

SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2022
Third Sunday of Great Lent
Veneration of the Cross

The Third Sunday of Lent is that of the Veneration of the Cross. The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ's redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved. "He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me" (Mt.10:38). For in the Cross of Christ Crucified lies both "the power of God and the wisdom of God" for those being saved (1 Cor.1:24).

GREAT VESPERS

LORD I CALL: Six stichera of the Resurrection in tone 7 (spiral bound Vespers book), then four from the Lenten Triodion

Lenten Triodion, tone 5:

Shine, O Cross of the Lord!

Illuminate the hearts of those who honor you!

With love inspired by God, we embrace you,

for you are the only hope of the world.

Through you our tears are wiped away,

the snares of death are sprung,

and we pass over into everlasting joy.

Through the Cross reveal Your beauty to us, O Lord!

Help Your servants who ask for mercy in faith!//

Bestow upon us the fruits of abstinence!

Rejoice, O life-bearing Cross:

bright paradise of the Church, the tree of incorruption!

You have obtained for us the joy of everlasting glory.

Through you, the hosts of demons are driven out;

the choirs of angels are amazed and rejoice;

the company of the faithful gathers in celebration.

O unconquerable weapon, unbroken stronghold,

triumph of Orthodox Christians and pride of priests,//
by following you may we witness the Passion and Resurrection of
Christ our God!

Rejoice, O life-bearing Cross:

invincible triumph of godliness,

gate of Paradise, and protection of the faithful!

The Cross is the might of the Church,

through which corruption is abolished,

through which the power of death is crushed.

and we are raised from earth to heaven.

O invincible weapon, the adversary of demons,

the glory of martyrs, the true adornment of ven'rable saints,

and the haven of salvation,//

which grants the world great mercy.

Come, O Adam and Eve, our first father and mother,

who fell from divine glory

through the envy of the murderer of man!

Bitter was the pleasure of the Tree of old;

but see, the honored Tree of the Cross draws near!

Run with haste and embrace it in joy,

crying out with faith:

"You are our help, O most-precious Cross!

We eat your fruit and gain incorruption!//

We are restored again to Eden, having received great mercy!"

Gloria ... from the Lenten Triodion, tone 3:

Wishing to restore all men to life,

You accepted crucifixion, O Christ our God.

Burning with boundless love for man,

You took the quill of the Cross in Your hand;

dipping it in ink of royal crimson,

You signed our release with blood-stained fingers.

Though temptations assault us,

may we never forsake You again!

Have mercy on Your despairing people,

O long-suffering Master!//
Arise and fight Your enemies in Your almighty power!

now and ever ... the theotokion-dogmatikon of the Resurrection in tone 7 (spiral bound Vespers book)

APOSTICHA: *All stichera of the Resurrection in tone 7 (spiral bound Vespers book)*

Glory ... now and ever ... from the Lenten Triodion, tone 4:

The humble David
defeated his enemies by Your help, O Lord.
Now come to the aid of Your Orthodox people;
show us Your power as You did of old,
and our adversaries will know that You are God!
And we will be victorious, for we hope in You.
Through the constant intercessions of Your all-pure Mother!//
grant us Your great mercy!

TROPARIA

Resurrection, tone 7:

By Your Cross You destroyed death.
To the thief You opened Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.
And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,
to proclaim that You are risen!//
granting the world great mercy.

Cross, 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!

Resurrectional dismissal theotokion, tone 1:

When Gabriel announced to you, O Virgin, saying “Rejoice!”
with that word the Master of all was incarnate in you,
the holy Ark, spoken of by the righteous David!
Your womb became more spacious than the heavens,
for you carried your Creator.
Glory to Him Who took abode in you!
Glory to Him Who came forth from you!//
Glory to Him Who freed us by being born of you!

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