

September 13th

# Forefeast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross

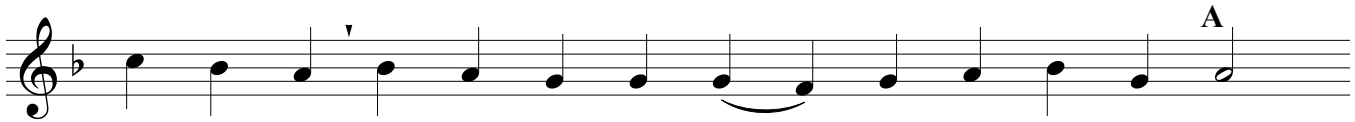
## Stichera on the Aposticha at Vespers

Byzantine Chant Tone 5  
Special Melody: *Rejoice*

Adapted by Dn. John El Massih



1) Re - joice, \_\_\_\_\_ life - giv - ing Cross \_\_\_ of the Lord,  
2) Re - joice, \_\_\_\_\_ O ho - ly Cross \_\_\_ of the Lord,  
3) Re - joice, \_\_\_\_\_ thou faith - ful guide \_\_\_ of the blind



thou nev - er - con-quer-ed bat - tle - tro - phy of pi - e - ty,  
*where - by the race of man was loosed from thē an - cient curse;*  
and skill - ful heal - er of the sick, \_\_\_ O most pre - cious Cross,



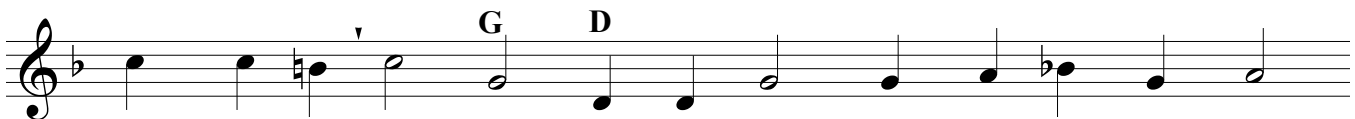
sup - port and staff of the faith - ful, the wall sur - round-ing the  
*thou en - sign of joy and glad - ness, thou who dost dash down the*  
who, when we fell to cor - rup - tion, didst lift us up \_\_\_ once a -



Church, and the door that lead - eth \_\_\_ in - to Par - a - dise.  
*foes by thine El - e - va - tion, \_\_\_ O all - ven - 'ra - ble.*  
gain, O thou res - ur - rec - tion \_\_\_ of all them that died.

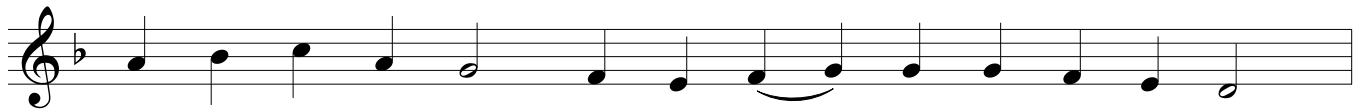


Through thee hath cor - rup - tion been made to van - ish and be no more;  
*Our suc - cor and help art thou, and the might of all them that rule,*  
Through thee is cor - rup - tion quelled, in - cor - rup - tion hath blos - somed forth;

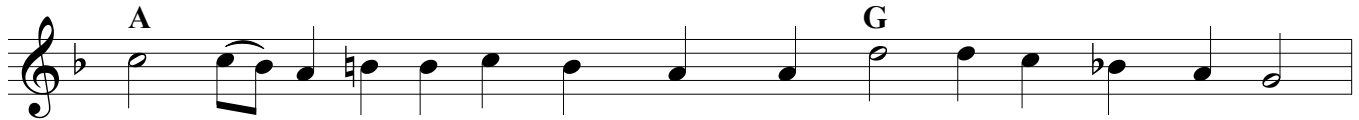


death's might - y pow - er hath been van - quished and swal - lowed up,  
*strength of the right - eous, and the beau - ty a - dorn - ing priests;*  
we, who are mor - tals born of earth, have been de - i - fied;

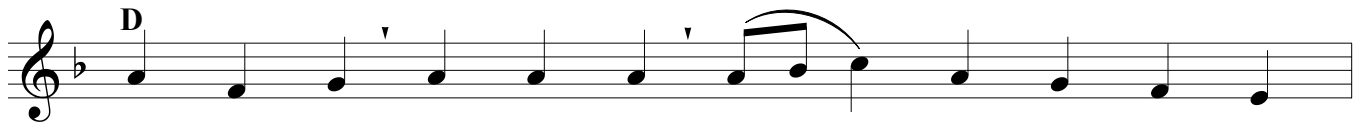
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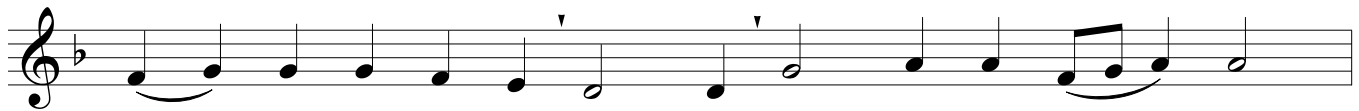
and we have been raised from thē earth — to ce - les - tial things.  
*where thou art por - trayed, thou dost res - cue from ev - 'ry ill.*  
 and in ut - ter loss hath the de - vil been o - ver - thrown.



O truce-less foe of de - mons, and our weap - on in - vin - ci - ble,  
*Scep - ter of pow - er. staff of strength, where - with we are shep - herd - ed;*  
 Look - ing on thee ex - alt - ed by the hands of high priests to - day,



thou art the glo - ry of Mar - tyrs and true a -  
*weap - on of peace round a - bout* — which thē An - gels  
 with faith and love we ex - alt — Him Who was ex -



-dorn - ment of all the Saints, calm port of sal - va - tion,  
*hov - er with fear and awe; di - vine and true glo - ry*  
 -alt - ed on thee for us; and thee do we wor - ship,



that which grant - eth the Great Mer - cy of God un - to the world.  
*of Christ God, Who doth be - stow* — His Great Mer - cy on the world.  
 rich - ly draw - ing forth di - vine — and Great Mer - cy for our souls.