The Order of the Exaltation of the Cross

**The Bringing out of the Cross**

The **Cross is carried out as usual**, i.e. after the Great Doxology.

After the bishop says, **“Wisdom, aright,”** the **choir sings “O Lord, save Thy people”** (slowly until the bishop finishes censing the Cross).

The bishop places the **Cross on the analoy** in the center of the church.

The **bishop censes around the Cross (3x).**

**The Exaltation of the Cross**

He picks up the Cross again and **takes the** **Cross to the cathedra** and faces east.

1st Petition – Bishop facing **East** (Altar)

**Two priests** stand on either side of the bishop with **pitchers of rose water**.

The **3rd deacon holds a basin** full of flowers beneath the Cross.

The **1st and 2nd deacon hold candle and censer** and stand before the bishop facing him.

The deacon says a **petition**.

The people **(choir) chant “Lord have mercy” (100x)**.

The **priests pour rose water over the Cross** as the **bishop *slowly* lowers and raises the Cross**.

The **bishop makes the Sign of the Cross (3x)** when he finishes raising the Cross.

(The above order is followed for the remaining petitions)

2nd Petition – Bishop faces **West** (the People)

3rd Petition – Bishop faces **South** (Men’s side)

4th Petition – Bishop faces **North** (Women’side)

5th Petition – Bishop faces **East** (Altar)

After the final exaltation of the Cross, the **bishop returns the Cross to the analoy**.

After finishing the final set of “Lord have mercy,” the choir sings **“Glory…, Both now…”** and the **Kontakion of the Cross**.

**The Veneration of the Cross**

The bishop returns to his cathedra.

**The clergy only** sing, **“Before Thy Cross”** (3x, with prostrations)

Then the **choir and people sing “Before Thy Cross.**” (Choir sings the stichera for the feast during the veneration of the Cross)

Everyone **venerates the Cross**.

The **bishop anoints with oil**.

A **priest passes out flowers** from the basin that caught the rose water.

After the stichera for the Cross, the 2nd deacon says the litany **“Let us complete our morning prayer unto the Lord.”**

*If the bishop is still outside anointing people when matins ends, the dismissal is done from the cathedra.*