

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS HERE

Our Lord Jesus Christ was baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. John was a very holy man. He preached, "Repent! For the Kingdom of God is near!"

He was not afraid to tell people who were sinning that they were doing wrong. One time, he told King Herod that he was breaking God's rules. King Herod was not happy. He had John put in jail.

When Jesus heard that John had been put in jail, he left Nazareth. He went to Galilee. The Gentiles (people who are not Jewish) lived in Galilee. Jesus began to live there with the Gentiles.

Many years before, the prophet Isaiah had said that in Galilee of the Gentiles, "the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light." This prophecy came true when Jesus, the Light of the World, went to Galilee. Then, the Gentiles could learn about Him.

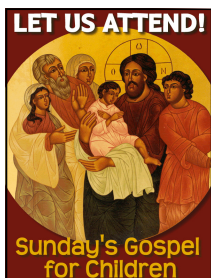
In Galilee, Jesus began to teach people about God. His preaching sounded a lot like John's. Only, Jesus said, "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is here!"



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. When John told King Herod that he was sinning, where did Herod send him?
2. When Jesus heard about it, where did He go?
3. What did the prophet Isaiah say the Gentile people have seen? Who was he talking about?
4. Have you ever been in a dark place? Did you like it? Would it be better if you had a flashlight?
5. Jesus is the Light of the World. We can pray and ask Jesus to help us see how to be close to God.

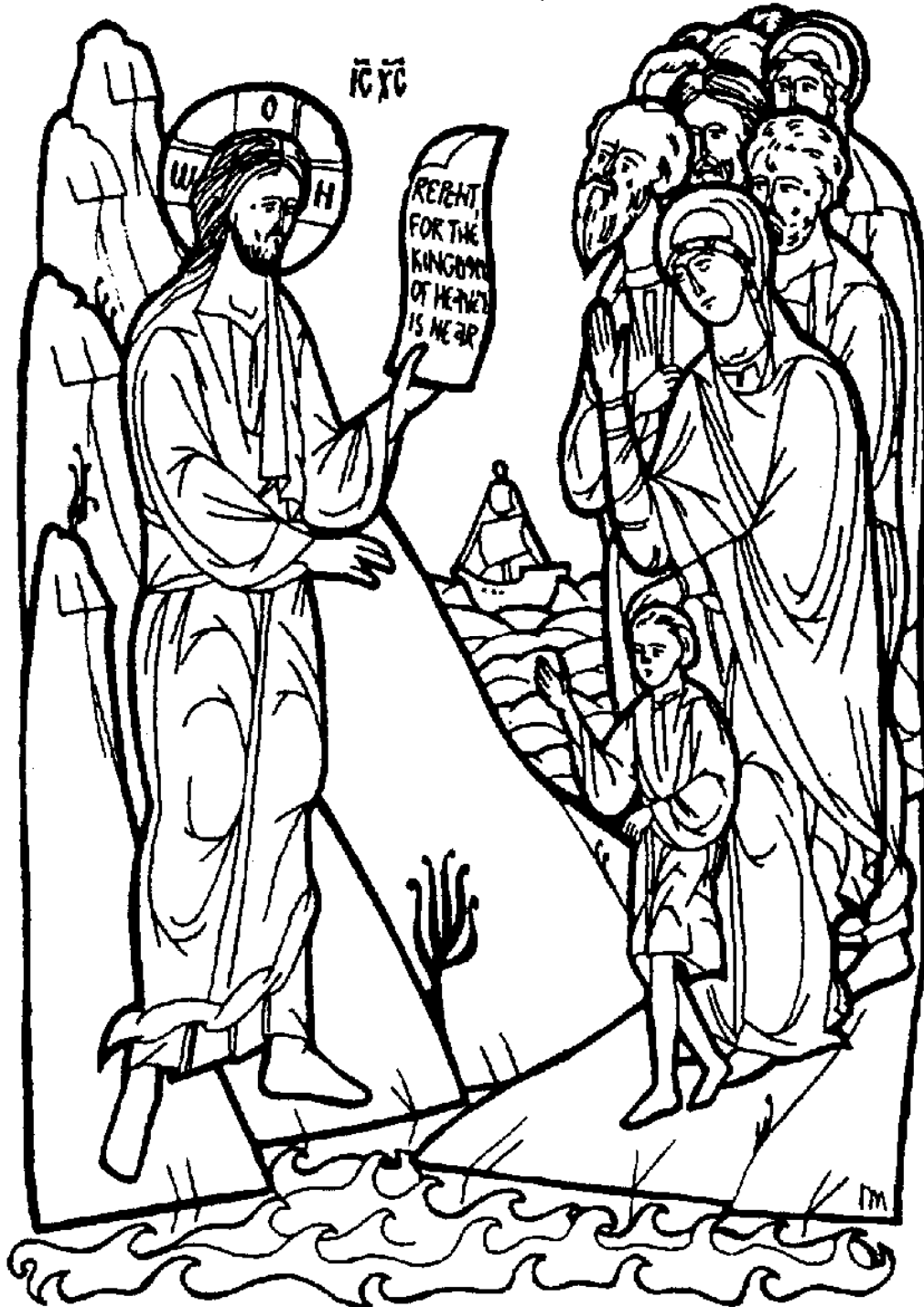


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JESUS PREACHING



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Pre-12



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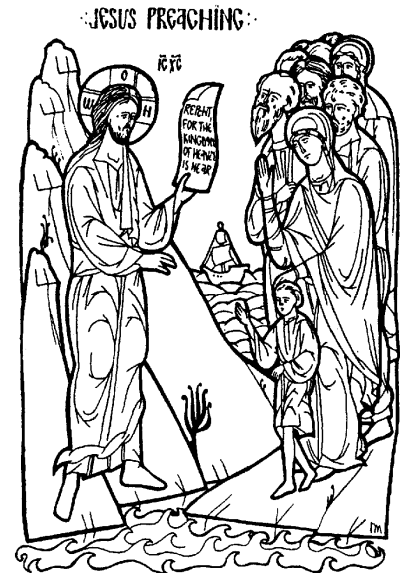
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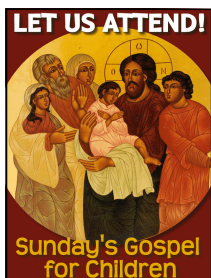
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“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

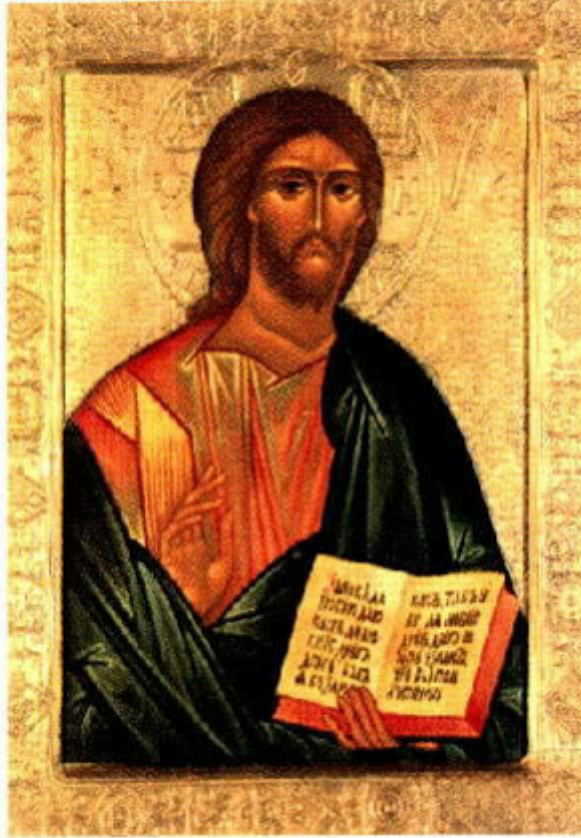
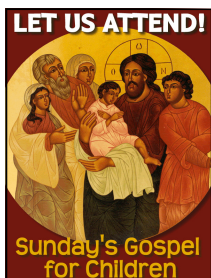


Image courtesy of comeandseeicons.com

In this icon of Christ the Teacher, the Gospel Book is open. This is to invite everyone to salvation.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who was it that this Gospel says was arrested? What do we call him?
2. Where did Jesus withdraw to?
3. Whose prophecy did this fulfill? What did the prophecy say?
4. What “great light” did the Gentiles in Galilee see?
5. What did Jesus begin to do there?
6. What about you? When do you see Jesus, the Great Light? Do you repent?



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Characters: Narrator, Prophet Isaiah, Jesus

Narrator: At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled;

Isaiah: The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.

Narrator: From that time Jesus began to preach, saying,

Jesus: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

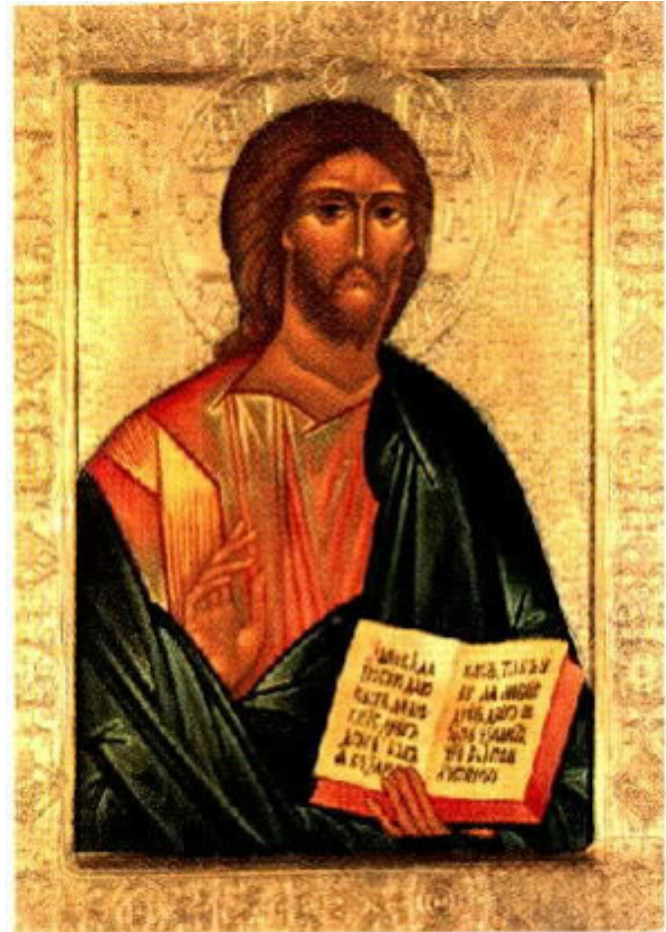
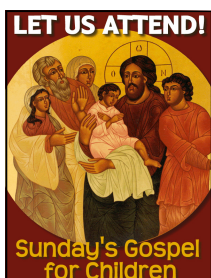


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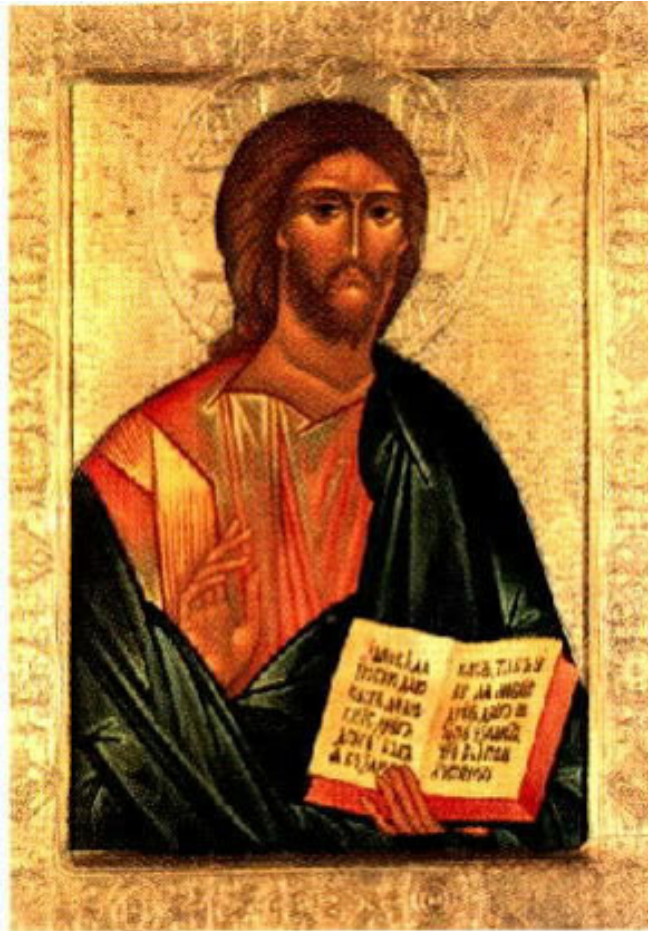
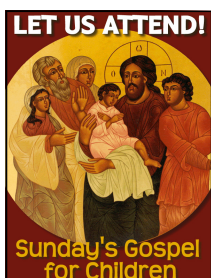


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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who is arrested in this Gospel?
2. Which John is this? Hint: Read Matthew 3:1.
3. Where is the icon of John the Forerunner in your church building?
4. What is he wearing? Would you wear something like that? Why or why not?
5. Have you ever seen anyone dressed like John or looking disheveled the way John is? If you have, where did you see someone like John and what did you think? If not, what would you think if you saw someone dressed like him?
6. What does seeing person dressed like that who we call a saint tell us about appearance?
7. How might that effect the way you see other people or the way you see yourself?



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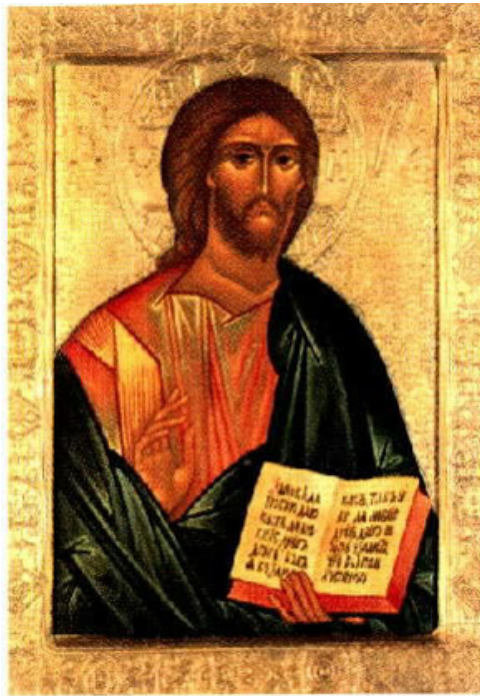
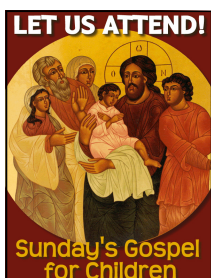


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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who sat in darkness according to the prophet quoted in this Gospel?
2. When does light dawn on them?
3. Who is this light?
4. Who do the people of Zebulun and Naphtali represent?
5. Do you remember a time before you knew Christ? What does it mean to say that light has dawned on you?
6. Once light has dawned, what does Jesus begin proclaiming in this Gospel? What do you think that means?
7. How do we do that? Since the light of Christ has and is dawning in us, how can we repent?



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