



Our Most Holy Theotokos Our Lady of Tikhvin

He is such a gentle Christ. He comes to us at night. He comes silently. He is begotten of a Virgin Mother without father in time, and eternally begotten of His Father without mother before the ages. He presents Himself to be adored by the shepherds and Magi as a suckling, defenseless child. His parents, the Virgin so pure and her Guardian, with St. Iakovos Adelfhos, help Him to slip away to Egypt for concealment and, in fulfillment of prophecy (Numbers 24:8 LXX), to return to Nazareth where He grows up in the care of His Virgin Mother, His foster father, Saint Joseph, and his children, who now are His brethren.

At the age of twelve, He deliberately stays behind to question and to teach the doctors of the Law in Jerusalem. He calls this simply, "My Father's business" (Lk. 2:49).

For the next eighteen years He quietly passes His days, days just like our days, with His Mother the Theotokos, showing to all in His humility, in His servility to those around Him, His humanity in such a way that neither could His Incarnation be questioned, and, since our Christ has shared in what is ours, nor could anyone doubt that He wishes us to share in what is His both in this life and also in "the life of the age to come". Amen.

"Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when He cometh will find watching: verily I say unto you, that He shall gird Himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them" (Lk. 12:37).

When He did begin to teach, they thought Him a mere man and "wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth" asking, "Is not this Joseph's son?" (Lk. 4:22).

Thus is fulfilled the Scripture so fondly quoted by our Archbishop Auxentius of blessed memory:

"For while all things were in quiet silence, and that night was in the midst of her swift course, Thine almighty Word leaped from heaven out of Thy royal throne...into the midst of a land of destruction" (Wisdom of Solomon 18: 14, 15).

His gentleness, as St. Ambrose comments,
"revealing the Father", sweetens us in our pain.
Sadly, Anselm eschewed Scripture and Tradition
by advancing a "new understanding" with his baneful tale.

As St. Paul exhorts St. Timothy, the sacred ministers are to "Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine" (2 Timothy 4:2).

"Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever." Amen. (1 Timothy 1:17).

Pray for us here
O Savior save us.

HOMB's Virtual Parish