

St. John Climacus, pray for us!



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian kids. Copyright 2026 Alexandra Houck.  
Email is orthodoxchildrensword (at) gmail.com. Find it each week at orthodoxchildrensword.org.

# The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Volume 14, Issue 12

## Jesus goes before us



**Have you ever watched construction vehicles building a road? Have you watched as they break up the ground, and put down materials, and smooth it all out? The construction trucks make a path for us to use, to get us to where we want to go. Things would be very bumpy and rough if we didn't have them!**

Today's epistle reading tells us how our Lord went before us too. He went before us so that we could go down His same path. The epistle says we want to take the "hope set before us." As Christians, what is our greatest hope? Our hope is to go to heaven, to live with Christ, to be with Him forever in peace. The epistle tells us that our Lord has already gone there! "Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf."

Let's always remember that our Lord, Jesus Christ, isn't only God. He is also a man, and He went before us. He lived here so He could know us and understand us. He died before us, and He went to heaven before us. He did this so He could get a path ready for us. God wanted to help us to get to where we want to go...and where is that? Life in heaven forever!

# WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Afraid
- Annunciation
- Feastday
- Forerunner
- Good News
- Heart
- Humanity
- Mercy
- Obedience

D	G	C	A	N	N	U	N	C	I	A	T	I	O	N
J	I	O	Z	C	R	N	K	R	C	R	H	Y	Y	C
F	L	A	M	K	N	T	Y	G	U	E	S	C	R	Y
O	O	L	R	U	Q	Q	E	F	A	S	J	R	Z	A
B	R	R	M	F	W	L	Q	R	E	G	R	E	I	N
C	A	V	E	E	A	R	T	C	A	Q	H	M	C	K
U	Z	G	L	R	R	O	N	I	C	Z	R	A	G	N
A	M	V	Y	A	U	E	X	Z	W	D	K	F	T	U
U	V	S	O	P	I	N	N	M	X	J	K	E	D	S
X	X	J	K	D	M	O	N	X	X	Z	I	A	K	D
X	S	K	E	J	I	B	A	E	T	Z	L	S	I	S
J	B	B	N	K	B	M	E	K	R	N	Q	T	L	K
L	O	O	H	U	M	A	N	I	T	Y	Y	D	K	L
Z	L	X	S	W	E	N	D	O	O	G	U	A	A	M
V	F	D	S	Y	Q	Z	Q	N	C	W	D	Y	H	O

# WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

This icon of the Annunciation comes from Ethiopia.

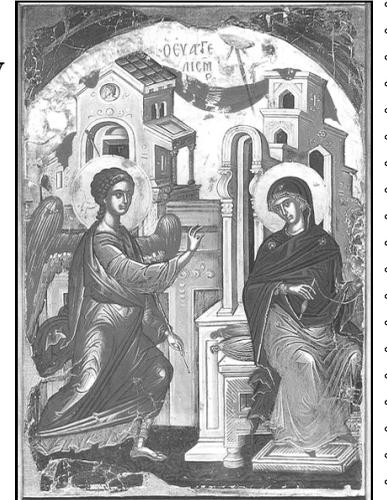
Look at the eyes of the holy Theotokos. She hears how the Archangel Gabriel greets her. Does she look a little scared or confused?



# THE ANNUNCIATION

## WHAT DID THE THEOTOKOS HOLD IN HER HEART?

**We know that we can think bad thoughts, but we can also think good and holy ones too!**



This week is the great feast of the Annunciation, when we celebrate the good news that the angel told Mary. He told her that she would have a baby. But before that, he greeted Mary, and said, “Rejoice, O favored one, the Lord is with you! Blessed are you among women!”

Nobody had ever greeted her like *that* before, and the Bible tells us that she was afraid when she heard it. She thought in her heart what it might mean. The angel meant that she was blessed because she was going to have baby Jesus, the Son of God. She was going to carry Him and take care of Him!

Another time in the Bible, we read about how Mary, the Theotokos, kept things in her heart. Later on, we read about Jesus as a young boy, and how she found Him with the teachers in the Temple. The Bible says, “His mother treasured all these things in her heart.”

The Theotokos knew that her Son was special, and she trusted God to make things clear someday. Let’s be like the holy Theotokos, and try to think wonderful things about our Lord, Jesus Christ. Let’s be like her, and not the teachers in the Gospel today.

**We celebrate the Annunciation on Wednesday, March 25th (OC: April 7th).**