

CEREMONY OF THE VENERATION OF THE CROSS

At the end of the Divine Liturgy, after the hymn "Blessed be the name of the Lord," the choir sings the slow "Holy God" of the Great Doxology; the priest processes to the solea or around the nave of the church holding the tray with the cross. On the solea he circles the table three times before placing it on the table.

CHOIR

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,
have mercy on us.

When the "Holy God" is finished, the priest says:

PRIEST

Wisdom. Arise.

Apolytikion.

From Triodion - - -

Mode 1.

Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to the faithful over the enemy, and by Your Cross protecting Your commonwealth. [GOA]

CHOIR

Apolytikion.

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PRIEST

We venerate Your Cross, O Master, and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection. [GOA]

CHOIR

We venerate Your Cross, O Master, and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection. (2)

The clergy venerate the cross first, followed by the faithful. While they are venerating, the following Idiomela may be chanted.

CHOIR

Mode 2.

Come, O believers, let us venerate the life-giving Cross. For Christ, the King of glory, voluntarily extended His hands on it and raised us up to the original blessedness, after the enemy long ago had captured us with the bait of pleasure, and caused us to be exiled from God. Come, O believers, let us venerate the Cross, by which we have been granted to crush the skulls of our invisible enemies. Come, all you families of the Gentiles, let us sing hymns to honor the Cross of the Lord. "We salute you, O Cross, for you are the complete redemption of Adam who had fallen. In you our most faithful leaders boast, for by your power they have mightily subdued the foreign enemy. Now we Christians with fear and awe salute you with a kiss, and we glorify God who was nailed to you, and we say, 'O Lord, who were nailed to the Cross, have mercy on us, for You are good and You love humanity.'" [SD]

Mode pl. 4.

Today the Master of creation and Lord of glory is nailed to the Cross and He is pierced in the side. He tastes gall and vinegar, He who is the sweetness of the Church. He is crowned with a crown of thorns, He who covers the sky with clouds. He is dressed in a robe to be ridiculed, and He is smitten by a hand formed

of clay, He who formed humanity with His own hand. He takes a flogging on the back, He who circles the sky with clouds. He takes the spitting and the whips, the beatings and the taunts; and He endures it all for me, who am condemned, in order so save the world from delusion, for He is compassionate, my Redeemer and my God. [SD]

Glory. **Mode pl. 4.**

Today, He who is unapproachable in His essence becomes approachable to me; and He is suffering the Passion, thus freeing me from the passions. He who gives sight to the blind is spit on by lawless lips, and He takes a whipping on the back for the sake of us captives. When His pure Mother saw Him on the Cross, in pain she uttered, "Woe is me, my Child! Why have You done this! You who are more beautiful than all men, I see You not breathing, unsightly, without form or beauty. Woe is me, my Light! I cannot bear to see You sleeping. I am wounded to the core, and an awful sword is piercing my heart. I extol Your Passion, I worship Your compassion. O longsuffering Lord, glory to You!" [SD]

Both now. **Mode pl. 2. Heirmologic.**

Today the prophetic saying has been fulfilled. For, behold, we are worshiping in the place where Your feet stood, O Lord. And now that we have eaten from tree of salvation, we have obtained the freedom from the passions that come from sin, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, O only Lord who loves humanity. [SD]

When the veneration is finished, the priest returns the cross to the holy altar.

CHOIR

Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to the faithful over the enemy, and by Your Cross protecting Your commonwealth. [GOA]