

## The 15<sup>th</sup> Day of September



### The Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross; The holy Greatmartyr Nicetas (*pronounced Nikitas*) the Goth.

#### Vespers

At “Lord, I call...,” 6 stichera

3 stichera of the Feast in Tone 5: *To the melody, “Rejoice, O life-bearing Cross....”*

Rejoice, Life-bearing Cross! /  
Unconquerable trophy of godliness, /  
Door of paradise, sustenance of the faithful /  
Rampart set about the Church. /  
Through thee corruption is utterly destroyed, /  
The power of death is swallowed up, /  
And we are raised from earth to heaven: /  
Invincible weapon, adversary of devils, /  
Glory of martyrs, true ornament of saints, haven of salvation ///  
Bestowing on the world great mercy.

Rejoice, Cross of the Lord! /  
Through thee mankind has been delivered from the curse. /  
Shattering the enemy by thine Exaltation, /  
O Cross all-venerable, thou art a sign of true joy. /  
Thou art our help, thou art the strength of kings, /  
The power of righteous men, the majesty of priests. /  
All who sign themselves with thee are freed from peril. /  
Thou rod of strength under which we like sheep are tended, /  
Thou art a weapon of peace round which the angels stand in fear. /  
Thou art the divine glory of Christ, ///  
Who grants the world great mercy.

Rejoice, guide of the blind, physician of the sick /  
And resurrection of all the dead. /  
O precious Cross, thou hast lifted us up when we were fallen into mortality. /  
Through thee corruption has been destroyed, /  
And incorruption has flowered forth; /  
We mortal men are made divine and the devil is utterly cast down. /  
Seeing thee exalted by the hands of bishops on this day, /  
We exalt Him Who was lifted high upon thee, ///  
And we venerate thee, plenteously drawing from thee great mercy.

**And these 3 stichhera of the Martyr, in Tone 1: *To the melody, "Joy of the ranks of heaven...."***

**T**hou wast revealed, O passion-bearing Nikítas /  
To be a champion of Christ, the King of all /  
Being arrayed in the armor of piety /  
As was the mighty Gideon of old, ///  
Boldly destroying the armies of the enemy.

**O** divinely-wise martyr, /  
Thou didst wage battle against the enemy /  
Armed with thine all-powerful faith in the Savior; /  
And having endured thy sufferings /  
Thou didst convert them, O wise one, /  
To the Creator and Lord of all, ///  
Whom they now faithfully glorify.

**T**hrough thy death, O Martyr /  
The barbarians brought glory to Christ /  
For thy sufferings proved to be more eloquent than words; /  
And having died for the Trinity /  
Thou didst receive thy martyr's crown, O glorious one, ///  
Shining forth in splendor upon the world.

**Glory..., of the Martyr, in Tone 6: *the composition of Theophanes***

**We** know thee, O Nikítas, /  
As a sufferer for Christ, /  
And a luminary of martyrs, /  
For thou didst destroy the idols of earthly fame and glory /  
And despising the godlessness of thine own father, /  
Triumphantly put the barbarians to shame /  
By enduring the confession of martyrdom /  
Proving thyself a worthy warrior of heaven. /  
Pray then for us to the Benefactor of all ///  
That He take pity on us and save our souls.

**Now and ever..., of the Feast, in the Same Tone:**

**T**he sayings of the prophets /  
Foretold thy holy Wood /  
Whereby Adam was set free from the ancient curse of death. /  
And today, at the Exaltation of the Cross, all creation raises its voice /  
Asking of God plenteous mercy. /

O Master, Who alone art boundless in compassion, ///  
Be our atonement and save our souls.

**Great Prokeimenon, in Tone 7:** Our God is in heaven and on earth; / He does whatever He pleases.

*Verse:* When Israel went forth from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a barbarian people, Judah became His sanctuary.

*Verse:* The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back.

*Verse:* What ails thee, O sea, that thou hast fled; and thee, O Jordan, that thou hast turned back?

**And now, the Litany:** “Let us all say...”

*(Unless a Resurrection Service, then Prokeimenon of the Day; and the Great Prokeimenon is sung on the Eve of the Feast)*

**At the Aposticha, these stichera, in Tone 6:** *To the melody “Having set all aside....”*

**T**he Cross is raised on high, /  
And urges all creation to sing the praises of the undefiled Passion /  
Of Him Who was lifted high upon it. /  
For there it was that He destroyed our slayer, /  
And brought the dead to life again: /  
And in His exceeding goodness and compassion made us beautiful, /  
Counting us worthy to be citizens of heaven. /  
So with rejoicing let us exalt His name ///  
And magnify His surpassing condescension.

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

**M**oses prefigured thee, O precious Cross, /  
When he stretched out his hands on high /  
And put Amalek, the tyrant, to flight. /  
Thou art the boast the faithful and the help of the suffering, /  
Glory of the apostles, champion of the righteous, /  
And preserver of all the saints. /  
Beholding thee raised on high, /  
Creation rejoices and keeps festival, /  
Glorifying Christ, Who in His surpassing goodness, ///  
Has through thee joined together that which had been divided.

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

**O** most precious Cross, /  
 Attended by ranks of rejoicing angels, /  
 Thou art exalted today, /  
 And by divine command thou dost lift up again /  
 All those who, through the stealing of the fruit, had been made outcasts /  
 And were sunk in death. /  
 Now we, embracing thee in faith with heart and lips, /  
 From thee we draw sanctification and cry aloud: /  
 Exalt Christ, the God most good, ///  
 And venerate His divine footstool.

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

**O** most-honored martyr Nikítas /  
 Rightly art thou called the namesake of victory, /  
 For by proclaiming Christ our God amidst thy struggles; /  
 Thou didst confess Him before the kings and tormentors. /  
 Cease not to pray for the whole world and all the Christ-loving people /  
 And for all who faithfully keep thy memory ///  
 That the only Lover of mankind will deliver us from every adversity.

### **Now and ever..., in the same Tone:**

The words of Thy prophet Moses, are fulfilled, O God, /  
 For he said: “Ye shall see your life hang before your eyes.” /  
 And today the Cross is exalted and the world is set free from error. /  
 For Christ’s Resurrection is renewed /  
 And the ends of the earth rejoice greatly today; /  
 Like David, with cymbals, it offers Thee its song: /  
 “O God, Thou hast worked salvation in the midst of the earth /  
 Through the Cross and the Resurrection, /  
 Whereby Thou hast saved us, /  
 O Thou who art good and lovest mankind. ///  
 Glory to Thee, O all-powerful Lord.

### **The Troparion of the Martyr, in Tone 4:**

**Thy** holy martyr Nikítas, O Lord /  
 Through his sufferings received his incorruptible crown from Thee our God. /  
 For having Thy strength he laid low his enemies /  
 And shattered the powerless boldness of demons. ///  
 Through his intercessions, O Christ God, save our souls.

**Or this Troparion, in the same Tone:**

Earnestly lifting up the Cross of Christ as if a sword /  
Thou didst hasten to do battle with the foe; /  
And suffering greatly in the flames for the sake of Christ /  
Thou didst commend thy holy soul to the Lord. /  
And from Him thou hast received the gift of healing, /  
O Greatmartyr Nicetas. ///  
Pray Christ God that He may 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**

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

Two Canons: the Canon for the Elevation of the Cross, with 6 Troparia  
including the Irmos; and that of the Martyr Nicetas,  
with 6 Troparia. — *incomplete as of 7/2013*

**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.

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

O glorious Nikitas, /  
Thou didst crush the power of error by thy perseverance in the faith; /  
And didst earn the crown of victory by thy struggle /  
So now, O namesake of victory, thou dost enjoy the company of angels in heaven. /

With them, cease not to intercede with Christ God ///  
That He may save our souls.

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

**T**oday the Cross of Christ, is lifted up; /  
It is the Tree of life /  
On which He was nailed in the flesh ///  
Confirming our faith.

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

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

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

**C**ome and let us venerate with joy today, /  
The life-giving Tree /  
For Christ, our Deliverance ///  
Was stretched out upon it.

**Glory..., of the Martyr, in Tone 6:**

**T**oday all of creation rejoices /  
In thy passion-bearing suffering /  
And the Church of Christ adorned with flowers /  
Cries out to thee, O martyr of Christ, /  
And our most fervent intercessor: /  
Ceaselessly pray for us thy servants, ///  
O thou favorite of Christ.

**Now and ever..., in the same Tone:**

**T**oday is lifted up from the hidden places of the earth /  
The Tree of life on which Christ was nailed, /  
Confirming our faith in the Resurrection. /  
And exalted on high by priestly hands, /  
It proclaims His Ascension into heaven, /  
Whereby our nature, lifted from its fallen state on earth, /  
Is made a citizen of heaven. /

Therefore let us cry in thanksgiving: /

O Lord, Who wast raised upon the Cross, Thou hast raised us with Thyself; ///  
Count worthy of the joy of heaven those that praise Thee.

### Liturgy

**At the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia; 4 from the First Ode of the Feast, and 4 from the Sixth Ode of the Martyr.**

**After the Entrance on Weekdays until the Leavetaking, we sing:** "...O Son of God Who wast crucified in the flesh, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

**Prokeimenon (Feast), Tone 7:** Extol the Lord our God; worship at His footstool for it is Holy. *Verse:* The Lord reigns; let the people tremble.

**And the Prokeimenon (Martyr), in the Same Tone:** The righteous one shall rejoice in the Lord and shall set his hope on Him.

**The Epistle:** (292) 2 Timothy 2:1-10

**The Alleluia (Feast):** Remember Thy congregation which Thou hast purchased of old. *Verse:* God is our King before the ages: He hath wrought salvation in the midst of the earth.

**And the Alleluia (Martyr):** The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, and shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

**The Gospel:** (36) Matt. 10:16-22

**Communion Hymns:** The light of Thy countenance is signed upon us, O Lord. **And also:** Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the just!