

The 16th Day of September

☩ **The Afterfeast of the Exaltation of the Cross; and the Commemoration of the Holy Greatmartyr Euphemia the All-praised.**

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 Greatmartyr, in same Tone: *To the melody, “As one valiant among the martyrs...”*

As thy soul wast illumined, O glorious martyr, /
With the beauties of virginity /
And with the blood of martyrdom, /
Thou wast betrothed to the Creator, /
Who hath truly preserved thee incorrupt for all eternity; /
And thou hast joined the joyous choirs of archangels and angels, /
Together with the apostles, prophets and martyrs ///
O all-praised martyr Euphemia.

¹ cf. September 20th.

Thou wast bound to wheels of torture, /
 And thy flesh was torn apart by wild beasts /
 Thou wast made to suffer by both fire and water, /
 Yet thy mind remained firm by the power of the Holy Spirit, /
 And thou didst courageously drown the prince of darkness in the streams of
 thy blood, /
 And thou didst hasten to the spiritual bridal chambers /
 Where thou didst offer thy suffering ///
 To thy Bridegroom as a dowry, O virgin Euphemia.

Though thou hast died, thou livest forever, /
 And the torrent of blood thou hast spilled unto the praise of the Lord /
 It waters the faithful and illumines them with understanding /
 While it drowns their faithless enemies. /
 Therefore, the divine scroll of the teachings of the Church is entrusted to thee ///
 To preserve and uphold forever, O martyr Euphemia!²

Glory..., of the Greatmartyr, in Tone 6: (the composition of Anatolius)

O most glorious martyr Euphemia, /
 Flourishing in the virtues and illumined in thought, /
 Ever pouring myrrh into the hearts of the faithful, /
 Shining from the East as a radiant star, /
 And, assembling the council of the holy fathers /
 Through the visitation of the Holy Spirit, /
 Cease not to pray to the Lord for us ///
 That He may save our souls.

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

The four ends of the earth, O Christ our God, /
 Are sanctified today /
 By the Exaltation of Thy Cross with its four arms: /
 And with the horn of Thy faithful people exalted, /
 Who thereby dash to pieces the horns of their adversaries. /
 Great art Thou, O Lord, and wondrous are Thy works: ///
Glory to Thee!

Or if a Resurrection service: Glory..., of the Feast, “The four ends of the earth, O Christ our God...,” (see above); Now and ever..., Dogmatic Theotokion, in the Tone of the Week.

² See the Commemoration of St. Euphemia’s miraculous confirmation of the Fathers, on July 11th.

Note: If a Resurrection Service, then:

At Litya, the stichera from the Vespers Aposticha, in Tone 1: “We bow down in worship before the place...” (*see below*);

Glory..., now and ever..., this Doxasticheron of the Feast, in Tone 1: (from the Matins Aposticha — the composition of Andrew of Jerusalem)

The holy words of David have received their fulfillment today, /
For we are truly worshipping at the footstool of thine all-pure feet, /
And placing our trust in the shelter of Thy wings, we cry out to Thee, /
O Most-compassionate Lord: /
Let the Light of Thy countenance be shined upon us! /
And exalt Thou, the horn of Thine Orthodox people ///
Through the exaltation of Thy Cross, O greatly merciful Christ!

At the Aposticha, these stichera of the Feast, in Tone 6:³ To the melody, “On the third day....”

We bow down in worship before the place /
Where the feet of Christ stood, /
And we exalt the thrice-blessed Cross /
Upon which was the Master shed His blood ///
Pouring forth the Resurrection on the world.

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

Having mortified the passions of the flesh and spirit /
Come, all ye faithful, wise in God, /
And let us make haste to elevate ourselves /
Above all earthly cares /
To the resting place of heaven /
Through the exaltation of the Holy Cross, ///
Having crucified ourselves with Christ the Master.

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

An ever-flowing stream of Life /
Issues forth from the divine ribs of the Savior, /
Watering the souls of those who faithfully worship His divine sufferings, ///
His Cross and Resurrection.

Glory..., of the Greatmartyr, in Tone 8: (the composition of Byzantius)

³ cf. Matins Apostikha, September 19th.

Let every tongue be moved to praise Euphemia the Great, /
 Let those of every generation, age, youths, and monastics alike, /
 Crown the virgin martyr of Christ with praises! /
 For she showed her courage in the face of the law /
 And casting her feminine weakness aside /
 And cast to the ground the tyranny of the enemy /
 With the pain of her sufferings. /
 And having been adorned with a divine crown /
 She now entreats her Bridegroom and God ///
 That He grant us all His great mercy.

Now and ever..., of the Feast, in the same Tone: *(the composition of John of Damascus)*

Today, O Christ our God, /
 We sinners venerate with unworthy lips Thy precious Cross, /
 Which Moses once prefigured in himself /
 When he overthrew Amalek and put him to flight; /
 And which David the psalmist commanded to be venerated as Thy footstool. /
 We cry aloud to Thee that wast pleased to be crucified upon it: ///
 O Lord, with the thief count us worthy of Thy Kingdom.

Also note: If a Resurrection Service, then:

At the Aposticha, the stichera are from the Octoechos, then:

Glory..., the Doxasticheron from the Aposticha of the Greatmartyr: “Let every tongue be moved to praise Euphemia the Great...,” *(see above)*.

Now and ever..., the Doxasticheron from the Aposticha of the Feast: “Today, O Christ our God...,” *(see above)*.

The Troparion of St. Euphemia, in Tone 4:

O Jesus, Thy lamb Euphemia /
 Cries out to Thee with great love: /
 “O my Bridegroom, I long for Thee in pain, /
 I am crucified with Thee, and in baptism buried with Thee; /
 I suffer for Thy sake in order to reign with Thee, /
 I die for Thee in order to live in Thee. /
 Accept me as a spotless victim /
 Since I am put to death because of my love for Thee.” ///
 Through her prayers, O Merciful One, 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 3/2018*

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

The Canon

The Canon for the Exaltation of the Cross, with 6 Troparia including the Irmos;
and that of the Greatmartyr Euphemia, with 6 Troparia.

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.

The Sessional Hymn of the Greatmartyr, in Tone 8: *To the melody, “Of Wisdom...”*

Thou didst drown the ungodly with the streams of thy blood, /
O blessèd Euphemia, martyr of Christ; /
And thou didst water the spiritual pastures with showers of grace /
Making them blossom with the most beautiful flowers of faith. /
In death thou art revealed to all as a cloud shimmering with the witness of life,
And so, we entreat thee to beseech Christ our God /
That He may grant the remission of sins /
To those who celebrate thy mem’ry with faith and love, ///
O all-praised and glorious champion of the Lord. (*twice*)

After the Sixth Ode, the Kontakion of the Greatmartyr, in Tone 4:

Thou didst complete well thy struggle, O all-celebrated Euphemia /
Even after death, thou dost pour out healings us to sanctify us. /
We venerate thy venerable relics and honor thy holy dormition /

So that we may be delivered from our spiritual afflictions, ///
And profit by the grace of thy miracles.

At the Praises, 4 stichera for St. Euphemia, in Tone 3:

Come all ye faithful /
And let us commemorate the feast of the passion-bearer with devotion and faith; /
Let us thankfully sing to God a song of praise /
For He is truly glorified in the council of His saints; /
Behold, a heroic martyr with the frail nature of a woman /
Hath vanquished the invisible dominion of the power of the enemy; /
Making God's own power perfect in the weakness of the good martyr, /
Through whose supplications He saves our souls. *(twice)*

Drawing on Truth from the cup of her own sufferings /
She offered them to the Nourisher of the Church and all the faithful; /
Thus, the good and all-praised martyr of Christ, Euphemia /
Summons all believers with the voice of wisdom, saying: /
Draw ye the drink of the Resurrection from the martyr's cup /
And drive away the darkness of unbelief; /
Thus, she cleanses the passions and preserves the souls /
Of the pious who cry out to Christ: /
Thou, who givest us to drink from the Cup of spiritual nourishment, ///
O Lord, save our souls.

Come, all ye faithful, who have signed your souls with the blood of Christ /
Awaiting the day of deliverance, /
And with spiritual gladness, let us draw from the well-spring of the martyr's blood /
Which flows for us like a spring of life-giving sufferings of the Savior and His
eternal glory. /
And let us cry out to Him: O Lord who art glorified in the council of Thy saints, ///
Through the prayers of Thine own passion-bearing martyr, save our souls.

Glory..., in Tone 6: (the composition of Anatolius)

At the right hand of the Savior stood the Virgin /
And the passion-bearing martyr Euphemia, /
Arrayed with her virtues and victories, /
And adorned with the oil of purity, and the blood of suffering. /
Joyfully, she holds out her lamp, and cries to Him: /
"I run to Thy sweet fragrance, O Christ my God, /
For I have been wounded by Thy love for me; /

Turn not away from me, O my heavenly Bridegroom.” /
By her prayers, O All-mighty Savior, ///
Send down upon us Thy great mercy.

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

Today the Cross of the Lord goes forth, /
And the faithful welcome it with love; /
And they receive healing of the soul and body and of every weakness. /
Let us kiss it with joy and fear; /
With fear, for we are unworthy because of our sin; /
With joy, for upon it Christ the Lord was in His great mercy crucified, ///
Who grants salvation to the world.

At the Aposticha, these stichera of the Feast, in Tone 2: To the melody, “O house of Ephratha”

Let us all praise the mystery /
Of the Cross of the Lord, /
Upon which the Savior Himself was crucified, ///
That He might raise up all mankind.

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

Come ye assembled multitude of monastics /
And let us sing the praises of the life-giving Wood ///
Upon which Christ was crucified.

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

Let us, the faithful, praise and glorify /
The precious Cross of the Lord, /
For the Blood of the Savior was shed upon it ///
For the redemption of the world.

Glory..., in Tone 1: (the composition of Byzantius)

The assembly of the fathers gathered on this day for the sake of Christ /
And brought to thee a scroll bearing the articles of the Orthodox Faith /
Which thou didst receive in thine honored hands, O good Euphemia, /
Preserving them to this day. /
Therefore, we, the assembly of the faithful having gathered to honor thy sufferings /
Cry aloud to thee: /
Rejoice, O good and all-praised martyr of the Lord, /

For thou didst combine a woman's frailty with manly strength! /
Rejoice, O all-praised one, for preserving intact the Orthodox faith /
Which the holy fathers transmitted to us! ///

Rejoice, O good Euphemia, for thou dost ever pray for our souls!

Liturgy

At the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from the Third Ode the Feast, and 4 from the Sixth Ode of the Canon of St. Euphemia.

1-2. The stone, when struck by the staff, put forth water for a disobedient and hard-hearted people, and it showed forth the mystery of the divinely-elected Church, whose confirmation is the Cross.

3-4. When Christ's all-pure side was pierced by the spear, there flowed blood and water, renewing the covenant and washing away all sin, for the Cross is the boast, the might and the confirmation of the faithful.

5. Displaying the courage of a man in thy woman's body, O glorious Euphemia, thou didst pay no heed to the beasts lurking in the waters.

6. Like Jonah, thou didst not suffer any harm when cast into the waters where, thou didst vanquish the pride of the tyrants in the waters, O invincible martyr Euphemia.

7. Harkening to thy prayers, the Lord delivered thee from the assaults of the beasts, as He did Daniel in the pit, O most praised one.

8. (Theotokion) O Lady, who at the word of the Archangel gavest birth to the Word in the flesh, deliver our souls from the snares of the enemy, we pray.

The Prokeimenon, in Tone 4: God is wondrous in His saints, / the God of Israel.
Verse: Bless God in the churches, the Lord, from the wellsprings of Israel.

The Epistle: (181) 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

The Alleluia, in Tone 1: I waited patiently for the Lord; He inclined to me and heard my prayer. *Verse:* And He brought me up out of the pit of misery and from the mire of clay.

The Gospel: (33) Luke 7:36-50

Communion Hymn: The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings. Alleluia....