September 14th
Elevation (Exaltation) of the Holy Cross
Stichera at the Praises

Byzantine Chant Tone 8
Special melody: O strange wonder

Adapted by Dn. John El Massih from various sources

1) O strange wonder, great and marvelous! Today the life-bearing Tree, the all-holy and precious Cross, being lifted up on high, is made manifest openly. All of the ends of the earth give glory now, and all the demons are sorely terrifed.

O what a gift is this, kindly granted to us mortal men, O Christ! Whereby save our souls, since Thou alone art merciful.
2) O strange wonder, great and marvelous! The Cross, which held the Most High like a grape cluster full of life, clearly doth appear this day lifted high up above the earth. Through it, we all have been drawn nigh unto God, and death is utterly swallowed up at last.

O thou unsullied Tree! through which, as we send up glory unto Christ, we partake of Eden's comely and immortal fruit.
3) O strange wonder, great and marvelous! The length and breadth of the Cross is the equal of Heaven's span, for by means of grace divine it doth hallow the universe. By this, barbarian nations are subdued; by this, the scepters of princes are made strong. O ladder most divine! Whereby we ascend unto the Heavens' heights, while exalting Christ the Lord with hymns and songs of praise.