

September 16th

After-feast of the Elevation of the Cross

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried"

Byzantine Tone 2

Special Melody: *When he took thee*

Adapted by Dn. John El Massih

1) That most wick - ed tast - ing of the tree, which of old in
E - den be - fell our fore - fa - thers ru - in - ous - ly
brought in death on all the race of mor - tals
af - ter them. But now we have been called a - gain
through Je - sus's di - vine Cross un - to per - fect life and a high -
er in - her - i - tance.
Where - fore, we, in rais - ing it up now,
hymn the Lord Who on it was raised up
and Who with Him - self hath raised up all the world.

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2) Thou didst take the stray - ing sheep, O Christ, on Thy shoul - ders,

and Thou didst bring it un - to Thy Fa - ther on high

through Thy pre - cious, life - cre - at - ing Cross, to

num - ber it with the An - gels by Thy Di - vine

and All - ho - ly Spir - it; for, O Sav - ior, Thou didst set a

tree a - gainst the tree.

Now with fer - vent faith we ex - alt it,

glo - ri - fy - ing Thee Who up - on it

wast ex - alt - ed, might - i - ly ex - alt - ing us.

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3) Rich in god - ly vir - tues, let us stand in the house of
God now and let us look on the Place of the Skull
with a mind com - plete - ly pure, ye faith - ful
of the Lord. O ye An - gels and mor - tal men,
come, let us all gaze on the all - ho - ly Wood now lift - ed
up where - on Christ God
free - ly stretched His hands out and drew us
to Him - self and brought us to new life,
and hath lift - ed all of us to Heav - en's heights.