

September 14th. Elevation of the Holy Cross

Readings at Vespers

1. The Reading is from Exodus. *[15:22-16:1]*

Moses led the children of Israel up from the Red Sea and brought them to the desert of Soor. And they marched for three days in the desert and found no water to drink. They came to Merra and were unable to drink the water from Merra, because it was bitter. And so the place was named 'Bitterness'. And the people started to murmur against Moses and say, 'What are we to drink?' Moses cried to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There God laid down for him statutes and judgements, and he tested him there, and said, 'If you listen to the voice of the Lord your God, and do what is well-pleasing before him, and heed his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will not bring on you any of the diseases that I brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you.' And they came to Elim, and there were twelve springs of water there and seventy date palms. And they encamped there by the waters. Then they moved away from Elim, and the whole Assembly of the children of Israel came to the desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sina.

2. The Reading is from Proverbs. *[3:11-18]*

My son, do not treat lightly the Lord's discipline, nor give up when you are rebuked by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves; scourges every child he receives. Blessed is the man who has found wisdom, and the mortal who knows understanding. For it is better to trade for her than for treasures of gold and silver. She is more precious than valuable stones; nothing evil will withstand her; she is well known to all who draw near her, nothing precious is worthy of her, for length of life and years of life are in her right hand, while in her left are wealth and glory. Justice comes from her mouth; she carries law and mercy on her tongue. Her ways are good ways and all her paths are in peace. She is a tree of life to all who lay hold of her, and to those who lean hard upon her as upon the Lord she is safe.

3. The Reading is from the Prophecy of Esaiias *[60:11-16]*

Thus says the Lord, 'Your gates, O Jerusalem, shall be open continually; day and night they shall not be shut; so that men may bring to you the power of nations, with their kings led in procession. For the nation and kings that will not serve you shall perish; the nations shall be utterly laid waste. The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, with cypress, pine, and cedar, to glorify my holy place; and I will make the place of my feet glorious. The sons of those who oppressed you and troubled you shall come to you in fear; all who despised you shall bow down at your feet; you shall be called "City of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One of Israel". Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, with no one to help, I will make you a joy for ever, a gladness from generation to generation. You shall suck the milk of nations, and eat the wealth of kings; and you shall know that I, the Lord, am your Saviour and the God of Israel your Redeemer.'