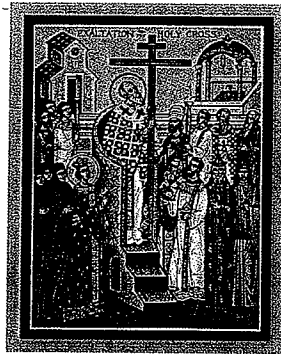


The Olive Shoots
St. Symeon Orthodox Church
September 14, 2014

✦ Exaltation of the Life-giving Cross ✦



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

www.theoliveshoots.webstarts.com

Saturday- 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

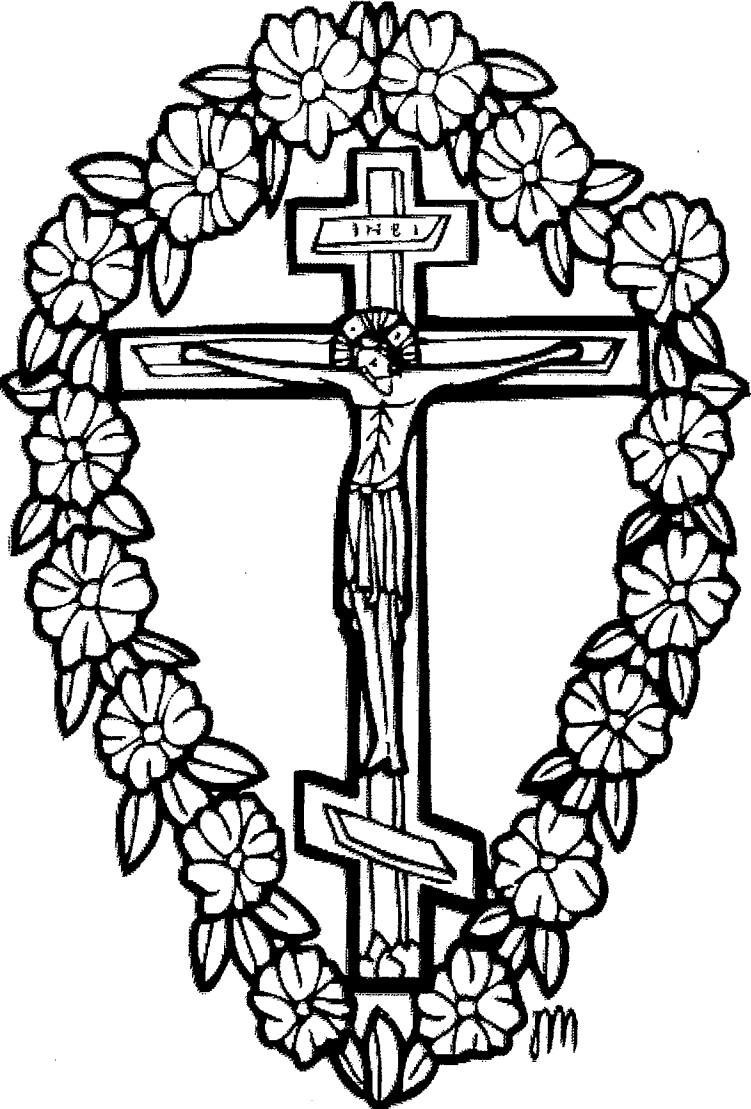
The Holy and Life-Creating Cross

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 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 Our 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. Our 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 _____.