

An Excerpt from The Cross, The Preserver of the Universe

By St. John Maximovitch

By the Cross, the Son of God having become man, accomplished our salvation. He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross (Phil. 2:8). Having stretched out His hands upon the Cross, the Saviour with them, as it were, embraced the world, and by His blood shed on it, like a king with red ink, He signed the forgiveness of the human race.

The Cross of the Lord was the instrument by which He saved the world after the fall into sin. Through the Cross, He descended with His soul into hell so as to raise up from it the souls who were awaiting Him. By the Cross, Christ opened the doors of paradise which had been closed after our first ancestors had been banished from it. The Cross was sanctified by the Body of Christ which was nailed to it when He gave Himself over to torments and death for the salvation of the world, and it itself was then filled with life-giving power. By the Cross on Golgotha, the prince of this world was cast out (John 12:31) and an end was put to his authority. The weapon by which he was crushed became the sign of Christ's victory.

The demonic hosts tremble when they see the Cross, for by the Cross the kingdom of hell was destroyed. They do not dare to draw near to anyone who is guarded by the Cross.

St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the West

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Archpriest Nicholas Kime, Rector

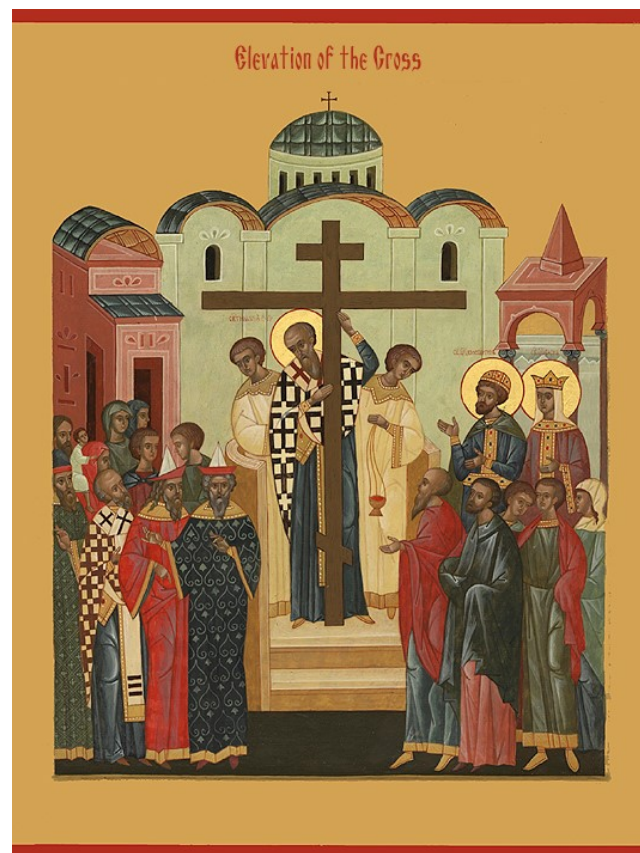
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Reflection from oca.org; Hymnography from oca.org

St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church

Port Townsend, WA



Sunday, September 17th, 2017

*Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross; Martyr Sophia and her
three daughters*

15th Sunday after Pentecost

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Readings

Epistle 2 Corinthians 4:6-15; Galatians 2:16-20
Gospel Matthew 22:35-46; Mark 8: 34-9:1

Tone 6 Troparion (*Resurrection*)

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.// O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

Tone 1 Troparion (*Cross*)

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!

Tone 5 Troparion (*for the martyrs*)

Thou didst blossom in the courts of the Lord as a fruitful olive tree, holy martyr Sophia; in thy contest thou didst offer to Christ the sweet fruit of thy womb, thy daughters Faith, Hope, and Love.// Together with them intercede for us all!

Tone 6 Kontakion (*Resurrection*)

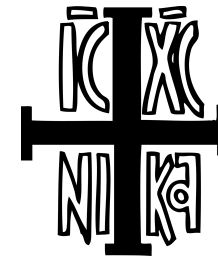
When Christ God the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race.// He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Tone 1 Kontakion (*for the martyrs*)

The holy branches of noble Sophia, Faith, Hope, and Love, confounded Greek sophistry through Grace. They struggled and won the victory and have been granted an incorruptible crown by Christ the Master of all.

Tone 4 Kontakion (*Cross*)

As Thou wast voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name, O Christ God; make all Orthodox Christians glad by thy pow'r, granting them victories over their adversaries// by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace!



This Week at St. Herman's

Sunday, September 17th - *Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross*

- 9:30 AM - Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, September 19th - *Martyrs Trophimus, Sabbatius, & Dorymedon*

- 7:00 PM - Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 20th - *Great Martyr Eustathius Placidus*

- 7:00 PM - Class in Port Townsend

Thursday, September 21st - *Apostle Quadratus of the 70*

- 6:00 PM - Greek Class

Saturday, September 23rd - *Conception of St. John the Baptist*

- 7:00 PM - Great Vespers