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 scepter from God; for His saving sign, which was hid in the earth, was shown to thee, O blessed Constantine. By its might thou didst subjugate all nations and peoples underneath the Christians' feet, since thou didst truly have Christ's life-giving Cross as a weapon which no adverse power could conquer, and thereby thou also 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 belly that bare thee within, O ven ra ble King,

Con stant tine, thou God crowned rul er whom the whole world loved; thou enrich 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 i an of pau pers,

res cu er from straits and af flic tions,

and redeemer 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

Helen, the mo ther whence sprang the sci on most sweet,

haste to Holy Zi on till she found the

ho ly place where our Sav i or was cru ci fied,

desir ing to save us. And when through her dil i gence, she

the re 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.

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