

**‘THE CROSS IS RAISED ON HIGHT TODAY’**

**The Cross is the greatest of all Christian symbols. It is a constant reminder of God’s love for us, for Christ’s death upon it brought redemption and ultimately, salvation to mankind.**

Each September, our Holy Church dedicates a feast day to this most-precious relic: The **ELEVATION OF THE LIFE-GIVING CROSS**. Perhaps our feeling for the Cross can best be expressed in the hymns found in the prescribed services for this solemn day. At Vespers, we sing the following verse, which is attributed to the Emperor Leo: *“O three-branched Cross of Christ, you are my strong protection. Sanctify me by your might, so that I may venerate you and glorify you in faith and love.”* Another hymn, written by the venerable Anatolios, describes the Cross in a most eloquent manner: *“Hail, O life-giving Cross of the Lord! You are a sign of true joy. You are our help. Your are the strength of kings, the power of righteous men and the majesty of priests. Allwho sign themselves with you are protected from danger.”*

In the words of St. John Chrysostom: *“The Cross is a trophy against demons, a weapon against sin and a sword with which Christ pierced the serpent. The Cross is the will of the Father, the glory of the Son, and the joy of the Holy Spirit.”* May we never lose sight of the significance of the Cross.