

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 won - der, great and mar - vel - ous! To - day the
life - bear - ing Tree, thē all - ho - ly and
pre - cious Cross,, be - ing lift - ed up on high,
is made man - i - fest o - pen - ly. All of thē
ends_____ of thē earth give glo - ry now,
and all the de - mons are sore - ly ter - ri - fied.
O_____ what a gift is this, kind - ly grant - ed to us
Un. mor - tal men, O Christ! Where - by save our souls, since
Thou a - lone art mer - ci - ful.

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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
 come-ly and immortal fruit.

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3) O strange won - der, great and mar - vel - ous! The length and
breadth of the Cross is thē ē - qual of
Heav - en's span, for by means of grace di - vine
it doth hal - low the ū - ni - verse. By this, bar -
bar - i - an na - tions are sub - dued;
by this, the scep - ters of princ - es are made strong.
O lad - der most di - vine! Where - by we as - cend un -
to the Heav - ens' heights, while ex - alt - ing Christ the
Lord with hymns and songs of praise.