

THE LIFE OF JESUS

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Image based on the Shroud of Turin



For David with gratitude for many fundays spent exploring New York.

Salvator Mundi, ca. 1500 Leonardo da Vinci

God sent the angel Gabriel to the town of Nazareth in Galilee with a message for a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to Joseph from the family of King David. The angel greeted Mary and said, "You are truly blessed! The Lord is with you." Luke 1:26-28

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Annunciation, 1438 - 14 Fra Angelico Museum of San Marco

"The Holy Spirit will come down to you, and God's power will come over you. So your child will be called the holy Son of God. Luke 1:35

Annunciation, 1472 Leonardo da Vinci Uffizi Gallery

When Caesar Augustus decreed that a census be taken, Joseph and Mary travelled to Bethlehem because Joseph was from the family of David.

The Census at Bethlehem, ca.1605, Detail Pieter Bruegel the Elder

And she brought forth her firstborn son; and she wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7

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The Census at Bethlehem, ca.1605 Pieter Bruegel the Younger Bonnefanten Museum



Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to men of goodwill!" Luke 2:8-14

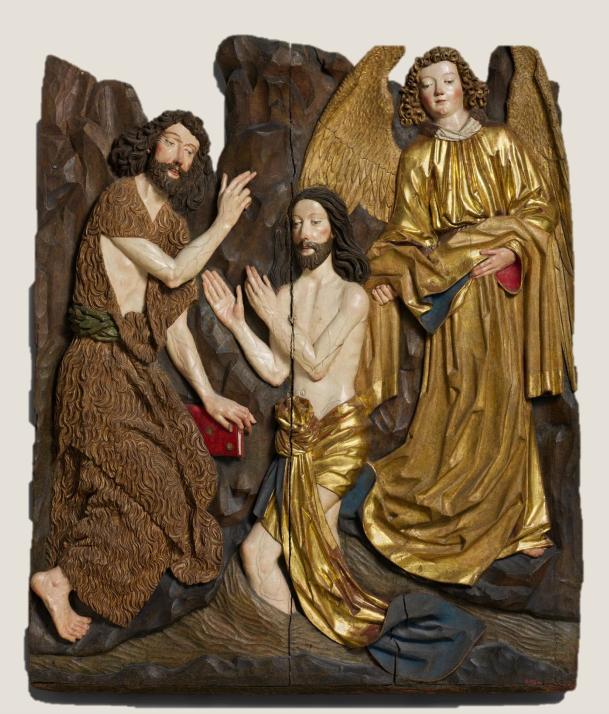
Giotto, ca. 1305 Scrovegni Chapel



After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, and they stayed there until Herod's death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: "I called my Son out of Egypt." Mattew 2:13-15

The 'De Grey' Hours, ca. 1390 National Library of Wales



When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened.

And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased." Luke 3:21-22

German Relief, ca. 1480 – 1490 Metropolitan Museum of Art

Right away God's Spirit made Jesus go into the desert. He stayed there for forty days while Satan tested him. Jesus was with wild animals, but angels took care of him. Mark 1:12-13

Temptation of Christ Rembrandt, ca. 1640.

While Jesus was walking along the shore of Lake Galilee, he saw two brothers. One was Simon, also known as Peter, and the other was Andrew. They were fisherman, and they were casting their net into the lake. Jesus said to them, "Come with me! I will teach you how to bring in people instead of fish." Right then the two brothers dropped their nets and went with him. Matthew 4:18-20

The Calling of Saints Peter and Andrew, 1603 – 1606 Caravaggio

One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out.

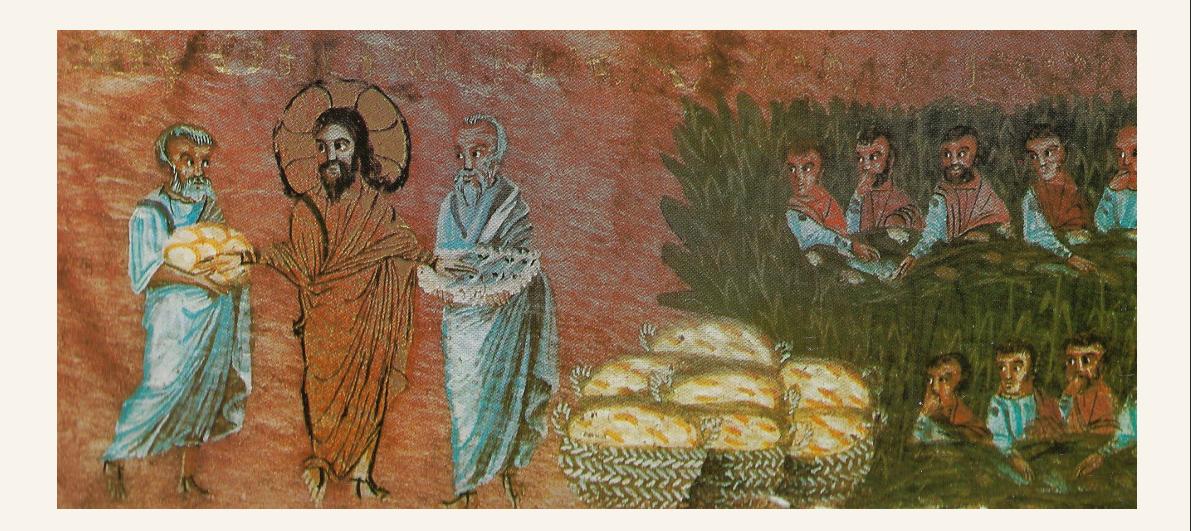
As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm.

"Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him." Luke 8:22-25

> Christ in the Storm Rembrandt, 1633

Jesus took the five loaves and two fish. He looked up toward heaven and blessed the food. Then he broke the bread and fish and handed them to his disciples to give to the people. Everyone ate all they wanted. What was left over filled twelve baskets. Luke 9:16-17



Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life. "The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." John 4:13-14

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman at the Well, ca. 1640, Il Guercino



That evening, Jesus' disciples went down to the lake. They got into a boat and started across for Capernaum. Later that evening Jesus had still not come to them, and a strong wind was making the water rough.

When the disciples had rowed for three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the water. He kept coming closer to the boat, and they were terrified. But he said, "I am Jesus! Don't be afraid! The disciples wanted to take him into the boat but suddenly the boat reached the shore where they were headed. John 6:16-21

Jesus Walking on Water Armenian Gospel Daniel of Uranc Gospel, 1433



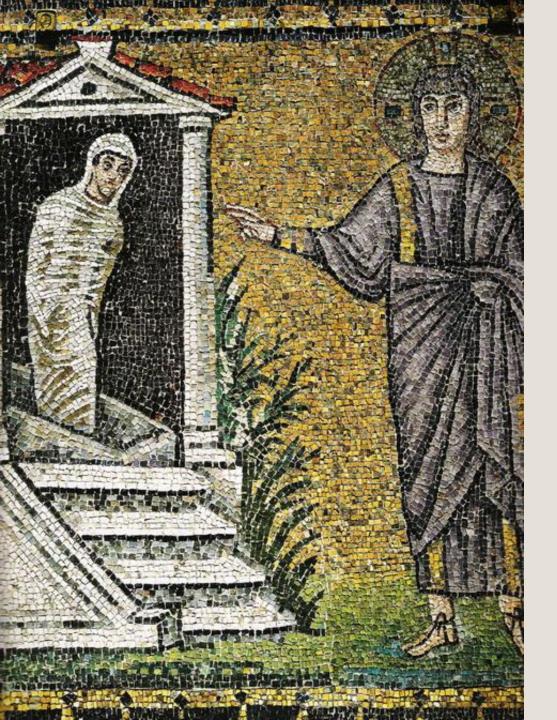
The blind man shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!" The people who were going along with Jesus told the man to be quiet. But he shouted even louder, "Son of David, have pity on me!"

Jesus stopped and told some people to bring the blind man over to him. When the blind man was getting near, Jesus asked, "What do you want me to do for you?"

"Lord, I want to see!" he answered.

Jesus replied, "Look and you will see! Your eyes are healed because of your faith." Right away the man could see, and he went with Jesus and started thanking God. When the crowds saw what happened they praised God. Luke 18:38-43

Byzantine Ivory, 6th century Museum Mayer van den Bergh Antwerp, Belgium



Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. "Take away the stone," he said.

"But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."

Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

So, they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." John 11:34-44

Mosaic in Basilica of Sant'Apollinare Nuovo, 6th Century



Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called the council together and said, "What should we do? This man is working a lot of miracles. If we don't stop him now, everyone will put their faith in him. Then the Romans will come and destroy our temple and our nation." John 11:47-48

[A week later when a large crowd in Jerusalem] heard that Jesus was coming for the festival [of Passover] they took palm branches and went out to greet him. They shouted,

"Hooray! God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord! God bless the King of Israel!" John 12:12-13

Entry into Jerusalem, Cycle of the Life of Christ Giotto, 1303 Scrovegni Chapel



Jesus went to pray and said, "My Father, if there is no other way, and I must suffer, I will still do what you want." Jesus came back and found them sleeping again. They simply could not keep their eyes open. He left them and prayed the same prayer once more. Finally, Jesus returned to his disciples ... " Get up! Let's go. The one who will betray me is already here." Matthew 26:42-46

The Prayer in the Garden of Olives, 13th Century, Basilica of San Marco

Jesus was still speaking, when Judas the betrayer came up. He was one of the twelve disciples and a large mob armed with swords and clubs was with him. They had been sent by the chief priests and the nation's leaders. Matthew 26:47

The Arrest of Christ Rembrandt National Museum

The Crowning with Thorns Caravaggio, ca. 1603 Kunsthistorisches Museum

Christ Carrying the Cross Jan Gossart, ca. 1520 Metropolitan Museum of Art 1.1



Jesus' mother stood beside his cross with her sister and Mary the wife of Clopas. Mary Magdalene was standing there too. When Jesus saw his mother and his favorite disciple with her, he said to his mother, "This man is now your son." Then he said to the disciple, "She is now your mother." From then on, that disciple took her into his own home. John 19:25-27

Christ on the Cross with the Virgin and Saint John, from the Passau Missal, 1505 Metropolitan Museum of Art





That same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to the village of Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem.

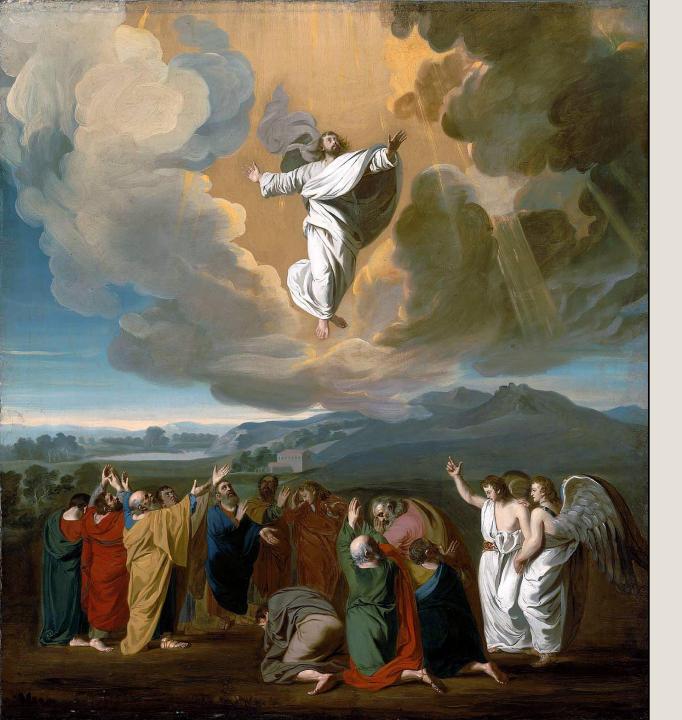
As they were talking and thinking about what had happened, Jesus came near and started walking along beside them. But they did not know who he was.

Jesus asked them, "What were you talking about as you walked along?

The two of them stood there looking sad and gloomy. Then the one named Cleopas asked Jesus, "Are you the only person from Jerusalem who didn't know what was happening there these last few days?" Luke 24:13-18

Christ on the Road to Emmaus Anonymous, American, ca. 1725 – 1730 National Gallery of Art After Jesus sat down to eat, he took some bread. He blessed it and broke it. Then he gave it to them. At once they knew who he was, but he disappeared. Luke 24:30-31

Supper at Emmaus Caravaggio, ca. 1606



Afterwards, Jesus appeared to his eleven disciples as they were eating. He scolded them because they were too stubborn to believe the ones who had seen him after he had been raised to life. Then he told them: "Go and preach the good news to everyone in the world." Mark 16:14-15

After the Lord Jesus had said these things to the disciples, he was taken back up to heaven where he sat down at the right side of God. Then the disciples left and preached everywhere. The Lord was with them, and the miracles they worked proved that their message was true. Mark 16:19-20

Ascension, 1775 John Singleton Copley Museum of Fine Arts Boston

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.

The Nicene Creed

The Last Judgment, 1535 - 1541 The Sistine Chapel Michelangelo At the Last Supper, Jesus told his disciples, "But I am giving you a new command. You must love each other, just as I have loved you. If you love each other, everyone will know that you are my disciples." John 13:34-35

