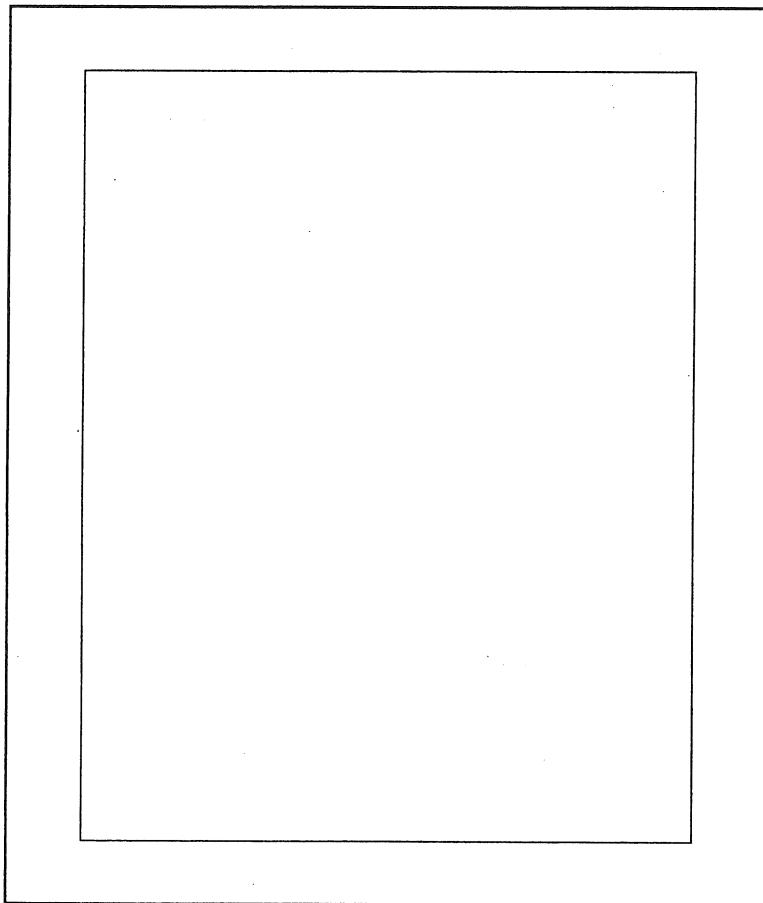


## LESSON 4

# GOD'S PROMISE TO US: JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD, SAVIOUR

---



*"Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel." (God is with us)*

*Isaiah 7:14*

*"This is my Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him."*

*Matthew 17:5*

Are you surprised that the promised Saviour is God's own Son? God shows us that He loves us very much by sending His Son to help us.

This is the first icon of our album. What do you see in it? How old does Jesus seem to be in the icon? What is He holding? What is He doing with His other hand? What is the color of His outer robe? What is the color of His inner robe? What are the letters on the cross inside the halo? These letters are Greek letters. They mean, **"The One Who Is."**

Have you seen other icons of Jesus? Is this one like those? The letters IC XC on other icons of Jesus are like initials. They are a Greek abbreviation for **"Jesus Christ."**

God created us in His **image and likeness**. What do you think this means? When God became man, we saw that we were like Him. Jesus showed us that we could behave the way He taught us, God-like, if we listened and **followed Him**.

## MARY MAKES A PROMISE

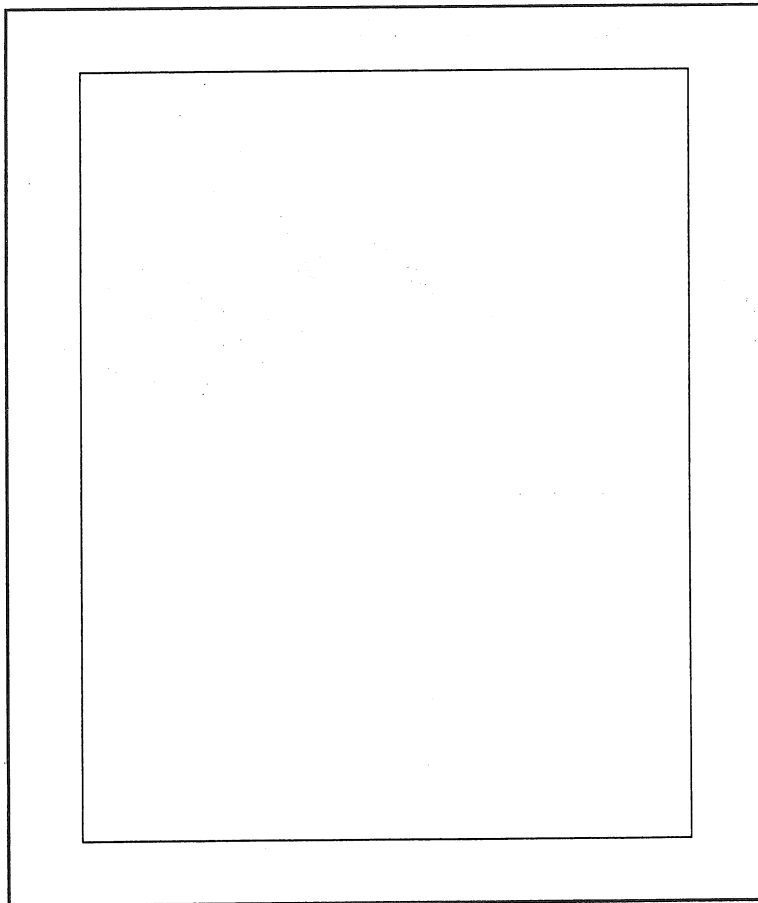
The Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

This icon is of a great feast day in our Church. Do you know when the feast of the Annunciation is celebrated? \_\_\_\_\_

**Annunciation** means some message is **announced**. God sent a messenger, the Archangel Gabriel, to tell Mary she was going to have a baby. She was going to name Him Jesus. She was going to be the Mother of God, the **Theotokos**.

Look up the story of this announcement in the **Good News** (gospel) of the physician named Luke (Luke 1:26–38). Learn what Mary thought when the Archangel came to her with the news. Did she accept God's will? Was she proud, fearful, or upset? Read Luke 1:38–56 to answer these questions.

Where did she go after the Archangel Gabriel left?



*"Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"*

*(Archangel)*

*"Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb!"*

*(Elizabeth)*

*"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour!"*

*(Mary)*

*We sing these verses in our Church. Have you ever heard them?*

Who else was having a baby?

---

---

What did her cousin call Mary?

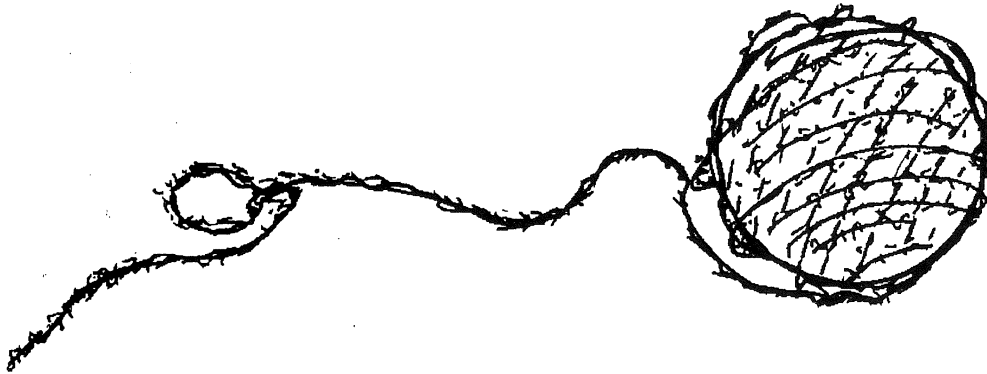
---

---

Where is a baby before it is born? Do you remember when your Mom was pregnant with a brother or sister? She gained a lot of weight. Her womb grew as a safe nest for a tiny baby to live in until he or she was big enough to be born. A woman's body is a very special gift from God. A mother uses that gift to give back another gift, a baby's life.

Take a look at the icon of the Annunciation. The Virgin Mary is holding a spool of wool yarn in her hand. Can you guess why? A sheep gives its wool to clothe people in warm garments. The Theotokos gives her body, her flesh and blood, to clothe the Son of God in another kind of garment, the garment of humanity.

It doesn't seem possible for God to become a man, does it? But He did, and He is a real human being. He was thirsty, hungry and felt pain, anger, love and compassion just like you and me—but he never sinned. He was perfect man as all of us are called to be.



## Angels

Before God made the world that we see, He made invisible, bodiless spirits called **Angels**. Like us, they have free will. God also gave them intelligence and power.

The Bible tells us there were nine ranks of angels. How many have you heard of? The ranks are:

*Cherubim*  
*Seraphim*  
*Thrones*  
*Dominions*  
*Virtues*  
*Powers*  
*Principalities*  
*Archangels*  
*Angels*

God, in his love for us, blessed each one of us with a Guardian Angel to care for us, to protect us, and to watch over us. We can call on them for help, especially when we are tempted to do something wrong. The Church sets aside one day a week, Monday, to remember the angels.

We especially remember the Archangels Michael and Gabriel in our churches with their icons on many of the "deacons' doors." Read the following story about what Michael and Gabriel do.

### The Holy Archangels Michael & Gabriel (November 8)

Holy Scripture says that in heaven, God is surrounded and honored by a vast multitude of angels.

God often sent His angels to earth to teach mankind God's commandments and to reveal His mysteries to them. The angels which are sent most often to help men are the Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel.

Archangel Michael is the guardian of men's lives on earth. In the Old Testament, this Archangel was sent to different people to help them: to Abraham and Lot, when God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah; to the Patriarch Jacob, when he ran from his brother, Esau, who hated him; to the Prophet Moses, when he helped free the Israelites from Egyptian slavery. But in the New Testament, the Archangel Michael always comes invisibly to help when we call to him with faith.

The Church says that the Holy Archangel Gabriel is a joyous and beautiful angel. He always announces good things. In the Old Testament, he showed the Prophet Daniel the explanation of King Nebachadnezzar's dream; he revealed the time when Christ would be born to many of the prophets. Gabriel went to the holy forefathers, Joachim and Anna, to announce the birth of the Virgin Mary, and to the Prophet Zachariah to tell him of the birth of St. John the Baptist. And we all remember that it was Gabriel who announced to Mary that she was to be the mother of the promised Saviour! It was even Archangel Gabriel who brought the joyous news of the birth of Christ to the wise men and the shepherds and showed them the way to the cave.

Gabriel also commanded Joseph to take the baby Jesus and His mother, the Virgin Mary, away to Egypt, because King Herod wanted to kill Christ. Finally, it was Gabriel who was the shining white angel who moved the large stone from the door of the tomb and showed the Myrrh-bearing women the joy of the Resurrection of Christ!

Knowing the important role which the angels have in fulfilling God's will on earth and in heaven, we pray to them that they will help us to become better Christians so that we can love God more and obey His commandments.

### The Annunciation

Unscramble these new words then match to correct meaning or person.

ONNNNIIAAUCT	_____	MARY'S SON
OOOTTKSHE	_____	CALLED MARY "MOTHER OF GOD"
ABEGIRL	_____	THE FEAST DAY THE ANGEL CAME TO MARY
ETHBELZIA	_____	MOTHER OF GOD
SSEUJ	_____	CAME TO TELL MARY GOOD NEWS

### Secret Code:

God used the angels as messengers. The Archangel Gabriel had a special message for Mary, and she had a special answer for him. Use the code below to discover Mary's answer to the Archangel.

A-12	F-7	K-1	Q-26	V-21
B-13	G-8	L-2	R-25	W-20
C-14	H-9	M-3	S-24	X-19
D-15	I-10	N-4	T-23	Y-18
E-16	J-11	O-5	U-22	Z-17
		P-6		

2	16	23		10	23		13	16		
12	14	14	5	25	15	10	4	8	23	5
18	5	22	25		20	5	25	15		

(Luke 1:38)

