Kingdom by their teaching. By skill they were fishermen who searched the unsounded depths; by faith, they looked

into Your infinite heart and preached Your timeless Son to the whole world. At their prayers and those of all Your saints, have mercy on us.

All: Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us, for we have been filled with shame: our soul has been filled to overflowing. May scorn befall detractors, and humiliation come to the proud.

3. O Lord, Your Cross became an invincible weapon for the martyrs. Seeing the death approaching them, and foreseeing the life awaiting them, they were strengthened by their hope in You. At their intercession, have mercy on us.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Stavrotheotokion

O Cross of Christ, hope of Christians, guide of those who have gone astray, haven of the storm-tossed, victory in warfare, firm foundation of the inhabited earth, physician of the sick and resurrection of the dead: have mercy on us!

TROPARION OF EUDOCIMOS (*Tone 4*)

Holy Eudocimos, God who called you out of this world and led you to the eternal mansions will keep your body incorrupt. You lived a life of wisdom and honor, keeping your body clean. Intercede trustingly with Christ that He may save us all.

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.