

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS

TODAY'S GOSPEL

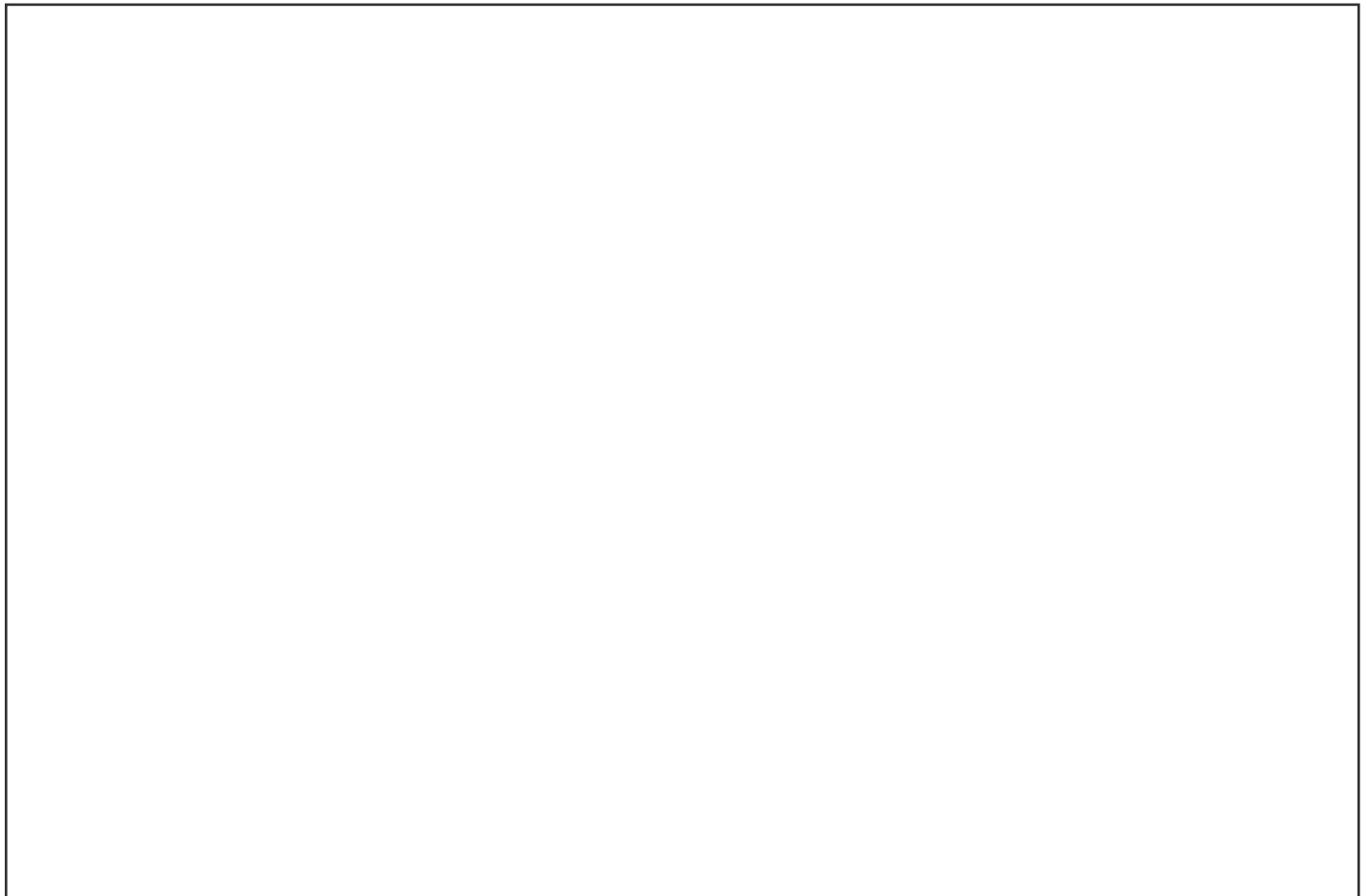
In those days, Elizabeth the wife of Zacharias conceived and for five months she hid herself, saying, "Thus the Lord had done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men." In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you! Blessed are you among women!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 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, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And 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.

And 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. For with God nothing will be impossible." And 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.

Blessed feast! Let us remember this day the words of the Theotokos and strive to imitate her obedience to God!

“Let it be to me according to
your word.”

What do you think the Theotokos was thinking about when she heard this news?
Draw a picture of it below.





GOD'S EYE CRAFT

In nearly every icon of the feast of the Annunciation, Mary is depicted holding a spool of thread or yarn. We know that Mary was in a constant state of prayer, but never let her hands be idle (a characteristic that many monastics possess). Your children can emulate the Theotokos with this easy, repetitive yarn craft. Encourage them to say the Jesus prayer once they get the motion of the cross down.

MATERIALS

- Glue gun
- Popsicle sticks or small twigs (about 1/4in in diameter and 6-8" in length)
- Yarn in several bright colors (younger children can just use one color)
- Scissors

METHOD

1. Glue your sticks or twigs together in a cross.
2. Tie your first color of yarn to one of your sticks. Push the knot as close to the middle as you can. Wrap the yarn over and around the cross in the middle to secure the sticks.
3. Time to for the fun part! Wrap the yarn around one stick, then turn your cross 90 degrees and wrap your yarn around the next stick, turn again and so on.
3. Continue for four or more turns around the cross, until the eye is as large as you want.
4. When you're ready to switch colors, just tie your new color of yarn onto the end of the first and keep going! Make as many turns around the cross as you like to form a narrow or wide band of this color. Repeat for each additional color until finished.
5. Glue the final yarn end to the back of the cross to hold it in place. Make a hanger for the God's Eye with a some of your extra yarn.