October 25, 2026

Holy Scripture in the Life of the Church

Saint Sergius School · SSS-L0006



Opening Questions

What do we mean by the Bible or Holy Scripture?

Where have you heard Scripture read in church?

Do you recognize any prayers or Psalms from Scripture?

Why does the Church read the Scriptures again and again?

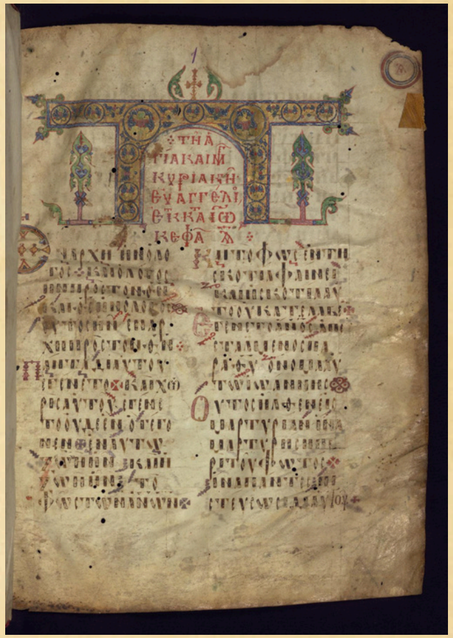
What Is Holy Scripture?

Holy Scripture, or the Bible, is the collection of sacred writings **received and preserved by God's people**.

It has two great parts:

OLD TESTAMENT — prepares for the coming of Christ.

NEW TESTAMENT — bears witness to Jesus Christ and the life of the early Church.



The Church receives Scripture as an inspired written witness to God's revelation.

The Bible Lives in the Church

PROCLAIMED — heard in the Church

PRAYED — becomes our prayer

PRESERVED — handed on faithfully

INTERPRETED — received within Holy Tradition

PROCLAIMED → PRAYED → PRESERVED → INTERPRETED

PROCLAIMED — We Hear Scripture

The Church proclaims Scripture when Christians gather for worship.

GOSPEL

EPISTLE

PSALMS

OTHER BIBLICAL READINGS

We encounter the Bible as a worshipping Church—not only as isolated readers.

PRAYED — Scripture Becomes Our Prayer

PSALMS

praise · repentance · hope

HYMNS & PRAYERS

filled with biblical words and images

AT HOME

read carefully and prayerfully

Scripture gives the Church words of praise,
thanksgiving, repentance, sorrow, hope,
and trust in God.

PRESERVED — The Church Hands Scripture On

PROCLAIMED by prophets and Apostles

WRITTEN by inspired authors

RECEIVED by the Church as Holy Scripture

COPIED · TRANSLATED · TAUGHT · GUARDED across generations

INTERPRETED — We Receive Scripture in the Church

HOLY SPIRIT

HOLY TRADITION

HOLY FATHERS

SAINTS

WORSHIP

FAITHFUL TEACHING

We do not invent the meaning of Scripture for ourselves.

How Does the Church Understand Scripture?

The Holy Fathers and Saints are witnesses to the Church's faithful understanding of Scripture.

When a passage is difficult, a good Orthodox teacher should show where the explanation comes from—not simply offer a personal opinion.

Faithful teaching points back to the Fathers, the Saints, the Church's worship, and the Holy Tradition received from the Apostles.



READING SCRIPTURE AT HOME

Personal reading is encouraged.

Private interpretation is not.

If a passage is difficult, seek an explanation grounded in the Holy Fathers and Saints rather than inventing one for yourself.

Christ Is at the Centre

OLD TESTAMENT
prepares for Christ

↓

JESUS CHRIST
the living Word of God

↓

NEW TESTAMENT
bears witness to Christ



Scripture Lives in Orthodox Worship

GOSPEL BOOK

EPISTLE

PSALTER

VESPERS

MATINS

DIVINE LITURGY

The Bible is heard, sung, prayed, and proclaimed throughout the worship of the Church.

We do not read Scripture as isolated individuals.
We receive it as members of Christ's Church.

The Bible Is More Than a Classroom Book

School instruction helps us hear, read, pray, and understand Scripture faithfully—but it does not replace the worship and life of the Church.

How can Scripture become part of your Christian life this week?

Key Vocabulary

Holy Scripture
the sacred writings of the Bible received by the Church

Old & New Testaments
prepare for Christ and bear witness to Him

Gospel

Epistle

Psalter
the Book of Psalms

Holy Tradition
the life and teaching faithfully handed on in the Church from the Apostles

Activity — Where Scripture Lives

PROCLAIMED

Where do you hear Scripture in church?

PRAYED

How does Scripture become prayer?

PRESERVED

How has the Church handed Scripture on?

INTERPRETED

Who helps us understand Scripture faithfully?

PROCLAIMED | PRAYED | PRESERVED | INTERPRETED

Today We Learned

Holy Scripture lives in the Church: we hear it proclaimed, pray it, preserve it, and learn to understand it within the life of God's people.

PROCLAIMED | PRAYED | PRESERVED | INTERPRETED

Personal reading is encouraged.

Private interpretation is not.

The Bible lives in the Church.