

September 20th

After-Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried"

Byzantine Tone 2

Special Melody: *When he took thee*

Adapted by Dn. John El Massih

1) When the God-seer Mos-es long a-go set a bra-zen
ser-pent up-on a pole, he com-plete-ly de-stroyed
dead-ly bit-ting ser-pents; but, O Sav-ior,
when Thou didst lift Thy whole self up-on the Tree,
Thou tru-ly didst quick-en all the race of
man by Thy di-vine life-giv-ing Cross.
As it now is raised up, it burn-eth
hordes of un-clean de-mons, while con-quer-ing
all the bold pre-sump-tion of bar-bar-ic tribes.

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2) Thou wast clothed with my mor - tal - i - ty and cor - rupt - i -

- bil - i - ty from the pure Vir - gin Moth - er of God,

mak - ing me, O Sav - ior, to be in - cor -

- rupt - i - ble so Thou drew - est me un - to life

and joy nev - er - end - ing, un - to which Thou

lead - est all that sing Thy praise, O Christ;

and, O Word of God, Thou be - stow - est

on Thy faith - ful priests Thy di - vine Cross

as a might - y weap - on a - gainst her - e - sies.

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3) Shine Thy light, which no man may ap - proach, on us, O Christ
 God, for, be - hold, we are all the works of Thy hands;
 crown our god - ly hier - archs with the weap - on
 of Thy Cross; grant them vic - to - ry o - ver all
 he - ret - i - cal doc - trines; for they have Thy
 Cross as strength and rich - es safe from thieves
 and a might - y wall and a strong - hold,
 O Most High, my Sav - ior Who dwelt - est
 in the The - o - to - kos' un - cor - rupt - ed womb.