



MAY 7TH

The Apparition of the Sign of the Cross over Jerusalem

In the spring of the year, 351 AD, the Byzantine Empire, was controlled by an Emperor named Constantius, the son of St. Constantine the Great, who, unlike his father, believed in a heresy known as Arianism. Even after the Council of Nicea had declared that God existed as Trinity (one-in-essence and undivided). A Bishop named Arius and many Christians in his eparchy and beyond began to believe the opposite. They incorrectly believed that Jesus was not begotten of the Father, but created, like angels or human beings. This confusion was doing great harm to the Church, and the Christian people became deeply divided because of it.

At that time, there also lived a holy man named Cyril, who was the Archbishop of Jerusalem. The Archbishop fought tirelessly against this heretical thought and consequently was often at odds with the Emperor. Cyril prayed fervently to God every single day. He prayed that God would give him the courage and the grace to be able to correct this error and bring those misguided souls back to orthodox thinking.

Soon the feast of Pentecost had arrived. Archbishop Cyril was saying his prayers before the Divine Liturgy when he noticed that an extraordinary light was coming into the Church from outside his window. When he went to look, he saw that there were tongues of fire in the sky above the Church! All of the people began to run outside to look up and marvel at what they were seeing;

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it was a luminous cross in the sky above them, surrounded by a beautiful rainbow!

This giant cross that appeared in the sky cast itself over the city of Jerusalem and stretched from Golgotha to the Mount of Olives, which is about five and a half miles away! The people of Jerusalem and all of the area around the city knew precisely whose symbol this was, and thousands of them ran to the Church looking for instruction from Archbishop Cyril. He took the opportunity that Pentecost Sunday to teach everyone about the true nature of the Trinity. This sign shined over Jerusalem for an entire week and converted many pagans, Jews, and Arians. The event was so inspiring to all who witnessed it. Not only was it documented by the Church but also by all of the secular historians of the day.

St. Cyril took the opportunity to write a letter that very day to the Emperor Constantius, telling him about the cross in the sky and giving him instruction against Arianism as well. St. Cyril urged the Emperor to adopt a genuine belief in the Holy Trinity. At this, the Emperor was converted to the truth and renounced the Arian heresy! This historical letter has been preserved and can still be read today.

- Written by Lynne Wardach

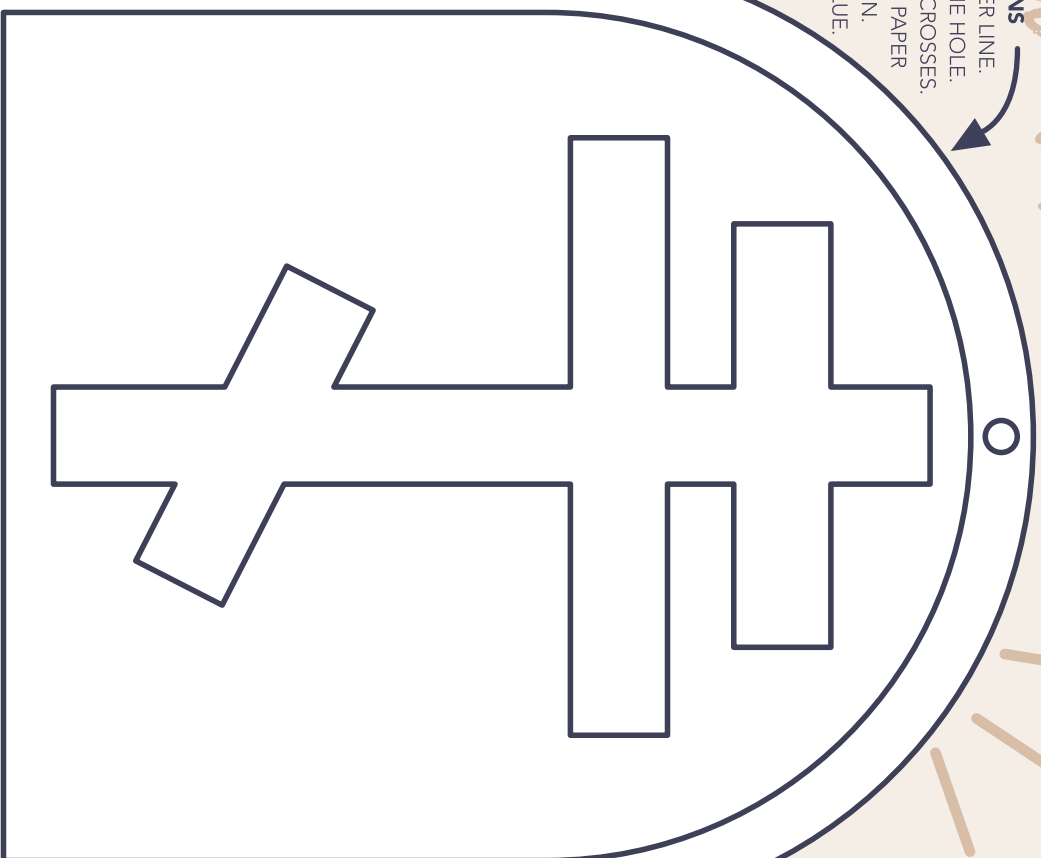
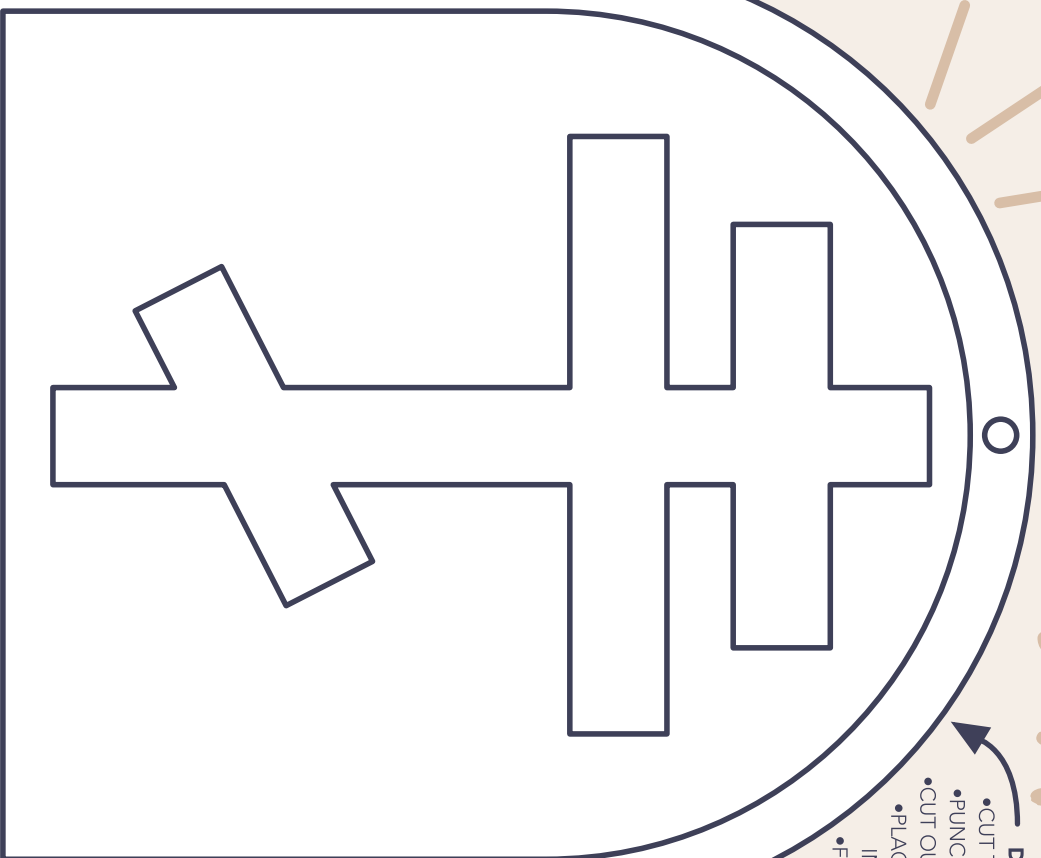
See a copy of Archbishop Cyril's letter to the Emperor Constantius [HERE](#):



Troparion: The sign of your cross appeared as a dazzling glow, more radiant than the sun. O Savior, You stretched it from the holy mountain to the place of Calvary, manifesting in this way the power You have given to it. Preserve our civil authorities in strength and establish our country in peace, through the prayers of the Theotokos.

Sun Catcher

- DIRECTIONS**
- CUT THE OUTER LINE.
 - PUNCH OUT THE HOLE.
 - CUT OUT BOTH CROSSES.
 - PLACE TISSUE PAPER IN BETWEEN.
 - FOLD & GLUE.



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May 7, 351 AD