

May 21st

# Constantine & Helen, Equals-to-the-Apostles

## Stichera at the Aposticha at Vespers

Byzantine Tone 2

Special Melody: *When he took thee*

Adapted by Dn. John El Massih

1) Thou wast first of all the Christian kings to receive the  
scep - ter from God; for His sav - ing sign, which was hid  
in thē earth, was shown to thee, O bless - ed  
Con - stan - tine. By its might thou didst sub - ju - gate  
all na - tions and peo - ples un - der - neath the Chris - tians' feet, since  
thou didst tru - ly have  
Christ's life - giv - ing Cross as a wea - pon  
which no ad - verse pow - er could con - quer,  
and there - by thou al - so wast brought to our God.

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*Verse:* I have raised up one chosen out of My people. I have found David My servant,  
with My holy oil have I anointed him (Psalm 88:18c-19).

2) Ver - i - ly most bless - ed is the womb and the hal - lowed  
bel - ly that bare thee with - in, O ven - 'ra - ble King,  
Con - stan - tine, thou God - crowned rul - er whom the  
whole world loved; thou en - rich - er and cham - pi - on  
of or - phans and wid - ows, glo - ry of the Ro - mans, shel - ter  
of all hum - ble men,  
joy of Chris - tians, guard - ian of pau - pers,  
res - cu - er from straits and af - flic - tions,  
and re - deem - er of those in cap - tiv - i - ty.

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Verse: Wherefore God, Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness (Psalm 44:6b).

3) Smit - ten with de - sire and love for Christ, ea - ger - ly did  
Hel - en, the moth - er whence sprang the sci - on most sweet,  
haste to Ho - ly Zi - on till she found the  
ho - ly place where our Sav - ior was cru - ci - fied,  
de - sir - ing to save us. And when through her dil - i - gence, she  
there had found the Cross  
and had raised it up with great long - ing,  
she re - joiced and cried a - loud: Glo - ry  
be to Him Who grant - ed me mine ar - dent hope.