May 21st
Equals-to-the-Apostles Constantine & Helen
Stichera at the Praises

1) Rejoice, O great and all-wise Constantine, thou fount of
Orthodox Faith, that dost water continually all the lands beneath the sun
with thy sweet and delightful streams. Rejoice, O root from the which there sprouted forth
the fruit that nourisheth Christ's most holy Church.

Rejoice, thou most glorious boast and fame of all the farthest ends of earth, first of Christian kings. Rejoice, thou joy of faithful men.

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2) Since the King of all created things foresew thy goodness of heart and thy readiness of obedience, He through reason captured thee when unreason ruled over thee; and having made thee to shine in heart and mind with certain knowledge of godly piety, He showed thee to the world as a shining sun that sendeth forth the beams of all godly deeds, O wise and glorious Constantine.
3) When like choicest earth thou hadst received the doctrines taught of the Lord, O allwise Helen praised of all, thou didst sprout abundant fruit of right virtuous life and works, thereby providing our minds with nourishment through the example of thy good way of life. Wherefore, we celebrate thy memorial today with great delight, keeping solemn festival with exaltation and joy.
4) With the oil of gladness Thou, O Christ, in a most

marvellous way didst anoint Thy com-

mu - ni - cants, Con - stant - ine and Hel - en, who,

hat - ing ev 'ry de - ceit and lie, yearned for Thy

beau - ty; and Thou didst freely grant

Thy prom - ised King - dom of Heav - en un - to them

who at Thine own be - hest first had ruled on earth in

god - ly pi - e - ty and in true re - li - gion,

O All - ho - ly Word of God.

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