

Searching for the Cross of Jesus

About 300 years after Jesus died and rose, St. Helena, wanted to find the cross on which Jesus died.

Jesus was crucified at a place called Golgotha, but finding the hill of Golgotha didn't make her job any easier. Over the years, many people were crucified on Golgotha. There was a lot of wood from crosses.

She had workmen explore in that area, looking for the true cross. They found a piece of wood that had the plant, sweet basil growing with it. When sick people touched that wood, they were healed. It was the true cross.

In the icon of the feast, we see St. Helena on the left, Bishop Macarius in the middle and wearing a crown, St. Constantine who was the son of St. Helena. They are exalting, or glorifying, the true cross.

