

God is with us!



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

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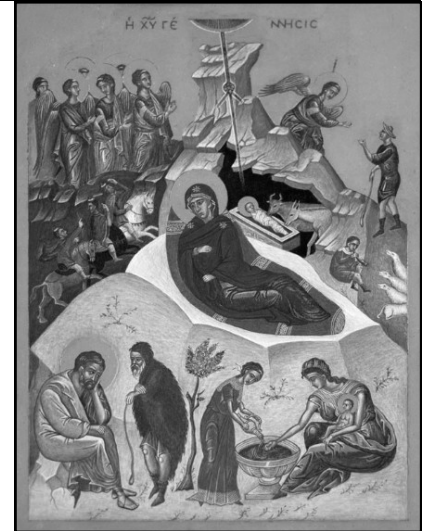
You know what is coming, don't you? Christmas, the birth of Christ! We know what is coming, because it already came. Christ was born for us more than two thousand years ago, and we are still celebrating!

Even before Christ was born, the faithful people knew somebody was coming too. They knew that God was going to send somebody to save them. They were waiting and waiting for that person to come!

Today, in the Gospel reading, we hear some words that were written 700 years before Christ. These words are from the Prophet Isaiah, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel, which means 'God with us.'"

So, God is with us today! But did you know that God was always with His people? Even before baby Jesus was born, God was with His people. But God gave us His Son, so we could have God even *more* with us! When Jesus was born, God became a person. He wanted to change us and make us better. He wanted to save us because He loves us so much.

God was always with us, but on the first Christmas, He was with us in a new and special way!



WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Abraham
- Emmanuel
- Forefathers
- Foremothers
- God is with us
- Nativity
- Old Testament
- Patience
- Ruth
- Sarah
- Waiting

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

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Another foremother is Saint Sarah. She was the wife of Abraham. We call him a patriarch, so she was a matriarch!

Do you remember the story of how Abraham and Sarah took care of the strangers who came to their house?



SAINT RUTH THE HOLY FOREMOTHER

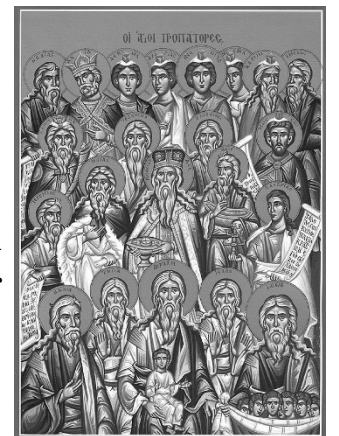


Can you think of some stories from the Old Testament, the time before Christ was born? Noah, Moses, Jonah?

Today we celebrate all of the holy saints from the Old Testament. They loved God and were close to Him, but they lived before our Lord, Jesus Christ became man. The icon below shows the holy forefathers, holy men saints who came before Christ. But today we also celebrate the holy foremothers, women saints who came before Christ.

One saint is the holy foremother Ruth. She was the great-grandmother of King David, and kind of like a great-great-great (28 greats) grandmother of Jesus. You can read the story of Ruth in the Bible, because there is a whole book about her. Ruth had a sad young life, because her husband died. The Bible tells us she lived with her mother-in-law, and she always took care of her mother-in-law. She was always loving and loyal, and so she is an example to all of us.

Even though they lived so long ago, these special foremothers and forefathers can be examples for us! We can see their patience and love for God and try to have that too.



We celebrate these special saints today, the Sunday before Christmas.