

# The Gospel according to John

The Being (LXX for Yahweh)  
Exodus 3:14

Jesus Christ



‘I will betroth you  
to myself  
in tenderness’  
(Hosea 2:20)

Saint  
John



This Gospel expresses something of the faith of the Christian community in Ephesus: the community of the **Beloved Disciple**.

The appendix to the Gospel (chapter 21) composed after the death of the Beloved Disciple, identifies him as:

- the one who recognised the risen Jesus (verse 7).
- the one who ‘reclined next to Jesus at the supper’(verse 20; see 13:23).
- the key witness whose testimony guarantees the truth of what is expressed in the Gospel (verse 24; see 19:35).



‘In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was towards [pros] God,  
and the Word was God.  
The Word was towards God  
in the beginning.





All things came into being through the Word,  
and without the Word not one thing came into being.



What has come into being in the Word was life,  
and the life was the light of all people.  
The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness did not overcome it.'



We are reminded, too, that people failed  
to recognise God's Word (God's gift of God's Self).

The true light, which enlightens everyone,  
was coming into the world.  
God's Word was in the world,  
and the world came into being through God's Word;  
yet the world did not know God's Word.

'The Word came to what was God's own,  
and God's own people  
did not accept the Word.



## John 1:11-13



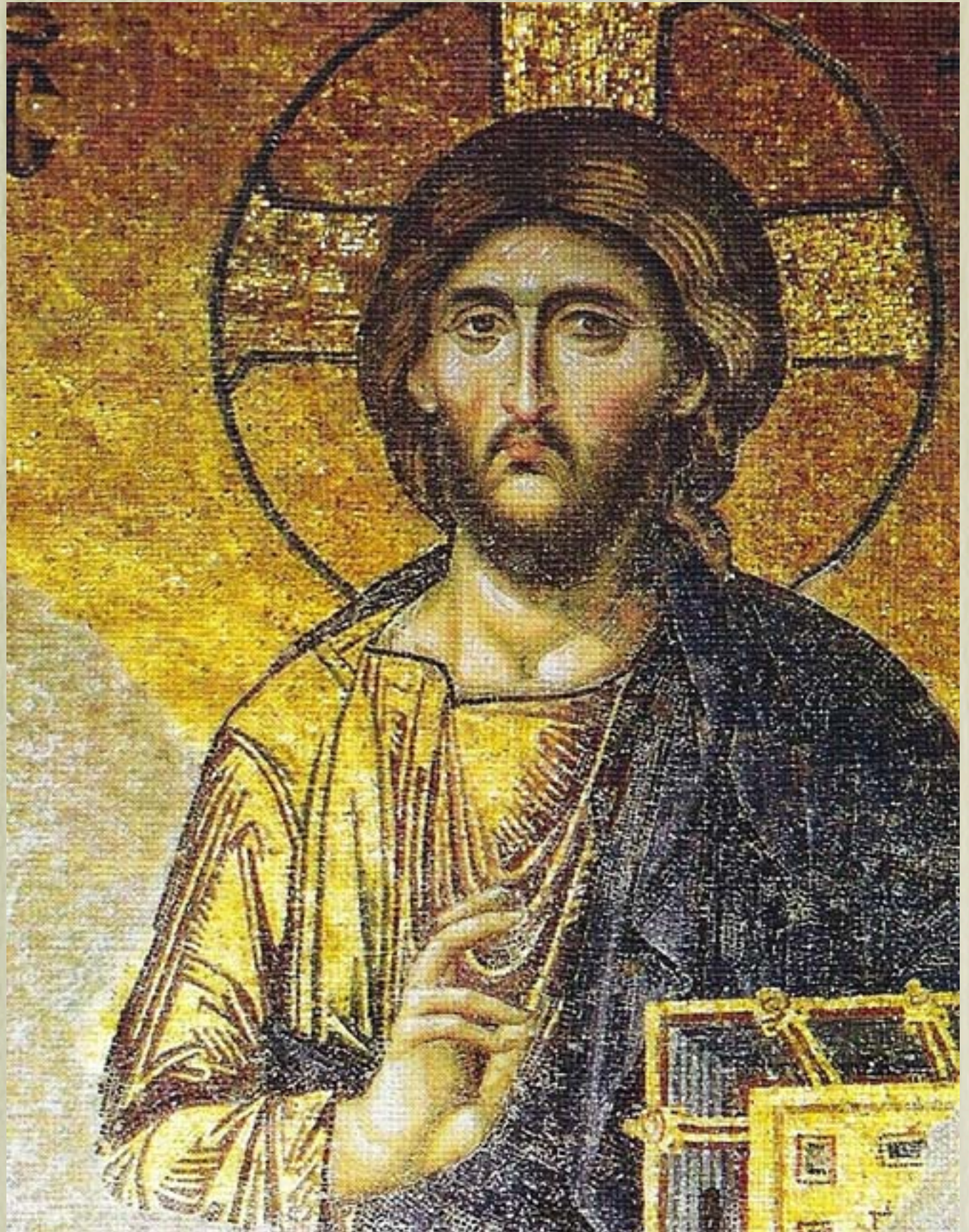
But to all who did welcome  
the Word, and believe,

the Word gave power to  
become children of God,

born not of human  
generation ['bloods']  
or of human striving  
['the will of the flesh']  
or of male power,  
but of God.



The Word became flesh  
and lived among us,





and we have seen his glory,  
the glory as of a father's  
only son,  
full of the gift of truth.





From his fullness we have all received,  
grace upon grace.  
The law indeed was given through Moses;  
the gift truth came through Jesus Christ.





## Jesus – God's Word-made-flesh

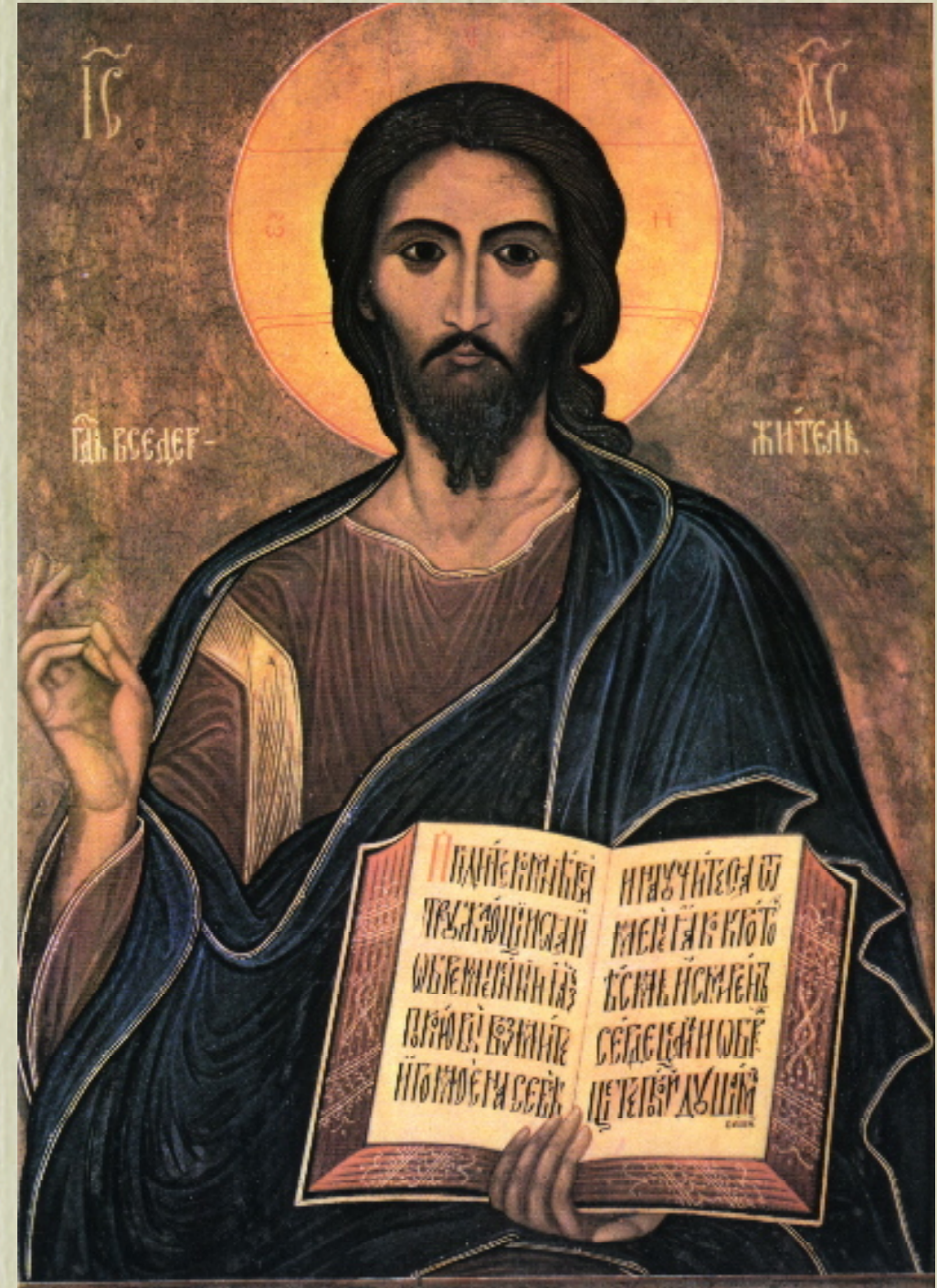
- God's Word is God as effecting God's will and so revealing God.
- 'The word that goes forth from my mouth does not return to me empty without carrying out my will; and succeeding in what it was sent to do'(Isaiah 55:11).
- 'While gentle silence enveloped all things, and night in its swift course was now half gone, your all-powerful Word leaped from heaven, from the royal throne, carrying the sharp sword of your authentic command'(Wisdom 18:14-16)



- God's Word issues from God's Wisdom,  
reveals God's Wisdom  
teaches God's Wisdom.
- God's Wisdom is God reflected in the beauty and  
order of creation, of history, of the Torah, and finally  
of the exalted Jesus.
- God's Word is God bringing about this beauty and this  
order, especially through the words of the prophets  
and most especially through the teaching of Jesus



John 1:17    ‘The Law [Torah] indeed was given through Moses;  
the gift of Truth came through Jesus the Messiah.’







## John 1:18

‘No one has ever seen God. It is God’s only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, who has made Him known.’



## 1John 1:1-3



‘We declare to you what we have heard,  
what we have seen with our eyes,  
what we have looked at and touched with  
our hands, concerning the word of life —  
this life was revealed, and we have seen it  
and testify to it, and declare to you the  
eternal life that was with the Father and  
was revealed to us.

We declare to you what we have seen and  
heard so that you may have communion  
with us;

and truly our communion is with the  
Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.’



14:10 & 11 (see 10:38)

I am in the Father and the Father is in me.

Compare 'I am' 4:26 - to the Samaritan Woman

egô eimi

6:20 - on the Sea of Galilee

8:28 - when 'lifted up'

8:58 - before Abraham was

18:5,6,8 - in the Garden

egô eimi ho ôn

'I am the bread of life'(6:35)

'I am the light of the world'(8:12)

'I am the gate for the sheep'(10:9)

'I am the good shepherd'(10:11)

'I am the resurrection and the life'(11:25)

'I am the way, the truth and the life'(14:6)

'I am the vine'(15:5)





## Scene 3. The Baptist introduces his disciples to Jesus

1:35-39

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples [Andrew +?], and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, ‘Look, here is the Lamb of God!’ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’ Jesus first words!

They said to him, ‘Rabbi, where are you staying?’

He said to them, ‘Come and see.’



John 2:1

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee

Exodus 19:10-18

YHWH said to Moses: “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them prepare for **the third day**, because **on the third day** YHWH will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people ...

“Prepare for **the third day**” ... On the morning of **the third day** Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke, because YHWH had descended upon it in fire; the smoke went up like the smoke of a kiln, while the whole mountain shook violently.



## John 2:1-5

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee,  
and the mother of Jesus was there.

Jesus and his disciples had also been  
invited to the wedding.

When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They  
have no wine.”

And Jesus said to her,

“Woman, what concern is that to you and to me?

Has not my hour now come.”

His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”



# ACT II : SHARING IN THE NEW COVENANT

JOHN 2:13 - 4:54

Scene 1 : The temple is cleared (2:13-25). What this means.

Scene 2: for the Jews (3:1-21). Nicodemus

Scene 3 : for the followers of the Baptist (3:22-36)

Scene 4 : for the Samaritans (4:1-42)

Scene 5 : for the Gentiles (4:43-54)



Scene 2: What the clearing of the temple means for the Jews (3:1-21)

Nicodemus  
a man of the Temple  
comes to Jesus by night

Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above ...

Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit ...

The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.

So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.



## The chorus: John 3:16-21

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him ...

The one who does what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his/her deeds have been done in God.



## Scene 4 : What the clearing of the temple means for the Samaritans (4:1-42)

Tired out by his journey, Jesus was sitting at Jacob's well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ...

The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" ... Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water ... Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again. If you drink of the water that I will give, you will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in you a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water."