

# Back to Basics with the *Law of God*

## Part 5: The Gospel in the New Testament (1)



A Straightforward Teaching of Orthodox Christianity based upon  
the Slobodskoy *Law of God* Study Book

Priest Justin Patterson / Fall 2018

# What is the Law of God?

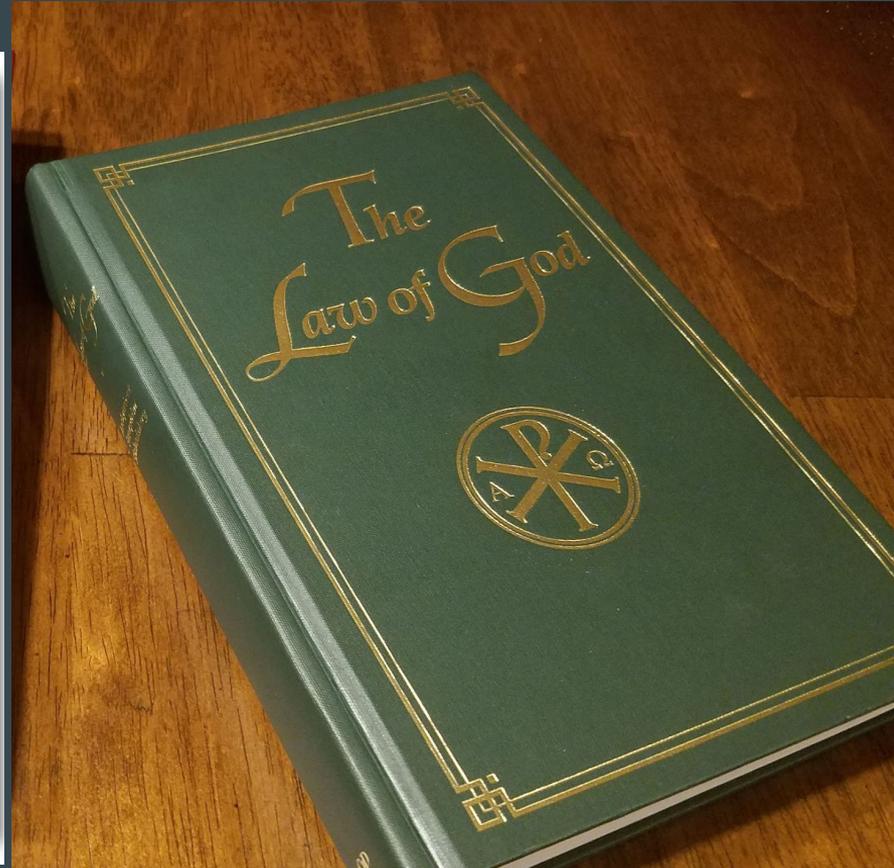
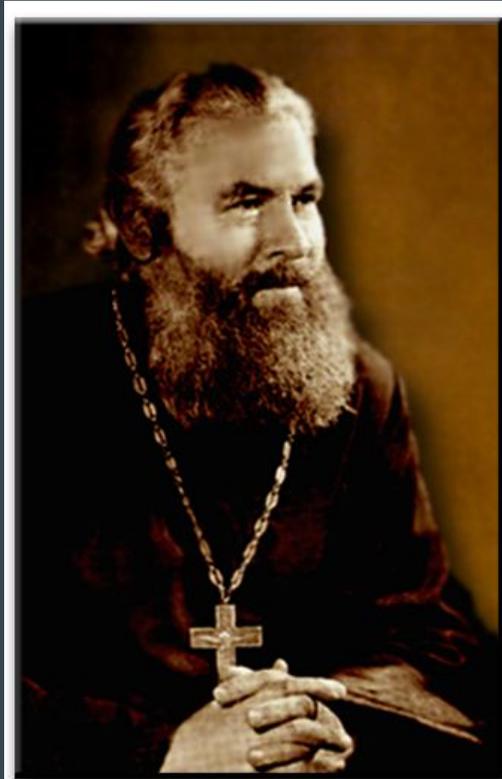
*The Law of God*

“For Study at Home  
and at School”

Compiled by  
Archpriest Seraphim  
Slobodskoy 1912-71

Holy Trinity Press in  
Jordanville

1966; English 1993



# Weeks 1 & 2: Introduction & Broad Topic of Prayer

+Physicality in Prayer (sign, posture, standing)

+3 broad categories of prayer:

1. Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving
2. Prayers of Petition
3. Penitential Prayers

+Disposition in Prayer (peace, focus, fasting, purity)

+Tools for Prayers (Akathists, Prayer Books, Special Services of Need, and more)



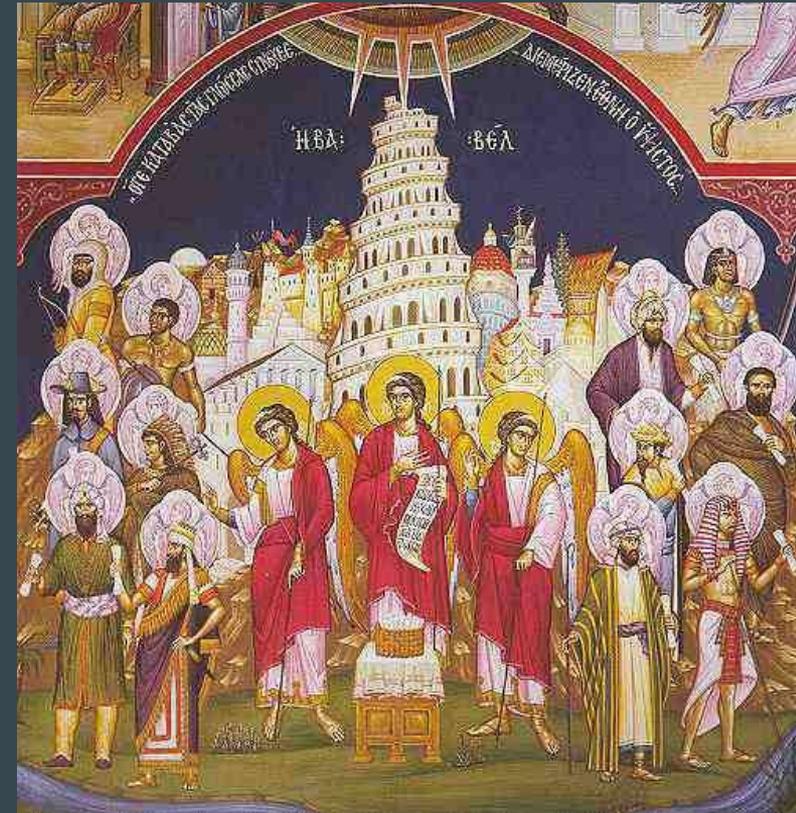
# In Weeks 3 and 4: The Gospel in the Old Testament

- +Intro to the Old Testament
- +Days of Creation & Making of Man
- +The Fall, Sin, Cain & Abel
- +The Flood
- +Vital Vignettes from the Old Testament



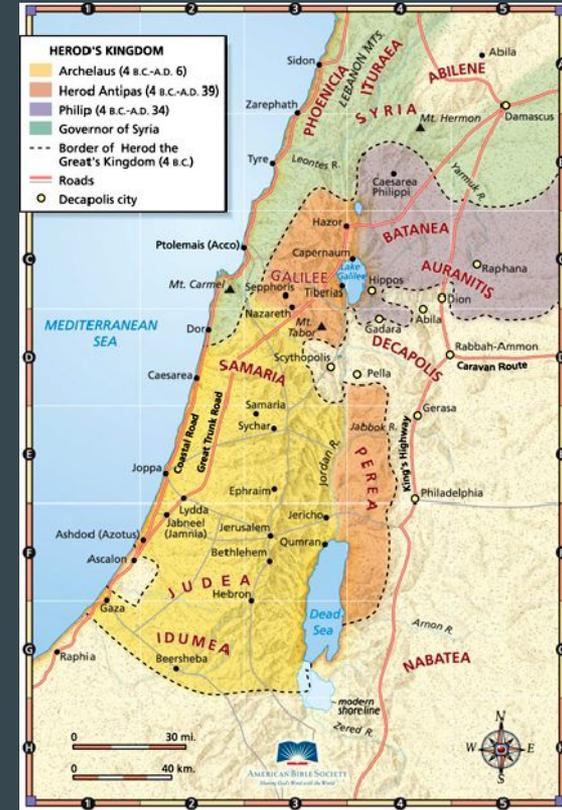
# ... Additional Vignettes (Icons!) from the Old Testament

- Tower of Babel & Appearance of Idolatry
- Stories of Abraham and Isaac
- Stories of Jacob and Joseph in Egypt
- Bondage in Egypt, Passover, and Exodus
- Story of Job the Long-suffering
- Moses, the Burning Bush, the Law, and the Tabernacle
- Types of Christ in the Pentateuch
- Joshua, Judges, Ruth, Samuel, and Saul
- Advent of King David / Solomon & Temple
- The OT Prophets & Captivity in Babylon
- Stories of Daniel & 3 Youths in Babylon
- Return from Captivity & Inter-Testamental Period

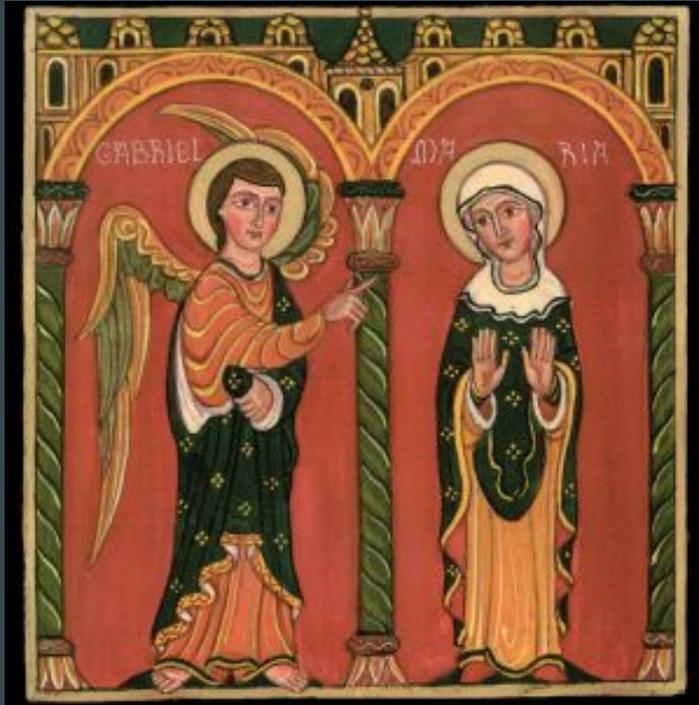


# Greek Language, Roman Empire, & Expectation of Messiah

- LXX: Jews using Greek and then Roman infrastructure to spread their physical presence and faith
- Judaism semi-accepted as a religion and culture within the Roman Empire
- House of Herod tapped to govern Judea
- Israel waiting for the coming of the Messiah, the Christ, to deliver them.
- Daniel (9:26): “the Anointed One shall be put to death, yet there shall be no upright judgment for him; and he shall destroy the city and the sanctuary... and he shall appoint the city to desolations. Then he shall confirm the Covenant... and there shall be in the temple the abomination of desolations...”

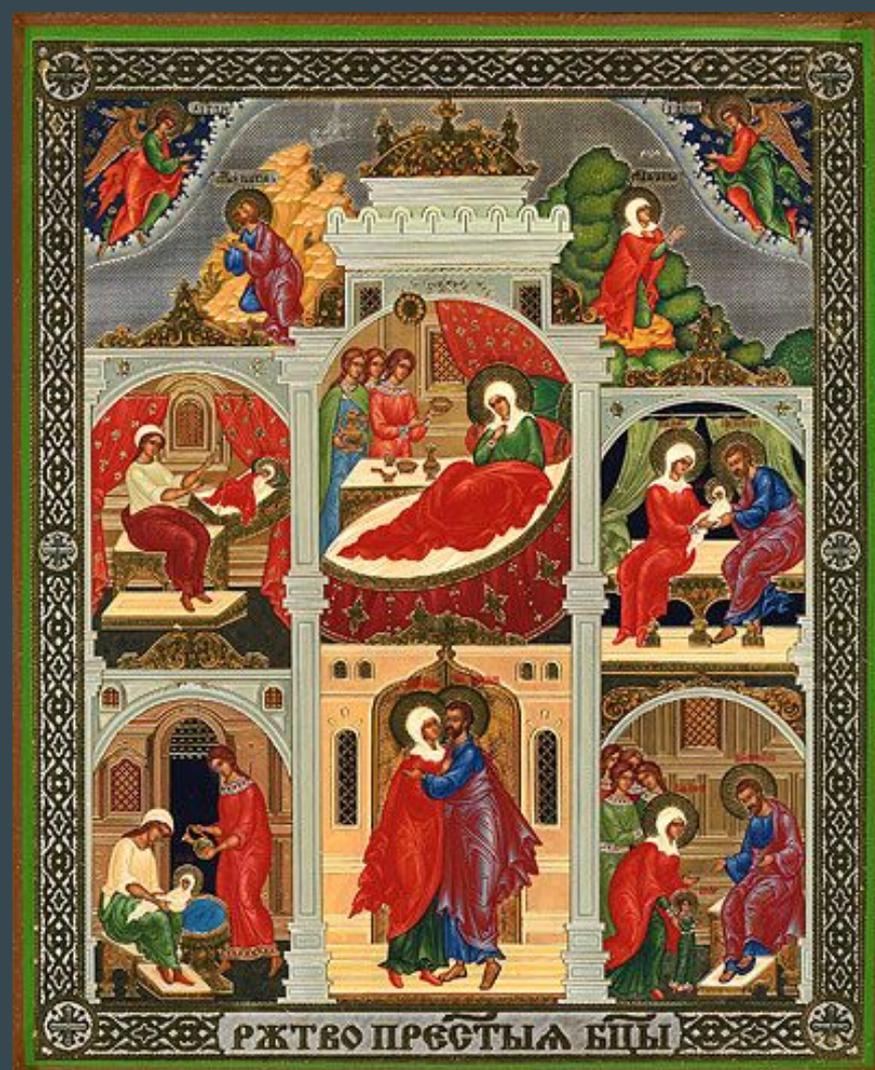


# Tonight: The Gospel in the New Testament--New Covenant



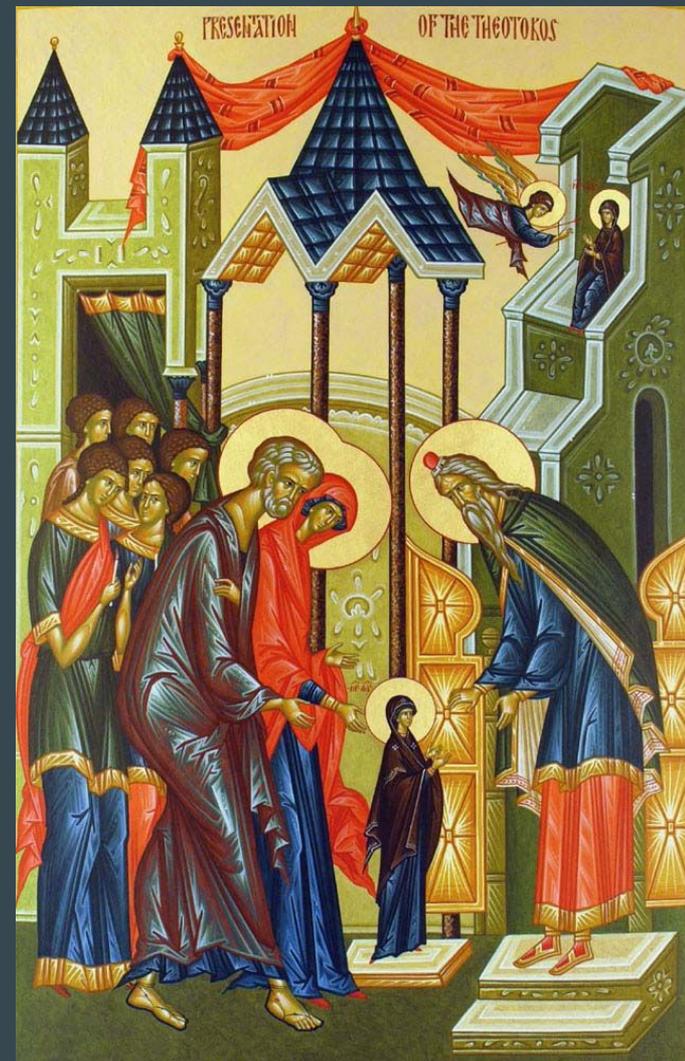
# Chapter 1: Nativity of the Holy Virgin Mary

- Non-biblical but deep tradition
- Joachim and Anna deeply pious/Davidic
- Shame of barrenness/lament
- Vow to consecrate child to God
- Conception in old age (natural but with divine help)
- Feast of joy and beginning (Sept. 8)



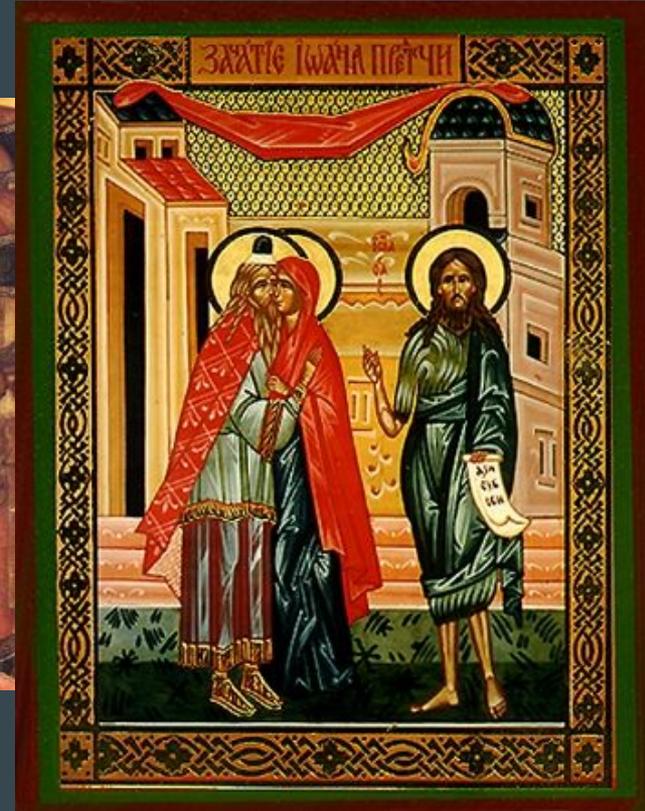
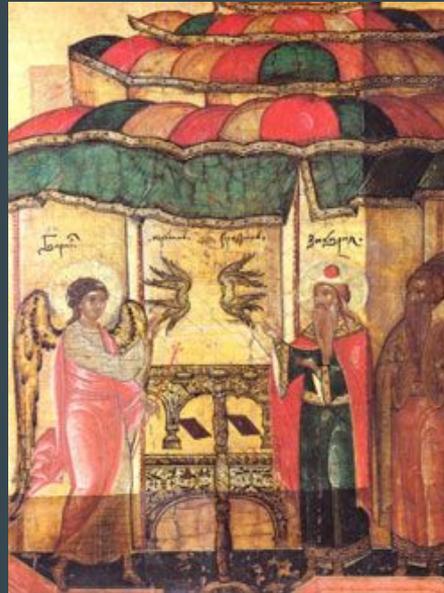
# Chapter 2: Entry into the Temple of the Most-Holy Virgin Mary

- Non-biblical feast but deeply in Tradition
- Key idea 1: parents fulfill vow to dedicate Mary
  - At age of 3, Joachim and Anna bring her to Temple
- Key idea 2: High priest prophetically escorts Mary into the Holy of Holies
- Key idea 3: She is the fulfillment of the Old Temple, inasmuch as she contains the very Presence of God in her womb
- Additional note: Joseph was an 80-year-old relative, to whom Mary was given at age 14 to serve as guardian



# Chapter 3: Announcement of the Angel about Birth of the Forerunner

- Biblical narrative (Luke 1)
- Forerunner foretold by Malachi
- Priest Zacharias & Elizabeth
- Problem of barrenness/shame
- Gabriel announcing during Zacharias' priestly service
- Zacharias' doubt about news
- Zacharias' mouth silenced until after the birth of the Forerunner



# Chapter 4: The Annunciation of the Holy Virgin Mary

- Biblical Feast (Luke 1)
- 6 months after Announcement to Zacharias
- Gabriel to Mary
- “Rejoice, full of grace..”
- You shall call name “Jesus”
- Virgin birth: “the Holy Spirit shall come upon you.. therefore... he shall be called the Son of God..”
- Annunciation is commemorated on March 25



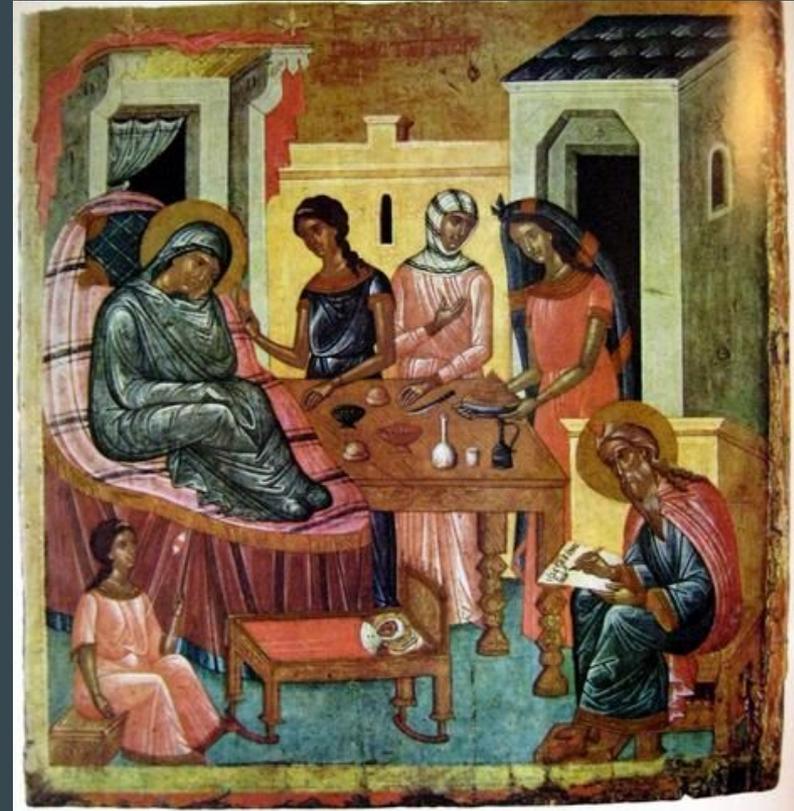
# Chapter 5: Visit of the Most-Holy Virgin Mary to Righteous Elizabeth

- Biblical event (Luke 1)
- Both women expecting
- John leaps in womb of Elizabeth
- “Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb..”
- Mary recites Magnificat
- Joseph informed (Matthew 1) about the coming of Jesus and “he shall save people from their sins.”



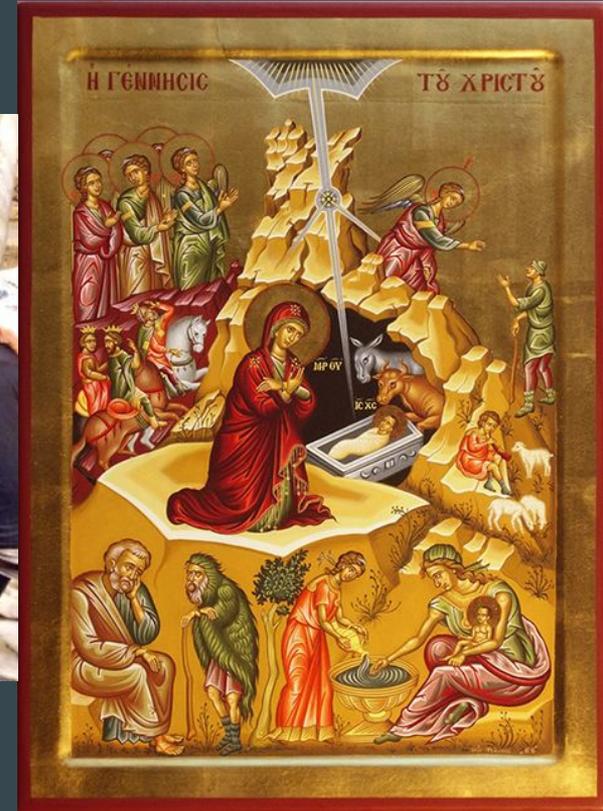
# Chapter 6: The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

- Biblical Feast (Luke 1)
- Incredible joy and wonder at the birth!
- Zacharias' naming of "John"
- Zacharias' tongue unloosed
- Canticle of Zacharias ("Give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death...")
- Feast Day of John's Birth is June 24



# Chapter 7: The Nativity of Christ the Savior... (Slide 1)

- Biblical Feast (Luke 2)
- Under rule of Caesar Augustus & Herod in a time of the Roman census
- Census is why Joseph went to Bethlehem
- No room: hence cave (inn)
- 8 days after the birth of Christ, Joseph and Mary have Jesus circumcised (also a feast day)



# Chapter 7: The Nativity of Christ the Savior... (Slide 2)

- Adoration of Magi (Matthew 2)
- Likely from Persia or Babylonia (outside Roman Empire)
- Magi were students of the stars but were expecting some kind of Messiah figure
- Impressed by the star that had appeared
- Gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh
- Tradition records their names as Melchior, Gasper, and Balthasar
- Adoration observed on Dec. 25



# Chapter 8: The Meeting of the Lord

- Biblical Feast (Luke 2)
- Fulfillment of Law Moses--that every male child should be consecrated to God in Temple on 40th day with sacrifice
- Simeon & Anna--waiting!
- “Lord, now lettest...”
- “A sword shall pierce soul...”
- Feast observed on Feb. 2



# Chapter 9: Flight into Egypt & the Slaying of the Innocents

- Biblical event (Matthew 2)
- God commanded Joseph to flee to Egypt to protect child
- Tradition of James going, too
- Herod misses Jesus, but kills 14,000 “innocents” in Bethlehem area
- Herod punished for this evil and died
- Because Archelaus reigned in Herod’s place, Joseph went to Nazareth in Galilee
- Jesus grew up in Nazareth



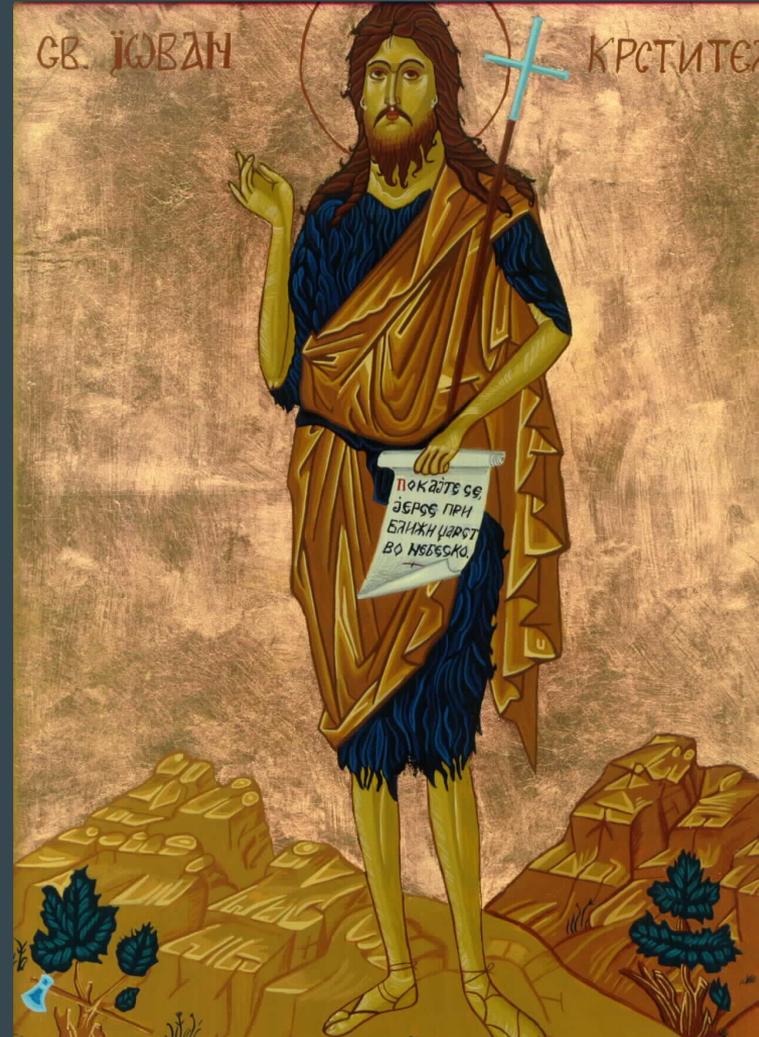
# Chapter 10: The Savior in the Temple as a Youth

- Recorded in Luke 2
- Passover celebration
- Jesus: age 12
- In large group of relatives and friends from Nazareth
- Jesus missing on return trip
- Super-human teaching among scribes and priests!
- “About my Father’s business...”
- Yet... he submitted to them and learned trade....



# Chapter 11: The Preaching of St. John the Baptist

- Recorded in all four Gospels
- [Orphaned... perhaps raised by Essenes...]
- At age of 30, the Lord directed John the Jordan to preach and baptize
- As a prophet, John proclaimed: “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!”
  - “Bring forth fruits worthy of repentance...”
  - “Do violence to no man, neither accuse falsely, and be content with your wages...”
- Baptizes Jesus... “He is mightier than I!”



# Chapter 12: The Baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ

- Recorded in all four Gospels
- John baptizes Christ at Christ's command, not because Christ "needed" it but so that the Law might be fulfilled
- At the baptism, the Father testified "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."
- Revelation of the Trinity



# Chapter 13: The Lord Jesus Christ in the Wilderness & Temptation

- Retreat to wilderness right after Baptism
- Fasting 40 days/nights
- Devil came to tempt after the 40 days
- “If thou art the Son of God...” do these things...
- Devil disgraced
- The 40-days is the inspiration for the fasting seasons
  - Fast “enables a person to cleanse himself of evil, of sinful inclinations, to fix thoughts on the Lord...”



# Chapter 14: The Lord Jesus Christ Appears to the People

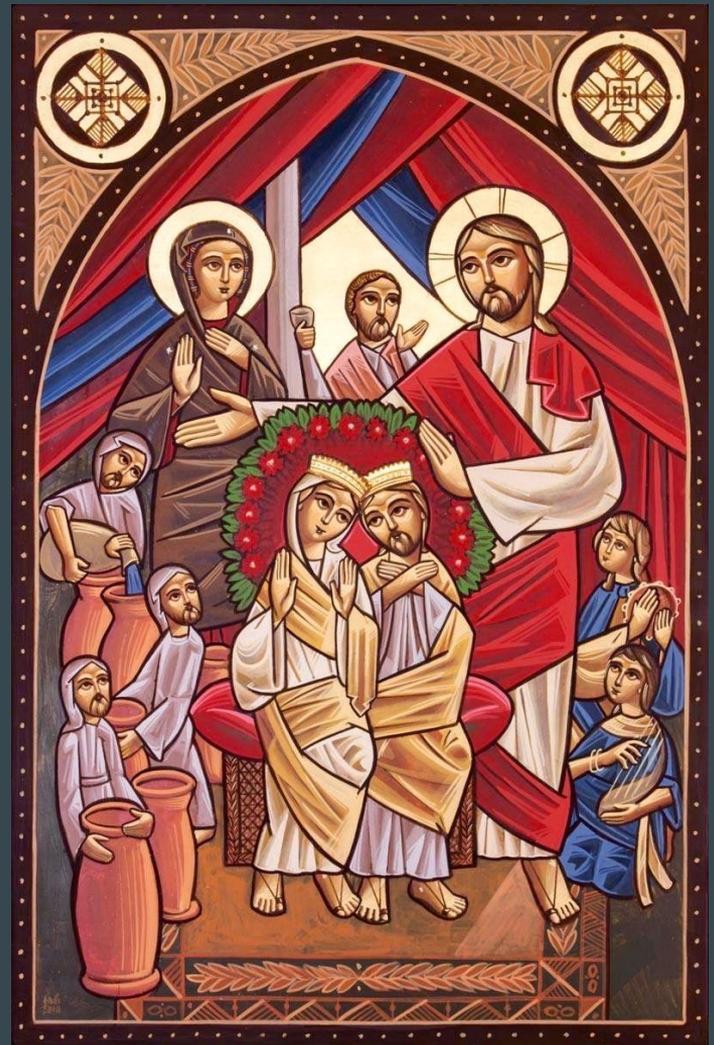
... & His first Disciples

- First “public” appearance at the Jordan for Baptism
- Proclamation of “Lamb of God”
- Calling of disciples recorded in all Gospel (in various ways)
- Andrew called first, then John the Theologian and James, then Peter, Philip, and Nathaniel...
- Miracles would be used to help people believe in him



# Chapter 15: The First Miracle of Jesus Christ

- Recorded in John 2 (1st sign)



# Chapter 16: The Merchants are Banished from the Temple

- Recorded in John 2 (not to be confused with his cleansing of the Temple before the Passion)
- The Lord used a whip and overturned tables.
- “Make not my Father’s house a house of merchandise...”
- He showed himself Lord of the Temple
- His disciples would only see significance later.



# Chapter 17: Conversation of Jesus Christ with Nicodemus

- Recorded in John 3
- Discourse on being “born again”
- Birth is of “water and of Spirit,”  
water Baptism as a spiritual and  
sacramental reality



# Chapter 18: Conversation of Jesus Christ with the Woman of Samaria

- Recorded in John 4
- Used in our Sunday lectionary
- Shocks the Samaritan woman
  - Speaks to her
  - Asks for help
  - Inverts it and promises “real help” with “living water” and no thirst again
  - Tells “everything about her”
  - Promises that real worship will be “in spirit and in truth.”
  - Leads her to confess that he is the Messiah!
  - Foreshadows the Gospel for the Gentiles
- Also healing of Nobleman’s son (John 4)
  - A 2nd miraculous sign in John’s Gospel



# Chapter 19: Healing of the Paralytic at Pool of Bethesda

- Recorded in John 5
- 3rd sign of John's Gospel
- One of Jesus' Sabbath-Day Healings



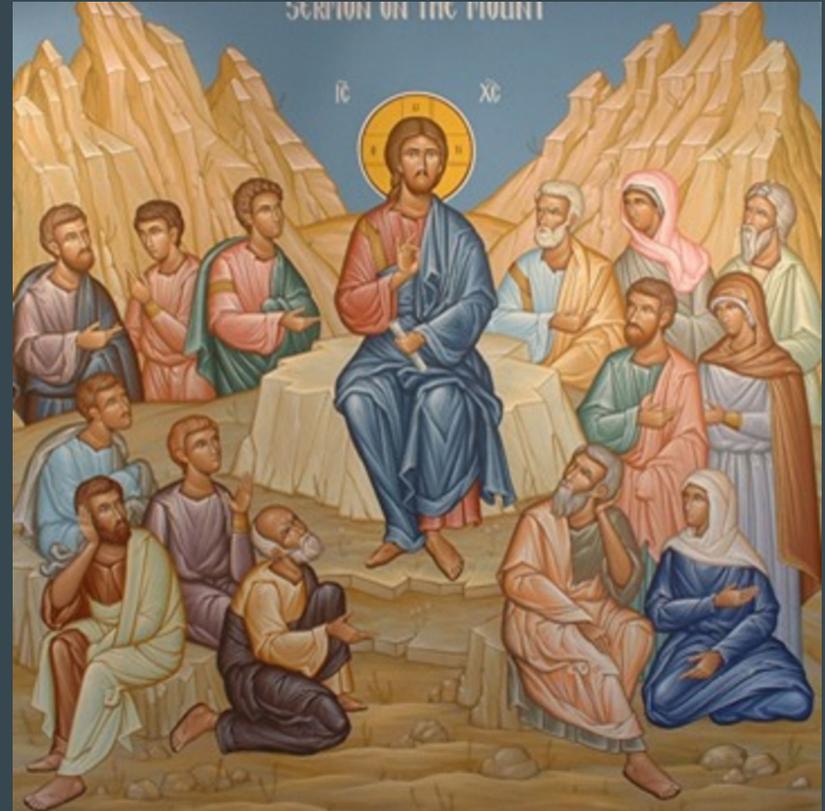
# Chapter 20: The Lord Chooses Twelve Apostles

- Simon Peter
- Andrew the First-Called (Peter's brother)
- James, son of Zebedee
- John, son of Zebedee, the Theologian
- Philip
- Nathaniel, also called Bartholomew
- Thomas, called the Twin (Didymus)
- Matthew, known as Levi the tax-collector
- James, son of Alphaeus (Cleopas)
- Simon the Canaanite, also called the Zealot
- Judas, son of James, also Lebbaeus/Thaddaeus
- Judas Iscariot... *PLUS the 70*



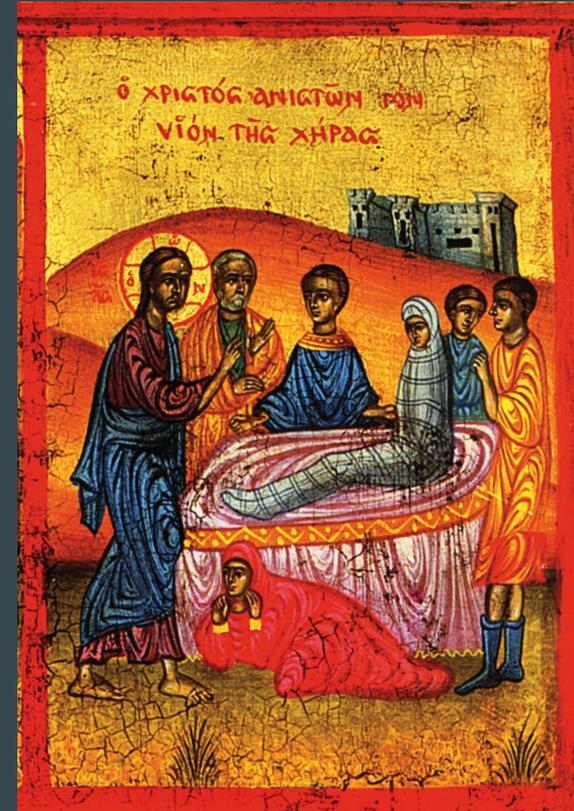
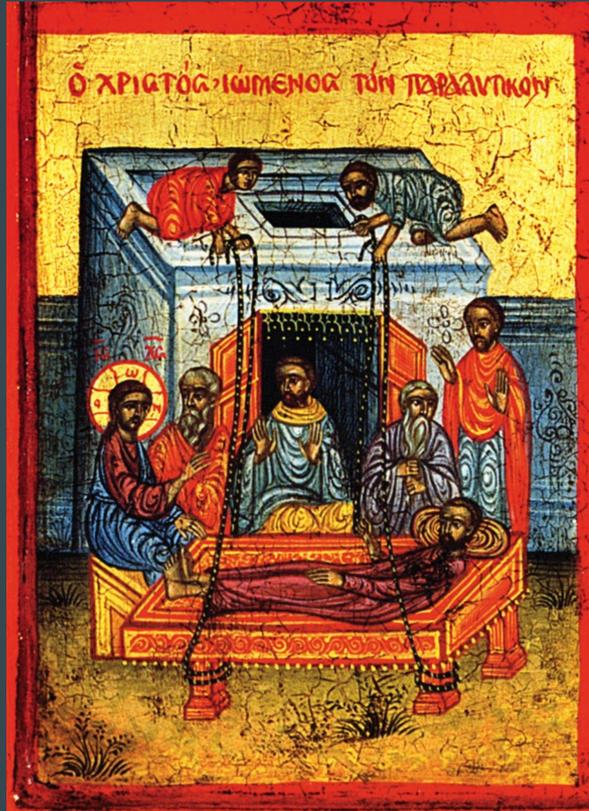
# Chapter 21: The Sermon on the Mount

- Recorded in Matthew and in Luke
- Jesus “came down from the mountain heights to a level place...”
- Jesus seated on the mountain (perhaps over the level place)
- Beatitudes--Commandments of Blessedness
  - Pages 270-271
- The Providence of God (seek first his righteousness)
- On not Judging One’s Neighbors
- On Forgiving One’s Neighbors
- On Love for One’s Neighbors
- Power of Prayer & Alms & Good Works



# Chapter 22: Power of Faith & Prayer for Others--Paralytic in Capernaum

- Recorded in synoptic Gospels
- Paralytic dropped through the roof by friends
- “Your sins are forgiven you!”
- “Who can forgive, but God??”
- “Rise, take up your bed...”
- Raising of Widow of Nain’s Son (Luke 7)



# Chapter 23: Parables--Sower, Mustard Seed, Leaven... (1)

*Read from chapter 23, pp.  
276-279*

- These parables all recorded in the synoptic Gospels

\*Note that only the Sower Parable and the Wheat & Tares Parable are actually part of the Sunday lectionary!



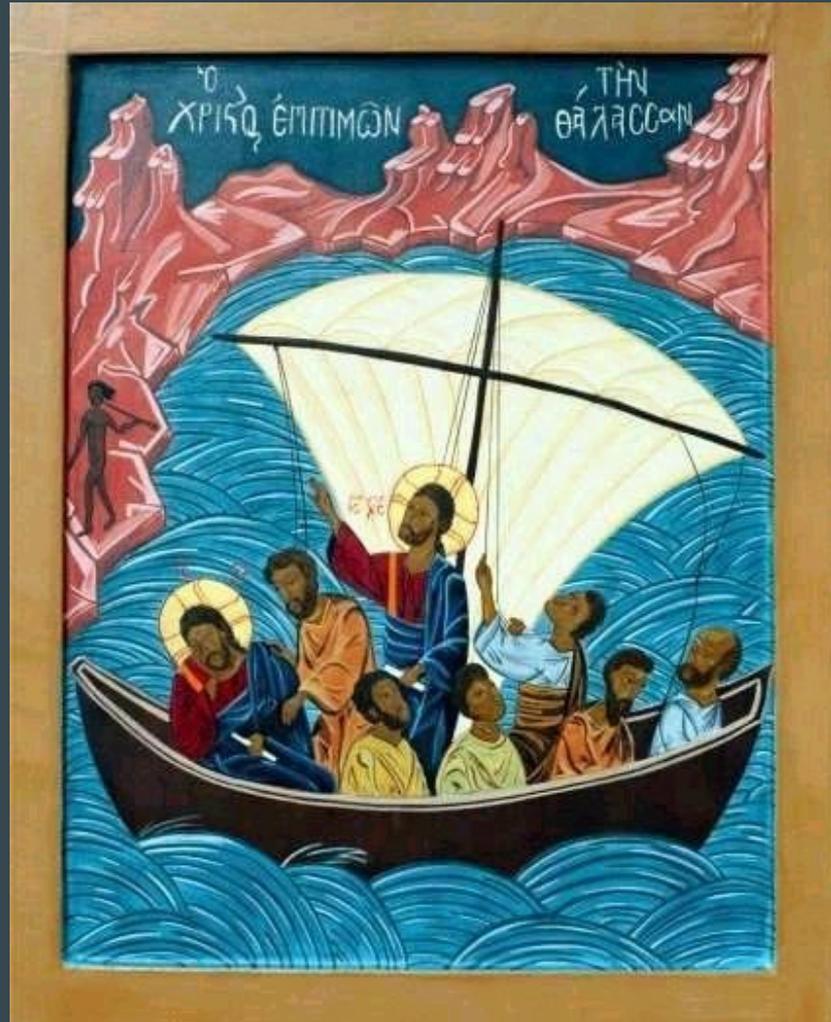
# Chapter 23: Parables--Wheat & Tares; Coming of Kingdom



# Chapter 24: Stilling of the Storm

- Recorded in the synoptics
- “Lord, save us. We are perishing!”
- “Peace! Be still”
- Immediate calm...

\*Note that this pericope is also not taken as part of the Sunday lectionary.



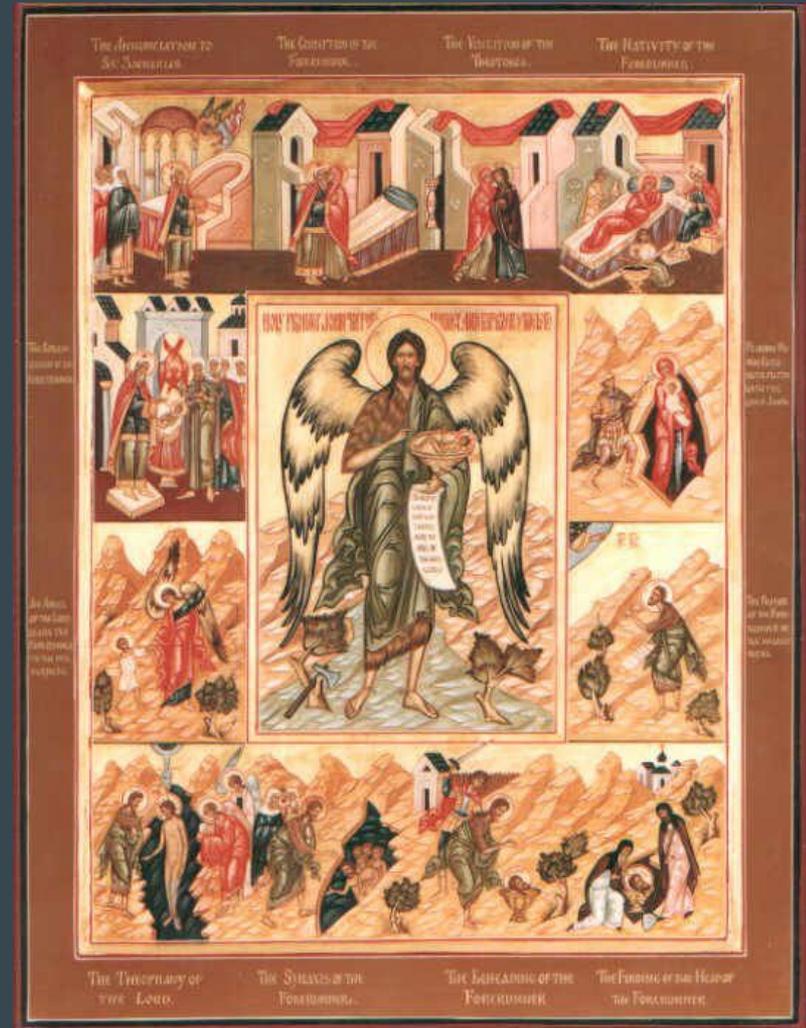
# Chapter 25: Raising of the Daughter of Jairus

- Recorded in the synoptic Gospels



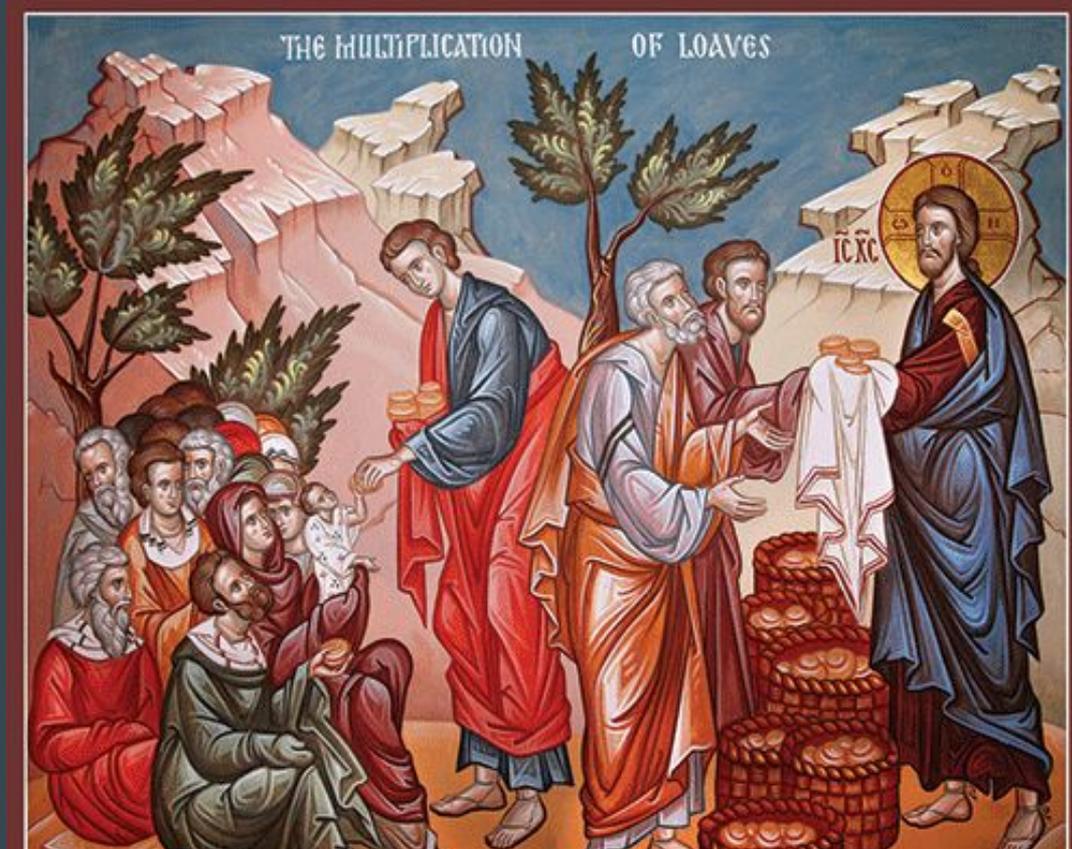
# Chapter 26: The Beheading of St. John the Baptist

- The Beheading is recorded in the synoptics
- Feast Day is August 29th
- “The Holy Church teaches that St. John the Forerunner is the greatest of all saints after the Mother of God.”



# Chapter 27: Miraculous Feeding of the People with 5 Loaves

- Recorded in various ways in all four Gospels
- Key details: people hungry, only food available is 5 barley loaves and 2 fish, Jesus blesses, breaks, give to disciples, and disciples to the crowd, 12 baskets extra collected as remains...
- Not to be confused with the other story of the feeding of the 4000



# Chapter 28: Jesus Christ Walking on the Water

Recorded in  
Matthew,  
Luke, and  
John...

Peter walks,  
too...

“Lord, save  
me!”

“Truly you are  
the Son of  
God!”



# Chapter 29: Healing of the Daughter of the Canaanite Woman

- Recorded in Matthew and Mark
- Pagan woman from Tyre/Sidon (Canaanite)
- “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is possessed...”
- Reference to the scraps given dogs...
- But she has faith...



# Chapter 30: The Confession of Peter & Prediction of Cross

- Recorded in synoptics
- “Who do men say that I am?”
- “John, Elijah, Jeremiah or a prophet?”
- “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!”
- Promise to Peter
- Jesus foretells Cross
- Peter objects
- “Get behind me, Satan!”
- “If anyone would come after me, let him...”



# Chapter 31: The Transfiguration of the Lord

- Recorded in synoptics
- Midpoint of synoptics!
- Mt. Tabor, lush and full of greenery
- Peter, James, and John
- Moses and Elijah
- Voice: “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased. Listen to Him!”
- Celebrated today on August 6
- Blessing of fruits



# Addendum: “2 Commandments”

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and all your strength. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments rest all the law and the prophets.”

“There are no greater commandments than these...”

# Chapter 32: The Parable of the Good Samaritan

- Recorded in Luke 10
- “Who is my neighbor?”
- Two main meanings:
  - Love for neighbor
  - Allegory of the Church
  - Read p. 295 for classic interpretation!



# Chapter 33: Jesus Christ with Martha & Mary

- Recorded in Luke 10-11
- Reading underscores importance of elevating care for the soul
- “The one thing needful.”
- Reading taken for many Theotokos Feasts



# Next Week: Continuation of the Gospel in the New Testament

