

The 20th Day of September

The Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross; The holy Great-martyr Eustathius (Eustace) Placidus, his wife, Martyr Theopistes and their children, Martyrs Agapius and Theopistus of Rome.

Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera

3 stichera of the Feast in Tone 4:¹ *To the melody, “Thou hast given a sign....”*

Today Thine honorable Cross, O Christ, /
Shines more brilliantly than the sun /
As it is raised and exalted upon Thy most holy mountain of the skull, /
Confirming to all, O Almighty Savior, /
That Thou didst lift up our nature to heaven, ///
As Thou art the Lover of mankind!

Today, O unapproachable One /
Thy glory is declared by the heavens to all mankind, /
For Thy Cross shines brightly with the radiance of Thine unapproachable Light /
Exposing the cruel and savage nature of those who had slain God. /
Therefore, we glorify Thy loving dispensation, ///
O Almighty Jesus, the Savior of our souls!

Moses defeated Amalek /
By stretching out his hands in the form of the cross, /
And now we bow down before the Tree of the Cross /
Trampling underfoot the traps and schemes of the enemy, /
Having Christ as our champion, who was lifted upon it in the flesh, ///
Thus slaying the serpent and saving mankind.

And these 3 stichera of the Martyr, in the same Tone: *(and melody)*

Thou wast called from above and not by man, /
O holy martyr Eustathius, /
For Christ Himself, the Lover of mankind, appeared to thee /
And captured thee in the net of faith, O blessed one, /
And through baptism washed away all thy sins. /
He strengthened thee to endure the supreme trial of thy life, ///
And as Master, He made thee victorious.

¹ cf. September 16th.

Joyfully didst thou train in thy youth in the virtues, /
O martyr Eustathius. /
And when thy wife and thy children were taken away from thee /
Thou didst bear the dishonor of thine own captivity. /
Courageously didst thou win the battle, O valiant one, ///
Earning for thyself esteem and glorious honor.

Thou didst present thyself together with thy family /
As a fragrance of sweet-smelling incense, /
A living and most perfect sacrifice
A whole-burnt offering well-pleasing to God,
And with them thou dwellest now in the heavenly mansions ///
Together with all the companies of the heavenly host.

Glory..., of the Martyr, in Tone 2: *(the composition of Ephraim of Karyes)*

Setting for us the example of a second Job /
The martyr Eustathius appears as a pillar of patience and a model of virtue. /
In his life, he truly equaled Job in the virtues together with his wife and family, /
For he was faithful and unshaken by temptations /
And victorious in all his struggles. /
Now he is our intercessor before Christ the Lord, ///
Ever praying that we may be enlightened and that our souls may be saved.

Now and ever..., of the Feast, in the same Tone:

When Jacob the Patriarch crossed his hands as he blessed his children /
He foreshadowed the mighty sign of the Cross. /
Now it is our firm defense that cannot be vanquished; /
With its invincible might we drive out the demonic legions, /
We cast down Belial's arrogance, /
And we put to flight the hateful pride of Amalek; /
And now that it is lifted up on high,
We the faithful, piously offer it to Thy goodness, for the cleansing of our sins, /
And we cry aloud with many voices: /
Have mercy on us, O Lord, made flesh from the Virgin, ///
And take pity, O Good One, on the works that Thou hast fashioned in Thy Wisdom.

Or the Dogmatic Theotokion if a Resurrection Service.

At the Aposticha, these stichera, in Tone 2: *To the melody "O house of Ephratha"*

The Church is brightly adorned /

With Thy deifying water and blood, O Word, ///
And she proclaims the glory of the Cross.

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

Lifting high the spear and the nails /
Which pierced Thy Life-bearing Body, ///
We venerate the precious Cross, O Christ.

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

When Moses defeated Amalek, /
By raising his arms in the form of the Cross ///
He portrayed Thy most pure sufferings, O Christ.

Glory..., of the Greatmartyr, in Tone 6: *the composition of Ephraim of Karyes*

How shall we praise thee worthily, /
O Eustathius, with thy steadfast soul? /
For being deprived of thy goods, and thy wife and thy children, /
Thou didst cry out with the blessed and glorious Job: /
‘The Lord hath given; the Lord hath taken away, /
As it was well pleasing to the Lord so it hath come to be!’ /
But the God whom thou didst so love and fervently cherish /
Returned them again to thee, /
Foreseeing that they would join thee in thy sufferings. /
And with them, after a multitude of torments /
Thou didst attain a blessed end, /
And having them now as thy companions in heaven ///
Intercede together with them before the Lord that we be delivered from our sins.

Now and ever..., of the Feast, in the same Tone:

O Cross of Christ, /
Thou hope of Christians, /
Instructor of those who have gone astray, /
Refuge of the storm-tossed and victory in battle, /
The confirmation of the universe, /
Physician of the sick and the resurrection of the dead, ///
Have mercy on us!

The Troparion of the Martyrs, in Tone 4:

Thy holy martyrs, O Lord /
Through their sufferings received their incorruptible crowns from Thee our God. /
For having Thy strength they laid low their enemies /
And shattered the powerless boldness of demons. ///
Through their intercessions, O Christ God, save our souls.

Glory..., now and ever.... 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

— incomplete as of 7/2013

At “God is the Lord...,” the Troparion of the Feast, O Lord, save Thy people...,
twice; Glory..., **Martyr:** Now and ever..., **Feast:** O Lord, save Thy people..., *(again)*.

After the Third 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.

After the Sixth Ode, the Kontakion of the Martyr, in Tone 2: *To the melody, “Seeking the highest....”*

O holy Eustathius /
Thou wast an imitator of Christ in His passion. /
Thou didst drink of His cup with courage /
And didst become a sharer of His glory ///
So the God of us all granted thee the divine power of working wonders.

At the Aposticha, these stichera, in Tone 2: *To the melody, “O house of Ephrata....”*

The Cross of Christ, is exalted today; /
It is the Tree of life /
On which He who restores mankind ///
Was nailed in the flesh.

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

Rejoice, O Cross of the Lord, /
Thou divine guardian of the faithful, /
O thou invincible rampart ///
Which is raised up from the earth today.

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

Come all ye faithful, /
And let us venerate with joy today, /
The Wood of our salvation ///
On which was stretched out Christ the Redeemer.

Glory..., of the Martyr, in Tone 8:

Like Paul, thou didst not receive the divine call from men, /
O martyr Eustathius, /
But from God Himself, in whom thou didst believe in the assurance of the Cross; /
Thou didst confound the impiety of tyrants /
By mocking their cruel torments; /
Thou didst resist the temptation of sin to the shedding of thy blood; /
Thou didst fight against the invisible foes. /
Now thou didst intercede continually before our King and our God ///
That He grant peace to the world and salvation to our souls.

Now and ever..., of the Feast, in the same Tone:

Today we see the words of Thy prophet Moses fulfilled: /
Behold, you shall see your Life hang before thee! /
And today the Cross is exalted and the world is made free of error.
Today the Church is renewed in the Resurrection of Christ, /
And today the ends of the earth greatly rejoice: /
Like David, with cymbals, they offer their songs of praise to Thee: /
O God, who through the Cross and Resurrection hast wrought salvation in the midst of
of the earth.
And through them Thou hast saved us, O Lover of man. ///
O Almighty Lord, glory to Thee!