

September 13th

Forefeast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross

Stichera on the Aposticha at Vespers

Byzantine Chant Tone 5
Special Melody: *Rejoice*

Adapted by Dn. John El Massih

1) Re - joice, life - giv - ing Cross of the Lord,
thou nev - er - con - quered bat - tle - tro - phy of pi - e - ty,
sup - port and staff of the faith - ful, the wall sur - round - ing the
Church, and the door that lead - eth in - to Par - a - dise.
Through thee hath cor - rup - tion been made to van - ish and be no more;
death's might - y pow - er hath been van - quished and swal - lowed up,
and we have been raised from thē earth to ce - les - tial things.
O truce - less foe of de - mons, and our weap - on in - vin - ci - ble,
thou art the glo - ry of Mar - tyrs and true a -
dorn - ment of all the Saints, calm port of sal - va - tion,
that which grant - eth the Great Mer - cy of God un - to the world.

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2) Re - joice, O ho - ly Cross of the Lord,
 where - by the race of man was loosed from thē an - cient curse;
 thou en - sign of joy and glad - ness, thou who dost dash down the
 foes by thine El - e - va - tion, O all - ven - 'ra - ble.
 Our suc - cor and help art thou, and the might of all them that rule,
 strength of the right - eous, and the beau - ty a - dorn - ing priests;
 where thou art por - trayed, thou dost res - cue from ev - 'ry ill.
 Scep - ter of pow - er. staff of strength, where - with we are shep - herd - ed;
 weap - on of peace round a - bout which thē An - gels
 hov - er with fear and awe; di - vine and true glo - ry
 of Christ God, Who doth be - stow His Great Mer - cy on the world.

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3) Re - joi - ce, _____ thou faith - ful guide _____ of the blind
 and skill - ful heal - er of the sick, _____ O most pre - cious Cross,
 who, when we fell to cor - rup - tion, didst lift us up _____ once a -
 - gain, O thou res - ur - rec - tion _____ of all them that died.
 Through thee is cor - rup - tion quelled, in - cor - rup - tion hath blos - somed forth;
 we, who are mor - tals born of earth, have been de - i - fied;
 and in ut - ter loss hath the de - vil been o - ver - thrown.
 Look - ing on thee ex - alt - ed by the hands of high priests to - day,
 with faith and love we ex - alt _____ Him Who was ex -
 - alt - ed on thee for us; and thee do we wor - ship,
 rich - ly draw - ing forth di - vine _____ and Great Mer - cy for our souls.