

**May 21, 2012**  
**Holy Great Rulers Constantine and Helen**  
**Equal to the Apostles**

---

**GREAT VESPERS**

**Kathisma**

Blessed is the man... is taken.

**At Psalm 140**

*In Tone 6*

8.

You were begotten from the Father before the morning star,  
but Arius taught wrongfully that You were created:  
In his ignorance he designated You as a creature,  
yet the fathers of the council proclaimed You as Son of God,  
co-enthroned with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

7.

Who has torn Your spotless vesture, Saviour?  
Who has challenged the unity of the triune Godhead?  
It is Arius, for he denied that You are equal to the Father.  
Those who follow him do not believe that God took flesh for our sake,  
but the fathers of the council proclaimed You as Son of God,  
co-enthroned with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

6.

The foolish Arius blasphemed the holy Trinity,  
dividing the Persons into three different and unequal substances,  
but the God-mantled fathers denounced his confusion:  
They assembled with the zeal of Elijah,  
destroying error with the sword of the Spirit,  
directed by the inspiration of God!

*In Tone 4*

5.

You gave Your precious cross as a most powerful weapon to the emperor.  
Through it he reigned righteously on earth, shining with godliness.  
And by Your compassion he was counted worthy of Your heavenly kingdom.  
Therefore with him we glorify Your dispensation, almighty Jesus,  
Saviour of our souls, and Lover of mankind!

4.

You gave Your precious cross as a most powerful weapon to the emperor.  
Through it he reigned righteously on earth, shining with godliness.

And by Your compassion he was counted worthy of Your heavenly kingdom.  
Therefore with him we glorify Your dispensation, almighty Jesus,  
Saviour of our souls, and Lover of mankind!

3.

As the King of kings, the Lord who reigns over all,  
You, Lover of mankind, granted Your servant the wisdom of Solomon  
the meekness of David, and the orthodox faith of the Apostles!  
Therefore we glorify Your dispensation, almighty Jesus,  
Saviour of our souls, and Lover of mankind!

2.

As the King of kings, the Lord who reigns over all,  
You, Lover of mankind, granted Your servant the wisdom of Solomon  
the meekness of David, and the orthodox faith of the Apostles!  
Therefore we glorify Your dispensation, almighty Jesus,  
Saviour of our souls, and Lover of mankind!

1.

Emperor of eternal memory,  
first you willingly submitted the purple to Christ,  
recognizing Him as true God and King of all,  
the great Benefactor and Source of victory.  
You saw Him set above every principality and power.  
Therefore Jesus made the kingdom prosper for you, lover of virtue,  
for He is the Saviour of our souls, and Lover of mankind!

*In Tone 2, Glory...*

Constantine the great, most powerful emperor,  
you received the finest of rich gifts from God making you pre-eminent.  
Enlightened by the rays of the most Holy Spirit through baptism,  
you appeared invincible while you reigned,  
receiving the world as a free gift of the Creator.  
You ruled the city with faithfulness.  
Since therefore you have boldness before Him,  
never cease to pray to Christ  
that all who celebrate your memory in faith  
may be granted forgiveness of sins and great mercy!

*In Tone 6, Now...*

We praise the radiance of Your countenance,  
seeing Your Ascension upon the mount, O Christ,  
the splendour of the Father's glory.  
We bow in worship before Your Passion!  
We honour Your Resurrection!  
We praise Your glorious Ascension!  
Lord, have mercy on us!

## READINGS

1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30; Isaiah 61:10-62:5; Isaiah 60:1-16

## APOSTICHA

*In Tone 2*

You received the sceptre from God, Constantine, first emperor of Christians.  
The hidden symbol of salvation appeared to you on earth.  
Having the life-giving Cross as an invincible weapon, blessed saint,  
you brought all the nations to the feet of Rome,  
and yourself were led to God.

*I have exalted one chosen out of the people!*

The womb that bore you is truly blessed and sanctified, divinely crowned Constantine:  
beloved of the world, and joy of Christians!  
You are the glory, wealth and champion of orphans and widows,  
the protector of the lowly and those in need;  
you restore the afflicted, and rescue those in bonds!

*God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness!*

With longing and love for Christ,  
the mother of a sweet offspring made haste to come to holy Sion,  
to the sacred place where our Saviour was crucified in His desire to save us.  
Raising the Cross there, she cried, rejoicing:  
glory to Him who has given me what I desired!

*In Tone 8, Glory...*

Brightly shining moon and star of evening,  
you were turned from unbelief to faith in the true God.  
You were led to sanctify the people and city.  
Beholding the figure of the Cross in the sky, you heard from above:  
Conquer with this Cross in which lies victory over your enemies!  
Receiving wisdom from the Holy Spirit, you were anointed as holy emperor,  
anointing and supporting the Church of God,  
father of orthodox emperors, Constantine,  
equal to the apostles whose relics pour forth healing:  
ever intercede for our souls!

*In Tone 6, Now...*

God has gone up with a shout;  
the Lord, with the sound of a trumpet,  
in order to save the fallen image of Adam,  
and to send the comforting Spirit,  
Who will sanctify our souls!

## **TROPARIA**

*In Tone 8*

Christ our God, You are glorified above all,\* You established our fathers as beacons on earth\* and through them guided all of us to the true faith.\* Glory to You, most compassionate Lord.

*Glory...*

After seeing the image of Your cross in the heavens, O Lord,\* and receiving like Paul the summons that was not from men,\* Your apostle among kings entrusted into Your hands the imperial city.\* Always save it in peace by the prayers of the Mother of God,\* only Lover of mankind.

*In Tone 4, Now...*

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,\* giving joy to Your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit,\* and assuring them through your blessing\* that You are the Son of God,\* the Redeemer of the world.