

The 17th Day of September

**The Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross; the Holy Martyr
Sophia and her Three Daughters: Faith, Hope and Charity (Love).**

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera

3 stichera of the Afterfeast, in Tone 1: *To the melody, “Joy of the ranks of heaven....”*

The Cross is lifted up! /
And demons are driven away; /
The good thief opens again the gates of Paradise, /
And death is overthrown; /
Now it lies powerless and Christ is magnified! /
Therefore, let those born on earth be glad, ///
For the curse has been lifted from us!

Come, all ye God-loving people, /
And let us behold the precious Cross as it is lifted up today! /
Let us exalt and let us glorify /
The one Redeemer and God as we cry aloud: /
O Thou, who wast crucified on the Wood of the Cross, ///
Disdain us not who pray to Thee!

Moses, in the days of old, /
Prefiguring the Wood of the Cross, /
Delivered Israel by making the bitter waters sweet by the wood of a tree. /
Therefore, let us the faithful, mystically make the sign of the Cross in our hearts, ///
That we may be saved by its power!

And 3 stichera of the Martyrs, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “Thou hast given a sign....”*

The three virgin maidens /
Bound together by the laws of nature, /
Were boundlessly strengthened by their love for the Creator, /
And by faith they loosed the bonds of deception, /
And filled with courage, they trampled beneath their feet the powerless enemy; /
Thus they were adorned with the radiant crowns of victory, ///
And rejoicing, they now dwell in the spiritual bridal chambers of heaven.

Faith, the all-praised maiden, /
And Charity, imbued with love, /
Together with Hope, their sister, wise in God, /
Revealed themselves as worthy namesakes of the splendid virtues, /

And by their witness through suffering cast down the evil one, /
 Who had cunningly deceived our first mother, Eve; /
 And having been thus deified, they regained the mansions of Paradise, ///
 Where they pray to God on behalf of us all.

Faith, together with Hope and Charity, /
 And Sophia their mother /
 Sought with faith the beautiful Bridegroom; /
 And adorning themselves with the scarlet of their many wounds, /
 They united themselves to Him. /
 In that they had no regard for any torture, fire, nor death, ///
 For their sake, O Lord, preserve us from every evil misfortune.

Glory..., now and ever..., of the Feast in Tone 1: in the usual melody

The Tree of true life was planted in the place of th skull, /
 And upon it hast Thou, the eternal King. /
 Worked salvation in the midst of the earth. /
 Being exalted today, it sanctifies the ends of the world, /
 And the Church of the Resurrection celebrates its dedication. /
 Angels in heaven greatly rejoice and men on earth make glad, /
 Crying aloud with David and saying: Extol the Lord our God; /
 Worship at His footstool for it is holy, ///
 Granting the world great mercy.

Or, the Dogmatic Theotokion, if a Resurrection service.

At the Aposticha, these stichera of the Feast, in Tone 2: To the melody, "O House of Ephratha...."

Like a bride the Chuch is splendidly adorned /
 With Thy blood and the water of grace ///
 And it proclaims the glory of Thy Cross!

Verse: Extol the Lord our God; worship at His footstool for it is holy.

Raising up the spear and the Cross, /
 The nails, and all the rest /
 With which the body of Christ was pierced, ///
 Let us venerate them!

Verse: God is our King before the ages: He hath wrought salvation in the midst of the earth.

AFTERFEAST OF THE EXALTATION; MARTYR SOPHIA AND HER DAUGHTERS:
FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY (LOVE)

When Moses defeated Amelek /
Stretching out his arms in the form of a cross, ///
He prefigured the most pure sufferings of Christ.

Glory..., now and ever..., in Tone 1: *in the usual melody*

Prefiguring Thy Cross, O Christ, /
Jacob the Patriarch, when he gave his blessing to his descendants, /
Laid his hands crosswise upon their heads. /
And today as we exalt Thy Cross, O Savior, we cry: /
Grant victory to the Orthodox Chrsitians over their adversaries, ///
As Thou once granted victory to Constantine.

The Troparion of the Feast, in Tone 1:

O Lord, save thy people /
And bless Thine inheritance. /
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians /
Over their adversaries; /
And by virtue of Thy Cross ///
Preserve Thy habitation.

Matins

The second Canon of the Feast, with 8 Troparia including the Irmos,
and that of the Martyrs with 4 Troparia each
Incomplete as of 6/2017

The Troparion of the Martyrs, in Tone 5:

Thou didst blossom in the courts of the Lord /
As a fruitful olive tree, /
O holy martyr Sophia. /
In thy contest thou didst offer to Christ the sweet fruit of thy womb: /
Thy daughters Faith, and Hope, and Charity. ///
Together with them intercede on behalf of us all.

After the Third Ode:

The Kontakion of the Martyrs, in Tone 1: *To the melody, "Thy tomb, O Savior...."*

The three sisters Faith, and Hope and Charity, /
Have blossomed as the sacred branches of blessed Sophia, their mother. /
For by grace, they made foolish the wisdom of idolatry; /

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And having suffered, they revealed themselves as bearers of victory. ///
And were granted incorruptible crowns by Christ, the Master of all.

After the Sixth Ode:

The Kontakion of the Feast, in Tone 4:

As Thou wast voluntarily crucified for our sake, /
Grant mercy to those who are called by Thy name. /
Make all Orthodox Christians glad by Thy power /
Granting them victories over their adversaries ///
By bestowing upon them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace.

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