

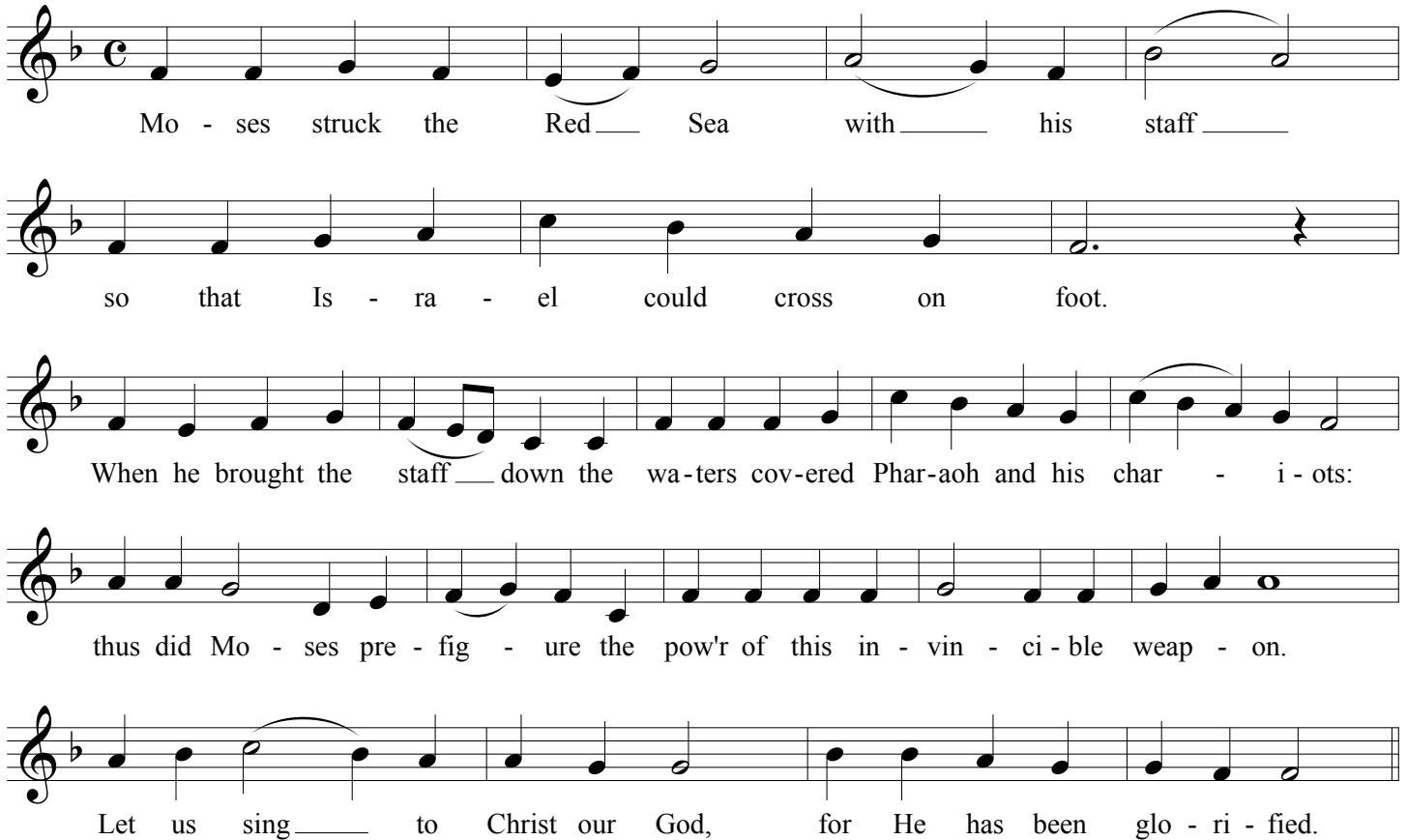
The Canon of the Most Holy, Precious and Life-Giving Cross

Byzantine Tone 8

Irmoi melodies, +Bishop BASIL

Text, HTM Menaion

Ode One



Mo - ses struck the Red Sea with his staff

so that Is - ra - el could cross on foot.

When he brought the staff down the wa-ters cov-ered Phar-aoh and his char - i - ots:

thus did Mo - ses pre - fig - ure the pow'r of this in - vin - ci - ble weap - on.

Let us sing to Christ our God, for He has been glo - ri - fied.

O Cross of Christ, save us by Thy might!

Of old did Moses foreshow in himself a type
of the spotless Passion, when he stood between two sacred men of God;
for he figured forth the Cross with his hands outstretched, and raised up trophies in the fight,
destroying the dominion of the pestilent Amalek.
Let us sing to Christ our God, for He has been glorified.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

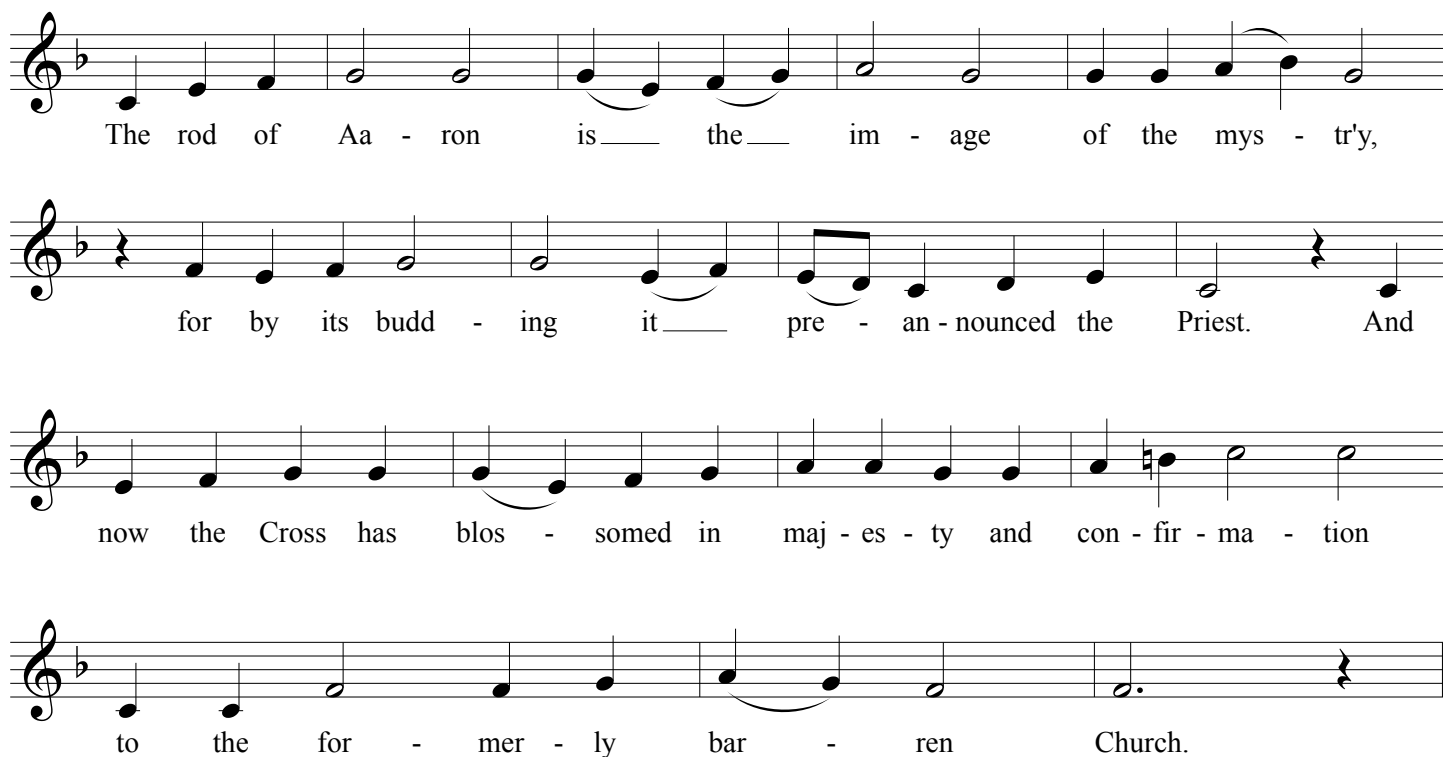
Once Moses placed on a pole that which cured the plague
of the serpents' deadly poisoned bite and rescued from the death it brought;
and on wood that formed a cross, crosswise did he bind the serpent creeping on the earth,
by this sign overcoming the affliction and suff'ring.
Let us sing to Christ our God, for He has been glorified.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

That mighty trophy, the Cross, was revealed by Heaven
unto the godly-minded king, the champion of piety.
Through this, all the wanton pride of the hateful foes was crushed, deceit was overthrown,
and swiftly the divine Faith was spread out through the whole earth.
Let us sing to Christ our God, for He has been glorified.

(Repeat Irmos: "Moses struck the Red Sea . . . ")

Ode Three



The rod of Aaron is the image of the mys - tr'y,
for by its budd - ing it pre - an - nounced the Priest. And
now the Cross has blos - somed in maj - es - ty and con - fir - ma - tion
to the for - mer - ly bar - ren Church.

O Cross of Christ, save us by Thy might!

The sharp rock that when struck poured forth water
for the disobedient and hard-hearted people,
signified the mystery of the Church, which was called of God;
for the Cross is her strength and steadfastness.

*Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

When Thine immaculate side was pierced with a spear,
water with blood flowed forth, inaugurating a Covenant
and washing away sins. For the Cross is the boast of the faithful,
and of kings the strength and steadfastness.

(Repeat Irmos: "The rod of Aaron . . . ")

Sessional Hymn

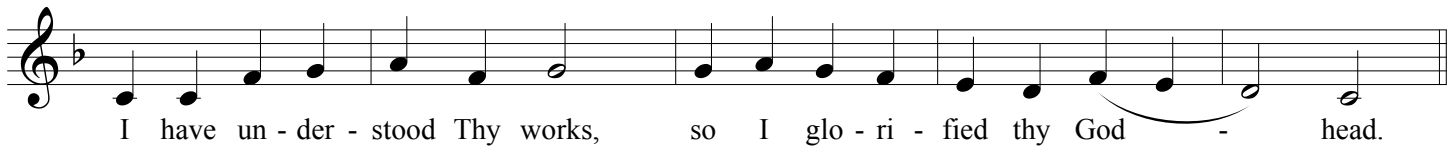
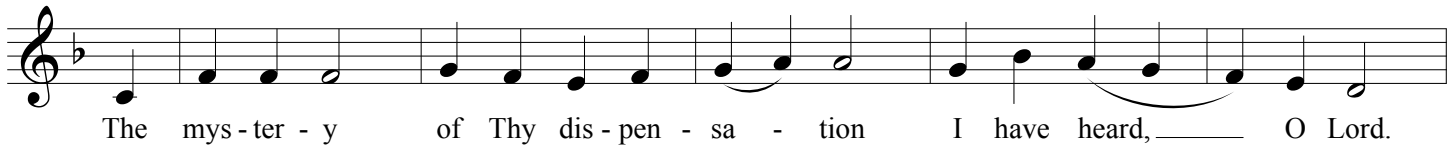
Tone 8 "When the Bodiless One"

In Paradise, once a tree had stripped me naked, for by its tasting doth the foe bring death upon us. But the Tree of the Cross, which granteth unto mankind the garment of life, hath now been fixed on the earth, and all of the world is filled with a perfect joy. On beholding it lifted up, ye peo-ple, let us cry out in faith with one accord to God: Full of glory is Thy house, O Lord.

*Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

(Repeat Hymn: "In Paradise . . . ")

Ode Four



O Cross of Christ, save us by Thy might!

With wood, Moses once transformed the bitter springs in the wilderness,
foreshowing the nations' passage unto true religion through the Cross.

O Cross of Christ, save us by Thy might!

The Jordan, which had hid in its depth the head of an axe,
gave it back again because of the handle of wood,
giving a certain token of the cutting-off of error by the Cross and Baptism.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

The people of Israel, divided into four companies, is assembled after a sacred pattern,
going on before the symbolic Tabernacle of Witness,
and made glorious by the sign of the Cross formed by their ranks.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Marvellously spread out, the Cross shot forth rays like the sun,
and the heavens declared the glory of our God.

(Repeat Irmos: "The mystery of Thy dispensation . . . ")

Ode Five

O thrice - - - bless - - - ed Tree,
on which Christ, _____ our King and Lord, was cru - - - ci - fied:
through which the one who de - ceived Eve _____ by the tree _____
has been caught by God who in the flesh was nailed on thee,
grant - ing peace _____ to _____ our souls.

O Cross of Christ, save us by Thy might!

O celebrated Wood,
O Cross whereon Christ was outstretched,
the turning sword that guarded Eden was in awe of thee;
and the dread Cherubim drew back before Christ, Who was nailed on thee,
granting peace to our souls.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

The hostile powers under the earth
shudder when they see the sign of the Cross
inscribed in the lower air wherein they go about;
but the race of those in Heaven and of the earthborn bow the knee unto Christ,
Who granteth peace to our souls.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The divine Cross hath appeared,
shining with glittering rays of light undefiled;
and flashing its divine brightness upon the nations darkened
by the error of deceit, it maketh them friends of Christ, Who was nailed on thee,
Who granteth peace to our souls.

(Repeat Irmos: "O Thrice-blessed Tree . . . ")

Ode Six

When Jo - nah crossed his hands in the bel - ly of the whale,
he pre - fig - ured Thy sav - ing Pas - sion.
When he came out of it af - ter three days, he
her - ald - ed the Res - ur - rec - tion of Christ our God,
who was cru - ci - fied in the flesh
and en - light - ened the world by His Res - ur - rec - tion on the third day.

O Cross of Christ, save us by Thy might!

Jacob rose upright when he crossed his hands, bowed down with age and spent with sickness,
showing the power of the life-bearing Cross.
For God, Who was nailed upon it in the flesh,
hath written anew the oldness of the letter
of the shadowy Law,
and hath driven away the soul-destroying disease of error.

*Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

When the divine Israel crossed his hands on the heads of the children, he signified
that as the honour due unto the first-born was set aside, so would be the people serving the Law.
Wherefore, when suspected of error in so doing,
he changed not the life-bearing figure; for, cried he,
the newly planted people of Christ God,
walled about by the Cross, shall take the higher place.

(Repeat Irmos: "When Jonah crossed his hands . . . ")

Ode Seven



The ig - no - rant com - mand of the god - less king, breath - ing with wrath
and — meas - ured mur - der, fright - ened and de - pressed — the peo - ple.
But nei - ther the an - i - mal an - ger, nor the flam - ing fire,
fright - ened the three — young men who stood in the fur - nace and sang: —
Bless - ed art Thou, O most glo - ri - fied — God of — our fa - thers.

O Cross of Christ, save us by Thy might!

The first of mortals, when he had tasted of the tree, dwelt in corruption;
for being condemned to be ignominiously cast away from life,
he, like some defilement that destroyeth the whole body, passed on the disease to all his race.
But we, the earthborn, finding in the Wood of the Cross our summons to return, cry out:
Blessed art Thou, O most glorified God of our fathers.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Disobedience brake the commandment of God, and the tree partaken of untimely
brought death to mortals. Henceforward the tree of most precious life
was securely enclosed, till that thief of the night, dying a painful death,
opened the way to it again as he cried with gratitude:
Blessed art Thou, O most glorified God of our fathers.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Israel, beholding that which was to come, revered the top
of Joseph's staff, signifying beforehand that the transcendently glorious Cross
would be the might of the Kingdom. For it is
the triumphal boast of kings, and a light to them that cry with faith:
Blessed art Thou, O most glorified God of our fathers.

(Repeat Irmos: "The ignorant command . . . ")

Ode Eight

You three young men, friends — of the Trin - i - ty:
bless God — the Fa - ther and Cre - a - tor;
praise — the Word who de - scend - ed and changed the flames to dew;
Ex - alt the Spir - - - it,
who gives life to all through - out all ag - es.

O Cross of Christ, save us by Thy might!

As that Wood is exalted which was sprinkled with the Blood
of the incarnate Word of God, sing praises,
ye powers of the Heavens, celebrating the restoration of mortals.
Ye people, worship the Cross of Christ,
whereby resurrection hath been granted to the world unto all the ages.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Ye earthborn stewards of grace, with due reverence
exalt with your hands the Cross whereon Christ our God stood,
and the spear that pierced the Body of God the Word.
Let all the nations
behold the salvation of God, glorifying Him unto the ages.

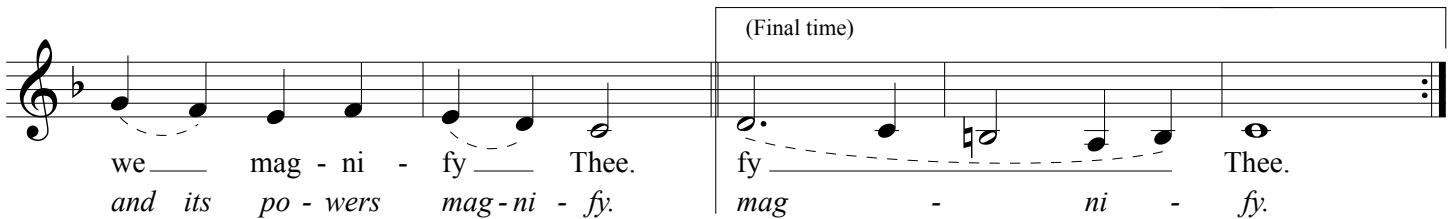
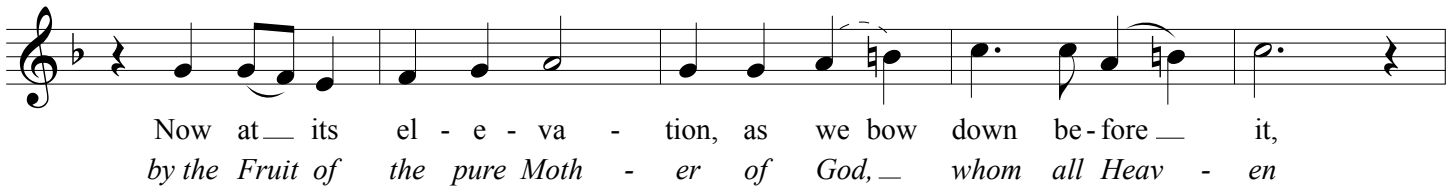
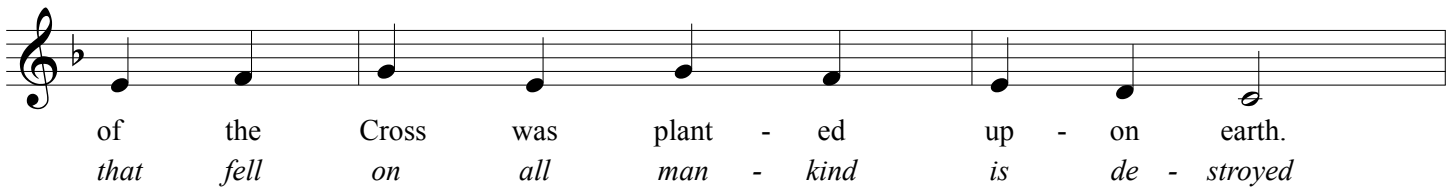
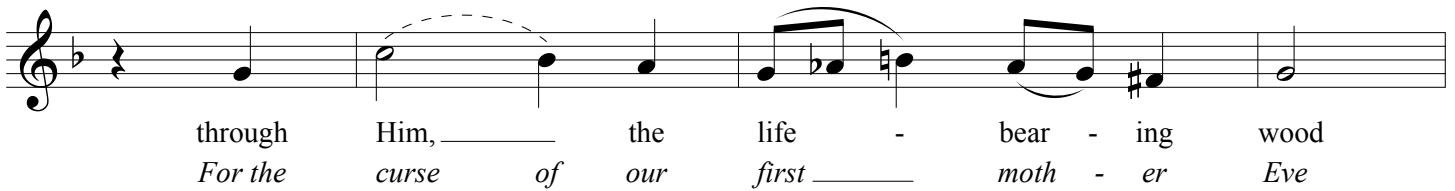
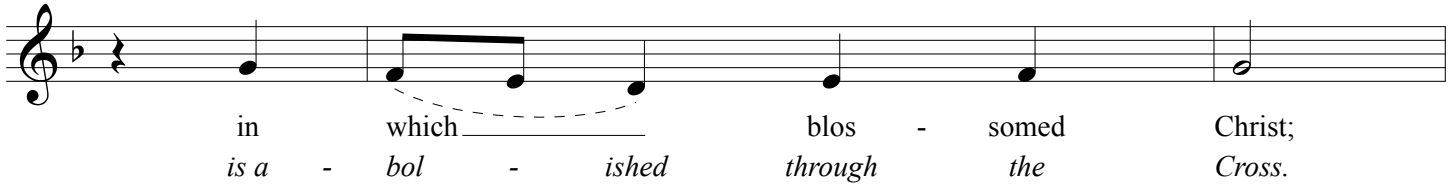
Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Be glad, ye faithful Christian kings, who have been chosen
by divine decree. Receiving from God the precious Cross,
glory in this triumphal weapon, for thereby the tribes of the enemy
that audaciously
seek war are scattered unto the ages.

Let us praise, bless, and worship the Lord.

(Repeat Irmos: "You three young men . . . ")

Ode Nine



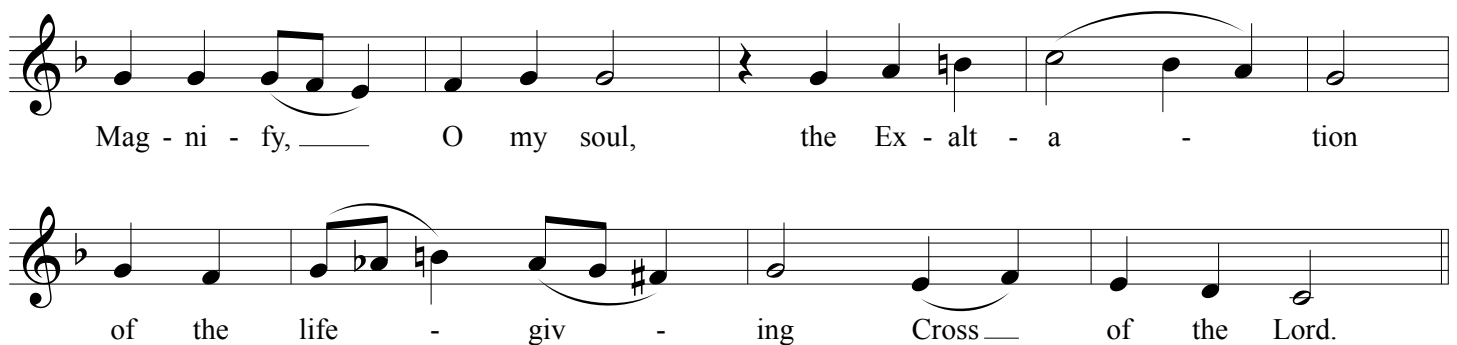


Let all the trees of the forest rejoice, for their nature hath been sanctified
by Him Who planted them in the beginning,
even Christ, Who was stretched out upon the Tree.
Now through its exaltation, as we bow down before it, Him do we magnify.

Magnify, O my soul, the most venerable Cross of the Lord.

A sacred horn is raised up for those of godly mind,
even the Cross of Him that is the Head of all,
wherewith all the horns of the spiritual powers of wickedness are broken.
Now through its exaltation, as we bow down before it, Him do we magnify.

(Second Irmos: "Today the death that came to man . . . ")



Not suffering the deadly bitterness of the tree to continue, O Lord,
Thou hast utterly blotted it out through the Cross.
Wherefore, wood also once destroyed the bitterness of the waters of Marah,
pre-figuring the working of the Cross, which all the powers of Heaven magnify.

Magnify, O my soul, the Exaltation of the life-giving Cross of the Lord.

Though we were continually sunken in the gloom of our forefather, O Lord,
this day Thou hast lifted us up again through the Cross.
For as our nature before was pulled down into error through rank intemperance,
we have been restored to our full inheritance by the light of Thy Cross, which we the faithful magnify.

Magnify, O my soul, the Exaltation of the life-giving Cross of the Lord.

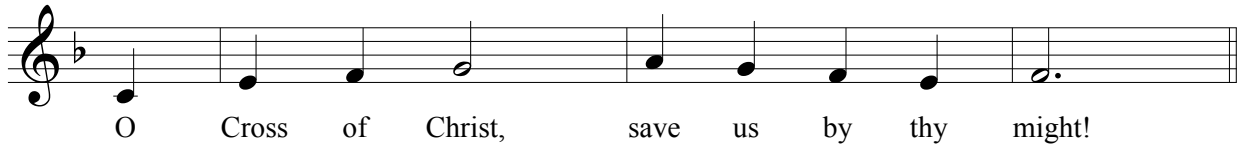
That Thou mightest show the world the figure of the Cross
worshipped in all places as most glorious, O Lord,
Thou hast formed it in the heaven, splendid with unapproachable light,
an invincible panoply for the King, which all the powers of Heaven magnify.

(Repeat Both Irmoi: "Thou art the mystical paradise . . . " and "Today the death that came to man . . . ")

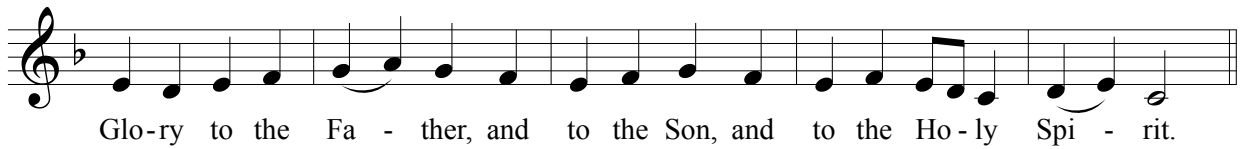
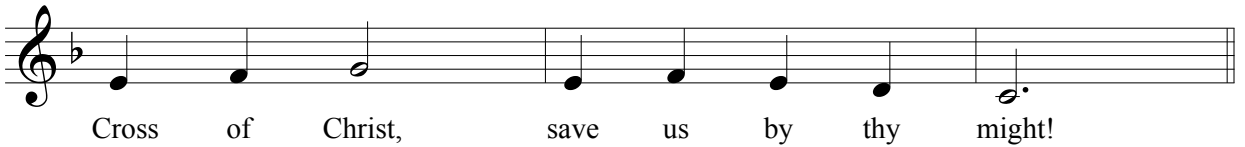
The Canon of the Cross

Refrains

Odes 1, 3:



Odes 4-8:



Before Ode 9:

