**MAY 21**

**Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Saints Constantine and Helen**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 1**

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me.

Hear me, O Lord.

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me.

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon Thee.

Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer arise

in Thy sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice.

Hear me, O Lord.

*v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

**Tone 1** *(from the Pentecostarion)*

With Thy pure hand, Thou didst create man,

and Thou didst come to heal the sick, O compassionate Christ.

By Thy word Thou didst raise the paralytic at the Sheep’s Pool,

and didst cure the pain of the woman with the issue of blood.

Thou hadst mercy on the daughter of the Canaanite woman,

and didst not reject the request of the centurion.

Therefore we cry to Thee://

Glory to Thee, O Almighty Lord!

*v. (7) Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

(Repeat: “With Thy pure hand …” )

*v. (6) If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

The Paralytic was like an unburied corpse.

He saw Thee and shouted: “Lord, have mercy on me!

My bed has become my grave! Why should I live?

What use is the Sheep’s Pool to me?

I have no one to put me into the pool when the waters are stirred,

but I come to Thee, O Fountain of healing.

Raise me up, that with all I may cry to Thee://

‘Glory to Thee, O Almighty Lord!’”

*v. (5) For Thy name’s sake have I waited for Thee, O Lord, my soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

**Tone 4** *(SS Constantine and Helen) (Thou hast given a sign)*

Thou didst give Thy precious Cross to the Emperor

as a most powerful weapon.

Through it he reigned righteously on earth, shining with godliness.

By Thy compassion he was counted worthy of Thy heavenly Kingdom.

Therefore with him we glorify Thy dispensation, O almighty Jesus,//

Thou Savior of our souls and the Lover of man.

v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

(Repeat: “Thou didst give Thy precious Cross …”)

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

As the King of kings and the Lord Who reigns over all,

Thou, O Lover of man, didst grant Thy servant the wisdom of Solomon,

the meekness of David,

and the Orthodox faith of the Apostles.

Therefore we glorify Thy dispensation, O almighty Jesus,//

Thou Savior of our souls and the Lover of man.

*v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

(Repeat: “As the King of kings …”)

*v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever.*

O ever-memorable Emperor,

thou wast the first willingly to submit the purple to Christ,

recognizing Him as true God and King of all,

the great Benefactor and Source of victory.

Thou didst see Him set above every principality and power.

Therefore Jesus made the kingdom prosper for thee, O lover of virtue, //

for he is the Savior of our souls and the Lover of man.

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

**Tone 2** *(SS Constantine and Helen) (by Byzantius)*

Having received the benefits of rich gifts from God,

O most excellent King, O greatest Constantine,

thou wast rightly illustrious because of them.

For being illumined by the rays of the all-holy Spirit,

through baptism by the Priest Sylvester,

thou wast seen among kings to be invincible.

Thou didst present thy domain and the God-fearing royal city as a gift

to thy Creator.

Therefore, as thou hast boldness,

do not cease to intercede with Christ God,

that all who celebrate thy memory //

may be granted forgiveness of sins and great mercy!

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

**Tone 5** *(from the Pentecostarion)*

Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

He came to the Sheep’s Pool, called in Hebrew “Bethesda.”

It had five porches, each filled with a multitude of the sick,

for at certain times an Angel of the Lord stirred up the water,

and granted strength to those who approached in faith.

There the Lord saw a man who for many years had been afflicted.

He said: “Dost thou want to be whole?”

The sick man replied to the Lord:

“I have no man to lower me into the pool when the water is stirred.

I have spent all my wealth on physicians,

but have not been granted mercy!”

Then the Physician of souls and bodies said to him:

“Take up thy bed and walk!//

Proclaim My power and great mercy to the ends of the earth!”

**Readings**

1. **3 [1] Kings 8:22-23, 27-30 (Saints)**
2. **Isaiah 61:10-62:5 (Saints)**
3. **Isaiah 60:1-16 (Saints)**

**Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Saints Constantine and Helen**

**Litya *(If the rector desires the Litya, following one sticheron for the***

***Temple, these stichera are sung:*)**

**Tone 1**

We duly celebrate thy memory, O Constantine,

Equal-to-the Apostles, the foundation and joy of all kings.

Being enlightened by the rays of the Spirit,

thou didst brighten the whole Church of Christ,

by gathering the assemblies of the faithful from every place

to the radiant city of Nicea.

There the arrogance of the ungodly was quelled,

and the tongues of heretics were made weak and convicted of folly;

But the company of the Orthodox was exalted

when the faith was made manifest.

For this reason thou wast glorified by them as most right-believing,

and wast proclaimed the father of all kings,

as the first to receive the purple mantle from God.

Therefore we who faithfully celebrate thy memory//

ask thee to pray that forgiveness of sins be granted to our souls.

**Tone 2** *(by Byzas)*

O glorious Constantine, Equal-to-the Apostles:

thou didst not receive thy calling from men,

but like the divinely-speaking Paul,

thou didst obtain it from on high, from Christ God,

Having seen the sign of the Cross in the sky,

and through it having been captured like most beautiful prey,

thou wast shown to be an invincible conqueror of enemies,

both visible and invisible.

Therefore, as we who are born on earth revere thy memory,

we beseech thee as a most fervent intercessor,//

to pray boldly that we be granted enlightenment, forgiveness, and

great mercy.

**Tone 2**

Today the memorial of the pious Constantine

has risen up like myrrh poured out;

for desiring Christ, he despised the idols,

and raised up on earth a temple to Him Who was crucified for our sake.//

And in the heavens he received his due reward, the crown of hope.

**Tone 3**

While still in the years of thy youth,

thou didst receive, like holy Paul, the sacred charisma

from the highest places;

and with the full armor of the Cross,

thou didst overthrow the impudence of the enemy.

O boast and glory of kings, Constantine, Equal-to-the-Apostles,//

entreat the Lord that our souls may be saved!

**Tone 4**

Praise to God from earthly lips is sung at thy divine commemoration,

O Constantine, worthy of all praise.

For thou wast seen to be a pure soldier of the word of faith,

putting the idols to shame in battle.

Now thou hast found rest in the radiance of the Trinity,//

illumining our thoughts by thine intercessions.

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

**Tone 5** *(SS Constantine and Helen)*

Today the Church, adorned by thy reign, O King,

mystically rejoices,

and with words of good omen

she fittingly honors thy memory, crying out:

“Rejoice, O emulator of Paul and who didst invoke the Cross of Christ,

and didst also crush the snares of the Enemy!

Rejoice, most excellent of kings,

and honored as Equal-to-the-Apostles!

Rejoice, support of the faithful and rampart of kings!

Cease not from interceding for us with the Lord, O blessed Constantine,//

since thou hast boldness to approach Him, O adornment of emperors!”

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

**Tone 5** *(from the Pentecostarion)*

A man lay sick by the Sheep’s Pool.

Seeing Thee, O Lord, he cried to Thee:

“There is no man to lower me into the pool when the water is stirred.

Another always goes before me and receives healing,

while I lie here in misery.”

Immediately the Savior was moved to pity, and said to him:

“It was for thee that I became Man;

because of thee I was clothed in mortal flesh.

Yet thou sayest: ‘I have no man!’

I tell thee, take up Thy bed and walk!”

All things obey and submit to Thy power, O Lord!//

Remember us all, and have mercy, O holy Lover of man!

**Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Saints Constantine and Helen**

**Aposticha**

**Tone 2** *(from the Menaion) (Joseph of Arimathea)*

Thou didst receive the scepter from God,

O Constantine, first emperor of Christians.

The hidden symbol of salvation appeared to thee on earth.

Having the life-giving Cross as an invincible weapon, O blessed saint,

thou didst bring all the nations to the feet of Rome,//

and thou thyself wast led to God.

*v: I have exalted one chosen out of the people. (Ps 88/89:19)*

The womb that bore thee is truly blessed and sanctified,

O divinely-crowned Constantine:

beloved of the world, and joy of Christians.

Thou art the glory, wealth and champion of orphans and widows,

the protector of the lowly and those in need;//

for thou dost restore the afflicted and dost rescues those in bonds!

*v: God, thy God, has anointed thee with the oil of gladness.* *(Ps 44/45:7)*

With longing and love for Christ,

the mother of a sweet offspring made haste to come to holy Zion,

to the sacred place where our Savior was crucified in His desire to save us.

Raising the Cross there, she cried, rejoicing://

“Glory to Him who has given me what I desired!”

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

**Tone 8** *(SS Constantine and Helen)*

Brightly shining moon and star of evening,

thou wast turned from unbelief to faith in the true God,

and wast led to sanctify the people and city.

Beholding the figure of the Cross in the sky,

thou didst hear from above:

“Conquer with this Cross, in which lies victory over thy enemies!”

Receiving wisdom from the Holy Spirit,

thou wast anointed as holy emperor,

establishing and supporting the Church of God.

O father of Orthodox emperors,

Constantine, Equal to the Apostles,

whose relics pour forth healings://

ever intercede for our souls!

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

**Tone 8** *(from the Pentecostarion)*

Solomon’s porch was filled with the sick.

In the middle of the feast,

Christ found a man who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years.

He shouted to him in a commanding voice:

“Dost thou want to be healed?”

The sick man replied: “Lord, when the water is stirred, I have no man to

lower me into the pool.”

The Lord said to him:

“Pick up thy bed!

Now that thou art healed, see that thou sin no more!”

Show to us Thy great mercy, O Lord,//

through the prayers of the Theotokos!

**Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Saints Constantine and Helen**

***(at Great Vespers)***

**Tone 3** **Troparion**  *(Resurrection)*

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

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

**Tone 8** **Troparion**  *(SS Constantine and Helen)*

Thy servant Constantine, O Lord and only Lover of man,

beheld the figure of the Cross in the heavens.

Like Paul, not having received his call from men,

but as an apostle among rulers set by Thy hand over the royal city,//

he preserved lasting peace through the prayers of the Theotokos.

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

**Tone 3 Resurrectional** **Dismissal Theotokion**

We praise you as the mediatrix of our salvation,

Virgin Theotokos.

For your Son, our God, Who took flesh from you,

accepted the Passion on the Cross,//

delivering us from corruption as the Lover of Man.

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***(at the Divine Liturgy)***

**Tone 3** **Troparion**  *(Resurrection)*

Let the heavens rejoice!

Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell,

and has granted to the world//

great mercy.

**Tone 8** **Troparion**  *(SS Constantine and Helen)*

Thy servant Constantine, O Lord and only Lover of man,

beheld the figure of the Cross in the heavens.

Like Paul, not having received his call from men,

but as an apostle among rulers set by Thy hand over the royal city,//

he preserved lasting peace through the prayers of the Theotokos.

**Tone 3** **Kontakion**  *(SS Constantine and Helen)*

Today Constantine and his mother Helen reveal the precious Cross,

the weapon of Orthodox Christians against their enemies,//

for it is manifest for us as a great and fearful sign in struggle.

**Tone 3 Kontakion** *(from the Pentecostarion)*

By Thy divine intercession, O Lord,

as Thou didst raise up the Paralytic of old,

so raise up my soul, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts;

so that being saved I may sing to Thee://

“Glory to Thy power, O compassionate Christ!”

**Tone 1** **Prokeimenon**

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee!

(Ps 32/33:22)

*v: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befitteth the just! (Ps 32/33:1)*

**Tone 8** **Prokeimenon**

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the

ends of the universe! *(Ps 63/64:10)*

**Epistle**

Acts 10:21-33

Acts 26:1-5, 12-20 *(Saints)*

**Tone 5**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth will I proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. (Ps 88/89:1)*

*v: For Thou hast said: “Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be*

*prepared in the heavens.” (Ps 88/89:2)*

**Tone 1**

*v: I have raised up one chosen out of my peoples. (Ps 88/89:19)*

**Gospel**

John 7:1-13

John 10:1-9 *(Saints)*

***(Instead of “It is truly meet …,” we sing:)***

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:

“Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice,

thy Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!

With Himself He has raised all the dead.”

Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem!

The glory of the Lord has shone on thee.

Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!

Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,

in the Resurrection of thy Son!

**Communion Hymn**

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the

ends of the universe! *(Ps 18/19:4)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

In addition to the translations of the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations for the services of the Ascension, liturgical texts for this service also include modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon’s Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon’s Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Archimandrite Juvenaly, Fr Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.