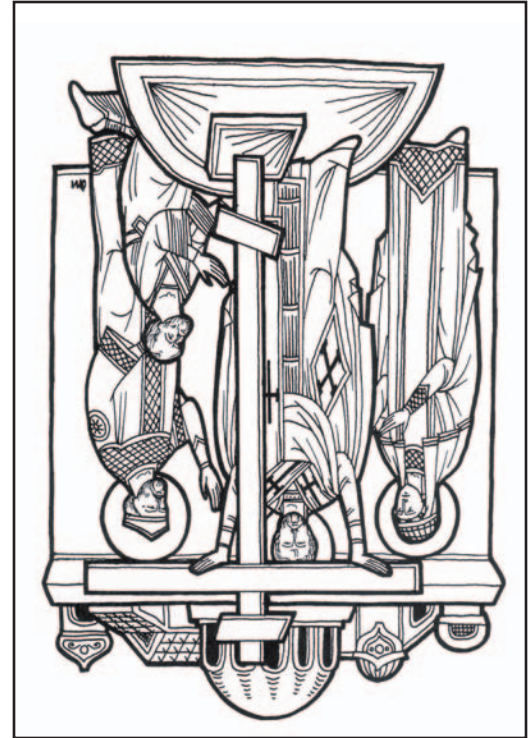


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O Lord save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, Grant victory over all enemies to all Orthodox Christians, And by the power of Thy Cross, Protect all those who follow Thee.

Troparion



Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

September 14 / 27

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, celebrated by the Church on September 14/27, commemorates two events in church history. The first occurred when thousands of Christians flocked to Jerusalem to venerate the precious relic found by St. Helen. As the Patriarch of Jerusalem raised the cross for all to see, the people fell to the ground and sang, "Lord, have mercy." The second event took place in 628, when the Greek Emperor Heraclius joyously returned the cross to Jerusalem, after it had been captured (along with many Christians) and taken to Persia fourteen years earlier.

The icon of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross shows Bishop Macarius of Jerusalem standing on a raised platform holding up the True Cross of Christ, which he is showing to the people. Supporting the bishop are deacons, and at his side are Saints Constantine and Helen



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