

# July 31

## *E. Prefeast of the Procession of the Honorable and Life-giving Cross of the Lord*

On this day "the Prefeast of the Cross is celebrated, and the world is renewed, the ranks of angels sing to the One crucified for our sake, and they celebrate and rejoice with us". "Let all human nature leap for joy: for the tree of the Cross wants to be surmised by all the faithful as an inexhaustible healing and sure release from every infirmity, suffering and tribulation". "Come, O faithful, let us behold the strange wonder of how the tree of the Cross quenches the fire of every infirmity, and extinguishes the burning heat of passions in those who faithfully celebrate its Prefeast and honor the celebration". "The living together with the dead celebrate the Prefeast: for the Tree of Life, which destroyed Hades, the protector of humanity and the resurrection of the dead, now comes to grant true grace and healing to humanity". "Now worshipping and bowing down before the precious Cross", "it calms the sea of passions and stands firm during disturbances", "it drives away the clouds of misfortune and sorrow", "it opens the doors of life and incorrupt food for all", and "it saves those who worship it", "and those who faithfully celebrate it", "it enlivens, cleanses, renews and grants the best glory and grace to those who sing of Jesus who was nailed on it". "Those who with love bow down before the Cross are protected by its power. They will drive away both visible and imaginary enemies. Those who glorify Christ in song will be kept unharmed".

In Constantinople this Prefeast is concluded in the carrying of the Cross from the Royal Chambers to the St. Sophia Temple. See Aug. 1.

### *† Holy Righteous Eudocimus*

Born in Cappadocia, he was brought up by pious parents in the rules of faith and love of Christ. His pure soul, "radiating with devout ideas", avoided everything sinful. Being a commander during the reign of Emperor Theophilus, Ven. Eudocimus led a truly Christian life, abiding in fasting and prayers, reading sacred books and doing works of charity to the needy, widows and orphans. Having taken the vow of chastity, he even avoided conversations with women, entering into a conversation with only one mother. "Shining with the loftiness of his way of life" and "having a merciful soul, a pure mind, a good heart, an undefiled faith and a truly unfeigned love", Ven. Eudocimus peacefully departed to the Lord at 33 years of age. Soon after his demise and during the lifetime of his parents, wonders from his relics announced his holiness. The relics of St. Eudocimus repose in the temple of the All-Holy Theotokos in Constantinople.

*Troparion, tone 4*

**Having called you from earth to the heavenly mansion,  
The Lord preserves your body whole even after death, O Holy Eudocimus:  
For you inhabited the abode in both chastity and purity, O Blessed One,  
Not having defiled the flesh.  
Therefore with boldness beseech Christ God to save us.**

*Kontakion, tone 2*

**Desiring the highest things,  
Intimately uniting with the highest,  
And like a fiery chariot with the divine ascent of virtue,  
You perfected the soul, O All-blessed Eudocimus:  
Having lived on earth as if bodiless,  
You pleased the Creator of all.**

**On this day the right-believing abstain from meat. If Wednesday or Friday falls on the 30th of July, the fast before the Dormition of the All-holy Theotokos begins with total abstinence. It is not then necessary to make any decisions with respect to fish, except on the Transfiguration of the Lord.**

*Martyr Julitta* suffered for Christ in Cappadocian Caesarea during the reign of Emperor Diocletian. She had a law suit against one of her fellow-citizens who unjustly took away her estate. The rival declared to the judge that she was a Christian woman and thereby lost the protection of the law. Then the judge ordered Julitta to offer sacrifice to idols, being promised the return of her estate for doing it. St. Julitta refused to renounce Christ and after torture was thrown into the fire.

*Joseph of Arimathea*

He was a member of the Sanhedrim, a pious man and a secret disciple of the Lord Jesus. When the Savior gave up His spirit on the Cross, St. Joseph asked Pilate for His body, removed Him from the cross, wrapped Him in fine linen and placed Him in a new tomb (Mt. 27: 57-60; Mk. 15: 43-46; Lk. 23: 50-54; Jn. 19:38-42). St. Joseph died in peace.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) pp. 0262-0263  
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