

Finding the True Cross

Did you ever wonder what it would be like to visit the places we hear about in the Bible, like Bethlehem, and Jerusalem? We call the area around Jerusalem, the Holy Land, because that is where Jesus walked.

About 300 years after Jesus died and rose, St. Helena, wanted to travel to the Holy Land. She 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 holding on high, the true cross.



Here is the troparian for the feast:

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies and by the power of Thy Cross, preserving Thy Kingdom.