

PROCESSION OF THE HOLY CROSS AS DONE ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

- *If the procession is begun as the Great Doxology concludes in Orthros, the final "Holy God, Holy Mighty" is slowly chanted (traditionally, if possible, in the "Agia" style of Tone Four).*
- *If the procession follows "Blessed be the Name of the Lord" in the Divine Liturgy, it starts with "Holy God, Holy Mighty" and chanted, if possible, in the same style as above.*
- *The and altar servers process from the sanctuary and around the interior of the church, while the choir sings as many times as necessary:*

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

- *Once the procession concludes in the center of the church, the deacon says:*

Wisdom. Stand upright.

- *Then, the clergy sings the apolytikion of the Holy Cross once, followed by the choir twice.*

APOLYTIKION FOR THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE ONE (CHANT) (CHORAL)

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

- *Then, the clergy sings "Before Thy Cross" once, followed by the choir twice.*

"BEFORE THY CROSS" (CHANT) (CHORAL)

Before Thy Cross we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy Holy Resurrection we glorify.

- *Then, the clergy and altar servers return to the sanctuary as the chanters offer this hymn in Tone Two:*

Come, O ye faithful, let us worship the life-creating Wood, whereon Christ, the King of Glory, stretching out His hands of His own will, lifted up to the ancient blessedness us whom the enemy had aforetime despoiled through pleasure, making us exiles from God. Come, O ye faithful, let us worship that Wood whereby we have been deemed worthy to crush the heads of our invisible enemies. Come, all ye kindreds of the nations, with hymns let us honor the Cross of the Lord. Rejoice, O Cross, thou perfect redemption of fallen Adam. In thee do our most faithful sovereigns boast, since by thy power they have mightily subjected to themselves the Ishmaelite peoples. As we Christians now venerate thee with fear, we glorify God, Who was affixed to thee, and we say: O Lord, Who wast nailed to the Cross, have mercy on us, since Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

- *In Orthros, the troparion ("Today is salvation" or "Having risen from the tomb") is then chanted, and the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great begins.*
- *In the Divine Liturgy, the priest gives the dismissal.*
- *The priest distributes the flowers and basil leaves after the Divine Liturgy.*