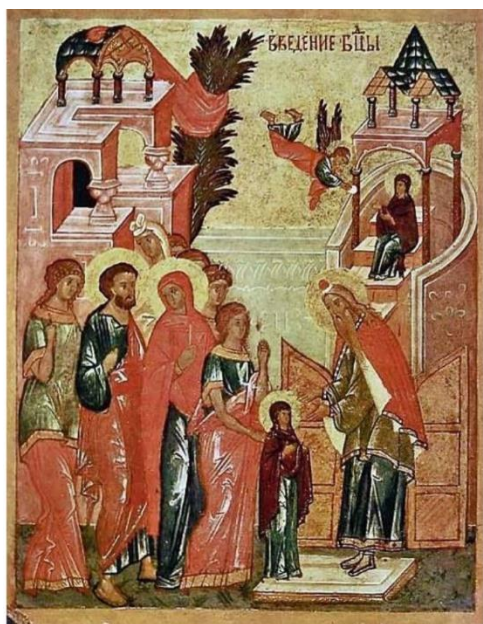


The Epistle and Gospel Readings at the Liturgy on the Feast of The Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple

THE EPISTLE OF THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL TO THE HEBREWS

9:1-7

The Earthly Sanctuary



The Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple
15th century. Novgorod, Russia

¹ Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary.

² For a tabernacle^[2] was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary;

³ And behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All,

⁴ Which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's^[3] rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant;

⁵ And above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

⁶ Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services.

⁷ But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance.

(New King James Version, 1982)

1. Theotokos — from the Greek, *the Mother of God*

2. Tabernacle — from the Latin, *tent or hut*. A tent sanctuary used by the Israelites before the construction of the First Temple in Jerusalem by King Solomon (approx. 1000 B.C.).

3. Aaron — a male name of unknown Egyptian origin. Aaron, Moses' older brother, became the first high priest of the Hebrew nation. Subsequently all true priests had to be descendants of Aaron.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE

10:38-42

Jesus Visits Martha and Mary

³⁸ Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village^[2]; and a certain woman named Martha^[3] welcomed Him into her house.

³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary^[4], who also sat at Jesus'^[5] feet and heard His word.

⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore, tell her to help me."

⁴¹ And Jesus answered and said to her, "**Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.**

⁴² **But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.**"

11:27-28

"Blessed are Those Who Hear the Word of God and Keep It"

²⁷ And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!"

²⁸ But He said, "**More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!**"

(New King James Version, 1982)

1. In the Gospel reading cited above, the words of Christ are in boldface.
2. Bethany — a village located several kilometers from Jerusalem.
- 3 & 4. — Martha and Mary were the sisters of Lazarus who was raised from the dead by Jesus Christ on the Saturday before His entrance into Jerusalem.
3. Martha — from the Aramaic, *lady of the house*.
4. Mary — from the Egyptian, *beloved*.
5. Jesus — from the Aramaic, *the Saviour*.

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