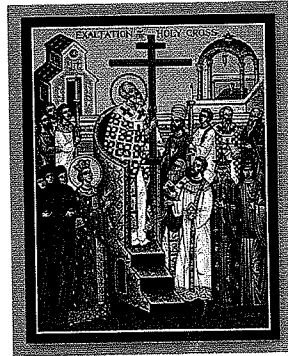




The Olive Shoots
St. Symeon Orthodox Church
September 15, 2013

✙ Exaltation of the Life-giving Cross ✙



“The Cross is the Protector of the Universe!”
- Hymn to the Cross

www.theoliveshoots.webstarts.com

Saturday, September 21- Vespers at 6:00 PM



Troparion Tone 1

O Lord save thy people and bless thine inheritance.
Grant Victories to the Orthodox Christians over their
adversaries; And by virtue of thy cross, preserve thy
habitation.

Kontakion Tone 7

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the
gates of Eden; it has mysteriously been quenched
by the wood of the Cross! The sting of death and
the victory of hell have been vanquished; for
thou, O my Savior, have come and cried to those
in hell: Enter again into paradise.

Today's Bible Verse-

Whosoever will come after me, let him deny
himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

- Mark 8: 34

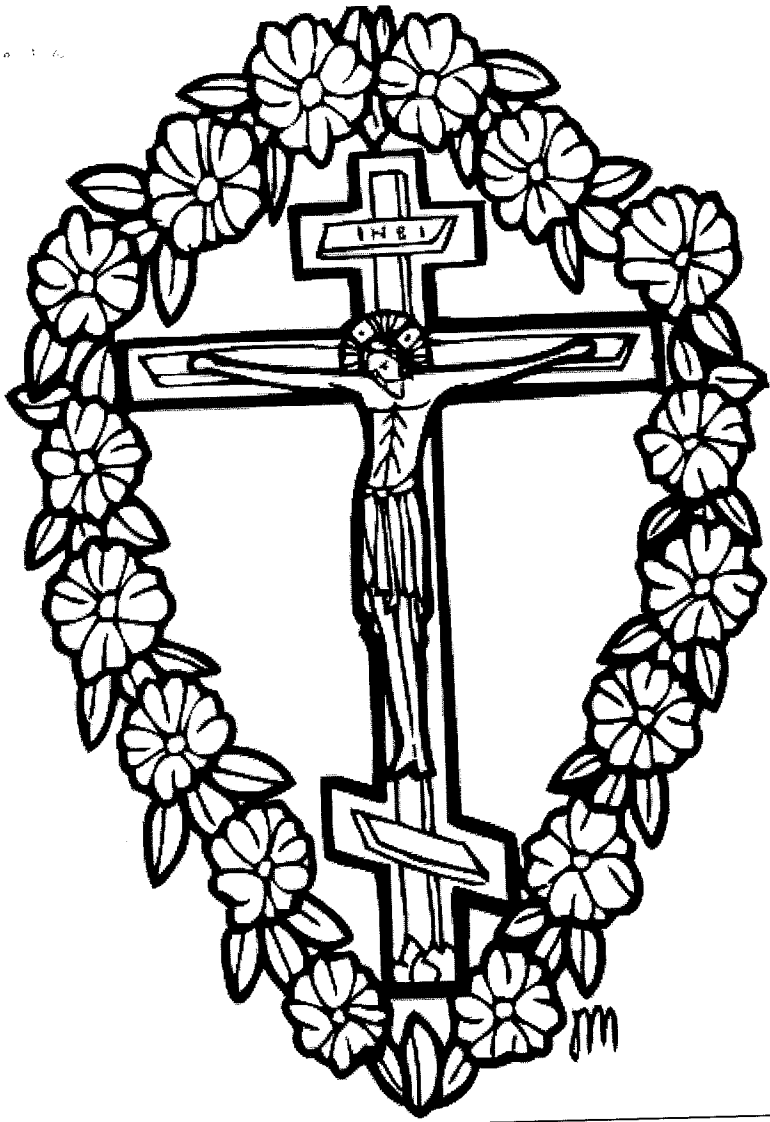
The Holy and Life-Creating Cross

The Exaltation of the cross is the day that we remember when Sts. Constantine and Helen found the life-giving cross. On this day, the cross is brought to the middle of the church. Orthodox Christians prostrate before it, singing: *Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Thy holy Resurrection we glorify.*

The Exaltation of the Cross is celebrated on the day that the cross was found. The cross lets us remember that as hard as everything seems, God is so powerful that it is worth it in the end.

Before Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, the cross was used to punish criminals and was seen as an awful thing. However, by dying on the cross for us and for our salvation, Christ has made the cross a symbol of the Holy Orthodox Church and has turned it into a guardian of Christians against demons.

We the Orthodox wear crosses around our necks in order to protect us. Rejoice in the All-holy, venerable and life-bearing Cross! Remember that God is in heaven and on Earth, and he does whatever he pleases!



Answer the following questions:

Why do we remember the cross?

What did the cross mean to the Jews before Jesus was nailed to it?

Complete the following sentences and color the picture:

1. God is in _____ and on _____, he does
_____ he _____.

2. Before thy _____ we bow down in _____ o
_____, and thy holy _____ we _____.

3. O Lord, _____ thy _____ and bless thine
_____.

Grant _____ to the _____
over their _____, and by _____ of thy
_____ preserve thy _____.