

Feast day of Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross



The Church today commemorates the Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross.

It was St. Helen, the mother of St. Constantine the Great, who undertook, even while in advanced age, the hardships of a journey to Jerusalem to search for the cross, in roughly the year 325.

The venerable Helen had a pagan temple in Jerusalem demolished and the earth beneath it removed, revealing the Tomb of our Lord, as well as three crosses.

Of these, it was believed that one must be that of Christ the Savior, the other two of the thieves crucified with Him; yet St. Helen was at a loss as to which one is the Wood of our salvation.

At the inspiration of St. Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, a woman of the city,

who was already at the point of death from disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near to the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole.

A feature is posted today on the pages of the Orthodoxy news agency focusing on the site of Christ's Crucifixion.