



THE ILLUSTRATED GOSPELS



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Table of contents



Introduction
page 8



The Gospel According to Matthew
page 11

The Gospel According to Mark
page 131

The Gospel According to Luke
page 209

The Gospel According to John
page 345



Notes on the illuminations
page 440

Iconographic credits
page 444

Introduction



Conveying as they do the life of Our Lord Jesus Christ himself, the Holy Gospels are, in the words of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, “the heart of all the Scriptures” (CCC 125). Thus, while all of Sacred Scripture—the Old and New Testaments in their entirety—is firmly held to be the inspired Word of God, “the fourfold Gospel holds a unique place in the Church, as is evident both in the veneration which the liturgy accords it and in the surpassing attraction it has exercised on the saints at all times” (CCC 127).

The signs of veneration are well known. For example, a highly decorated book of the Gospels may be carried in procession at Mass and placed proudly on the altar—the very place where the Body and Blood of our Lord become present in the Eucharistic sacrifice. The church may be filled with the sweet aroma of incense directed to the Gospel before it is read: proclaimed in the midst of the faithful gathered in prayer, the Holy Gospel is a pleasing fragrance offered to the Lord (Ps 141:2). And because the life and words of

our Savior warrant our most tender affection and gratitude, the page of the Gospel receives a reverent kiss after it is read.

But it is not only in the liturgy that the Holy Gospel is honored and cherished by the people of God. In our own personal and prayerful reading of the Holy Gospel, we are invited into an intimate conversation with the Word made flesh. It is with this in mind that we are happy to offer this new book of the Gospels, illuminated by beautiful works of sacred art that visibly portray the mysteries of the faith.

In the words of a great saint who is close to our hearts here at MAGNIFICAT, Thérèse of Lisieux, “it is especially the Gospels that sustain me during my hours of prayer, for in them I find what is necessary for my poor little soul. I am constantly discovering in them new lights, hidden and mysterious meanings.”

May we all experience the same sustenance and light, the same “surpassing attraction” as all the saints when we read the Holy Gospels—until we may be blessed to join them as they look upon the Word of God face to face for all eternity (1 Cor 13:12).

Fr. Sebastian White, O.P.
Editor-in-Chief, MAGNIFICAT

*The Gospel
According to Matthew*



The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

Mt 1

THE BOOK OF THE GENEALOGY of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

² Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³ and Judah the father of Per'ez and Ze'rah by Ta'mar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴ and Ram the father of Ammin'adab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵ and Salmon the father of Boaz by Ra'hab, and Boaz the father of O'bed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uri'ah, ⁷ and Solomon the father of Rehobo'am, and Rehoboam the father of Abi'jah, and Abijah the father of Asa, ⁸ and Asa the father of Jehosh'aphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Jo'ram, and Joram the father of Uzzi'ah, ⁹ and Uzzi'ah the father of Jo'tham, and Jotham the father of A'haz, and Ahaz the father of Hezeki'ah, ¹⁰ and Hezeki'ah the father of Manas'seh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josi'ah, ¹¹ and Josi'ah the father of Jechoni'ah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

¹² And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoni'ah was the father of She-al'ti-el, and She-alti-el the father of Zerub'babel, ¹³ and Zerub'babel the father of Abi'ud, and Abiud the father of Eli'akim, and

Eliakim the father of A'zor, ¹⁴ and A'zor the father of Za'dok, and Zadok the father of A'chim, and Achim the father of Eli'ud, ¹⁵ and Eli'ud the father of Elea'zar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

The Birth of Jesus Christ

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; ¹⁹ and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; ²¹ she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us).

²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

The Visit of the Wise Men

NOW WHEN JESUS was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, Wise Men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, ² "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'"

⁷ Then Herod summoned the Wise Men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; ⁸ and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and

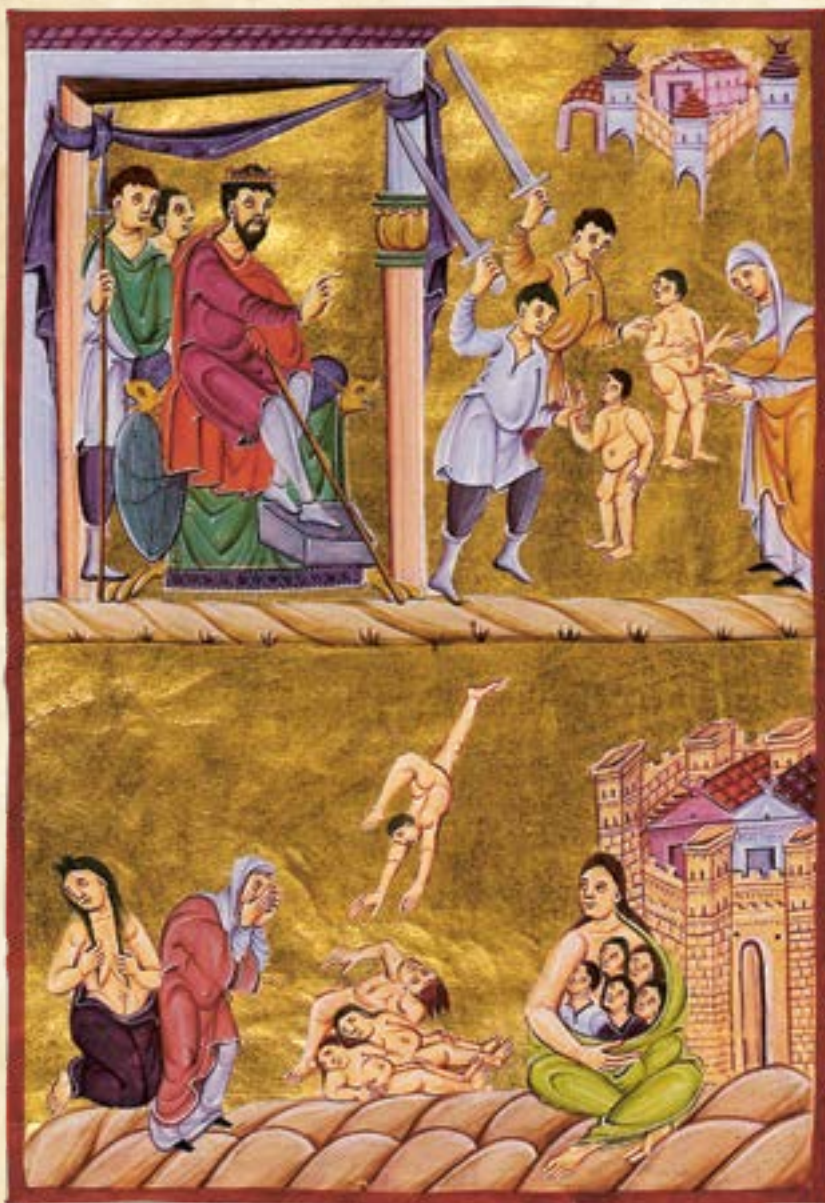


worship him.”⁹ When they had heard the king they went their way; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy;¹¹ and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

The Escape to Egypt

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt,¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt have I called my son.”

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the Wise Men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from



the Wise Men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ra’mah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled,
because they were no more.”

The Return from Egypt

¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, ²⁰ “Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archela’us reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³ And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled. “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

The Preaching of John the Baptist

IN THOSE DAYS came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

Mt3

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.”

⁴Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair, and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit that befits repentance, ⁹and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Baptism of Jesus

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; ¹⁷and behold, a voice from heaven, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

The Temptation of Jesus

THEN JESUS was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And he fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴But he answered, “It is written,

‘Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that proceeds from the mouth
of God.’”

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶and said to him,

the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”



The Gospel According to Mark





The Preaching of John the Baptist

Mk 1

THE BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way;

³ the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight—”

⁴ John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, and had a leather belt around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Baptism of Jesus

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him



like a dove; ¹¹ and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

The Temptation of Jesus

¹² The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ And he was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to him.

Jesus Preaches the Gospel in Galilee

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel.”

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

¹⁶ And passing along by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you become fishers of men.” ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zeb’edee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ And immediately he called them; and they left



The Ascension of Jesus

¹⁹ So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰ And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it. Amen.



The Gospel According to Luke





Dedication to Theophilus

INASMUCH AS MANY have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things which have been accomplished among us, ² just as they were delivered to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, ³ it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theoph'ilus, ⁴ that you may know the truth concerning the things of which you have been informed.

The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

⁵ In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechari'ah, of the division of Abi'jah; and he had a wife of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly. ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

⁸ Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹ according to the custom of the priesthood, it fell to him by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour



of incense. ¹¹ And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² And Zechari'ah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechari'ah, for your prayer is heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

¹⁴ And you will have joy and gladness,
and many will rejoice at his birth;

¹⁵ for he will be great before the Lord,
and he shall drink no wine nor strong drink,
and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit,
even from his mother's womb.

¹⁶ And he will turn many of the sons of Israel to
the Lord their God,

¹⁷ and he will go before him in the spirit and power
of Eli'jah,
to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,
and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

¹⁸ And Zechari'ah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." ¹⁹ And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who stand in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." ²¹ And the people were waiting

for Zechari'ah, and they wondered at his delay in the temple. ²² And when he came out, he could not speak to them, and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he made signs to them and remained mute. ²³ And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴ After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she hid herself, saying, ²⁵ "Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men."

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High;
and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,



³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever;
and of his kingdom there will be no end.”
³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no husband?” ³⁵And the angel said to her,
“The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;
therefore the child to be born will be called holy,
the Son of God.

³⁶And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For with God nothing will be impossible.” ³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

*Mary Visits Elizabeth;
and Mary's Song of Praise*

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechari'ah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the child leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted me,



that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

⁴⁴ For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the child in my womb leaped for joy.

⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” ⁴⁶ And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.

For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts,

⁵² he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity for ever.”

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her home.



The Birth of John the Baptist

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to be delivered, and she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸ And her neighbors and kinsfolk heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they would have named him Zechari'ah after his father, ⁶⁰ but his mother said, "Not so; he shall be called John." ⁶¹ And they said to her, "None of your kindred is called by this name." ⁶² And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he would have him called. ⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, "His name is John." And they all marveled. ⁶⁴ And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵ And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea; ⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

Zechariah's Prophecy

⁶⁷ And his father Zechari'ah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying,
⁶⁸ "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people,

⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets
from of old,
⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies,
and from the hand of all who hate us;
⁷² to perform the mercy promised to our fathers,
and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³ the oath which he swore to our father Abraham,
⁷⁴ to grant us
that we, being delivered from the hand of our
enemies,
might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all the
days of our life.
⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the
Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his
ways,
⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins,
⁷⁸ through the tender mercy of our God,
when the day shall dawn upon us from on high
⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in
the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."
⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit,
and he was in the wilderness till the day of his
manifestation to Israel.

Iconographic credits



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P. 6: Christ in Majesty, *Sacramentary*, about 1025-1050, Germany, Ms. Ludwig V2, fol. 22, The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles. Digital image courtesy of Getty's Open Content Program.



Saint Matthew

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P. 11: Saint Matthew. **P. 16:** Adoration of the Magi. **P. 18:** Massacre of the Holy Innocents. **P. 22:** Baptism of Christ. Christ in the desert tempted by the devil. **P. 27:** Sermon on the Mount. **P. 38:** Christ heals Peter's mother-in-law. Christ heals the possessed. **P. 41:** Christ sleeping in the boat. Christ heals a possessed man. **P. 42:** Christ heals a paralytic. **P. 57:** Christ heals a blind man. **P. 67:** The dance of Salome before Herod. The beheading of John Baptist. **P. 68:** The multiplication of the loaves and fishes. **P. 78:** The Transfiguration.

P. 86: Christ blessing the little children. **P. 92:** The entry of Christ into Jerusalem. **P. 94:** Christ drives the merchants out of the Temple. **P. 117:** Christ in the Garden of Olives. The arrest of Christ. **P. 125:** The Crucifixion. Christ is taken down from the cross and buried. **P. 129:** The empty tomb. The risen Christ appears to the apostles.



Saint Mark

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Saint Luke

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Other references:

P. 226: Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple, c. 1530. **P. 231:** Baptism of Christ. *Beatty Rosarium*, W.99, fol. 24r, 24v, Simon Bening (1483-1561), The Trustees of the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin, Ireland. © Chester Beatty Library / Bridgeman Images.

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Saint John

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P. 353: The Wedding at Cana. **P. 391:** Raising of Lazarus. **P. 413:** Christ in the Garden of Olives. **P. 415:** Arrest of Christ. **P. 417:** Christ before Annas. **P. 420:** Christ before

Pilate. **P. 422:** *Ecce Homo*. **P. 424:** Christ carrying the cross.
P. 426: Crucifixion. **P. 428:** Entombment of Christ. **P. 431:**
Noli me tangere. **P. 432:** Christ appearing to his Mother.
P. 434: Doubting Thomas.

Other references:

P. 345: Saint John. **P. 346:** Trinity, *Horae ad usum Romanum*, called *Great Hours of Anne of Brittany*, 1503-1508, Latin 9474. fol. 16v, 155v, Jean Bourdichon (c. 1457-1521), Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris. © BnF, Paris.

P. 350: The Call of the Disciples, *Historial Miror*, Français 50, Maître François (active c. 1460-1480), Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris. © BnF, Paris.

P. 359: Christ and the Samaritan woman at the well, *Horae Beatae Mariae Virginis*, called *La Flora*, Ms. I.B.51, fol. 284 v., Biblioteca Nazionale Vittorio Emanuele III, Naples. © Luciano Pedicini / La Collection.

P. 399: The washing of the feet, Simon Bening (c. 1483-1561), Private Collection, Christie's Images / Bridgeman Images.

P. 408: The Holy Spirit, *Missale et horae ad usum Fratrum Minorum*, c. 1385-1390. Latin 757, Workshop of Giovanni di Benedetto da Como (2nd half of 14th c.), Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris. © BnF, Paris.

