

*From the Octoechos*  
**Thursday Vespers - Tone 2**  
**Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried"**

Byzantine Tone 2  
Special Melody: *When he took thee*

Adapted by Dn. John El Massih

1) When it saw Thee nailed up - on the Cross, then the sun, for  
fear of Thee, cov - ered it - self with dark - ness, O Lord,  
and the Tem - ple's veil, O Sav - ior, then was  
rent in the midst, and the earth shook with vi - o - lence;  
the rocks in like man - ner rent with might - y  
trem - bling, not en - dur - ing to be hold  
their Cre - a - tor suf - fring un - just - ly  
on the ho - ly Tree of His own will,  
mocked by law - less men with bra - zen in - so - lence.

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2) When Thou wast ex - alt - ed on the Tree, thē all - wick - ed  
ser - pent was ut - ter - ly o - ver - thrown and laid low;  
ut - ter - ly cast down up - on thē earth, he  
li - eth dead, an un - mov - ing and mon - strous corpse;  
and Ad - am is set loose from the curse and  
saved is he that was con - demned be - fore.  
Hence, O Friend of man, we im - plore Thee:  
Save us, have com - pas - sion up - on all,  
and vouch - safe Thy King - dom to us all, O Christ.

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3) When Thou hadst been hanged up - on the Wood by the law - less

peo - ple, O Sa - ior, Who art the Life of all things,

then the whole cre - a - tion shud - dered with ex -

-ceed - ing fear; the do - min - ion of death it - self

and king - dom of Ha - des whol - ly and com -

-plete - ly van - ished through Thy strength di - ine.

Then al - so our fore - fa - ther Ad - am

cried to Thee ex - ul - tant - ly: Glo - ry

to Thy con - de - scen - sion, O Thou Friend of man.