

TEACHER AND SANCTIFIER

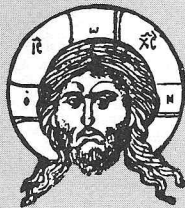
In iconography, Jesus Christ is most commonly portrayed imparting a blessing while firmly holding the Scriptures in His left hand.

THIS ICON TEACHES US THAT JESUS CHRIST IS

OUR TEACHER

When Jesus was twelve years old, He accompanied Mary and Joseph to Jerusalem to celebrate one of the high Jewish holydays. Having been separated from Mary and Joseph, Jesus was later discovered in the Temple, *teaching the teachers* who were amazed by His wisdom and knowledge. Thus, long before He began His public ministry, Jesus revealed Himself as

- **the Teacher** of all;
- **the Living Word of God**, the very *embodiment* of the Scriptures; and
- **the Way** by which we *know* and *experience* God.



OUR SANCTIFIER

Jesus Christ came into the world *to transform* a fallen and sinful creation. God had created all things in order to eternally share in His boundless love. But humanity *rejected* God through *sin*, turning away from the Source of Life. Where there had once only been life with God, death became a dreaded part of humanity's experience.

By His resurrection, Jesus Christ reunited creation with its Creator and destroyed the eternal power of death. His mission on earth was **to reveal God's kingdom** and **to prepare us for it** by

- **calling us to personal holiness;**
- **destroying** all that had corrupted creation while **saving** all that was worth being saved; and
- **sanctifying us** so that we might rid ourselves of sin and corruption and clothe ourselves in His very glory.



God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

—John 3:16