



The Fruits of the Passion of Christ

The composition is centered around Christ crucified on a cross which grows like a flowering tree on Mt. Calvary. At the foot, we see the skull of Adam on Golgotha (*skull in Aramaic*). This is a reference to Christ as the New Adam. The icon's message focuses on "fruits" of Christ's passion, specifically the triumph over evil, resurrection of the body for everlasting life and the establishment of the Church handed down by the apostles. It also depicts the solemn results of fallen man's decision not to choose and follow God.

Flowering branches sprout from the cross beam and suppedaneum (*foot support*). Eight branches grow from the cross bar with stylized, spiral blossoms. Angels kneel on the blossoms holding medallions each painted with the instruments of Christ's passion.

Arms extending from the branches at the end of the cross bar and the right side of suppedaneum hold important symbols of Christ's sacrifice. (*see white circles*)

Mary Magdalene (blue maphorion & red tunic) and the Blessed Mother (characteristic red-brown maphorion & deep blue tunic) are always shown at the crucifixion.

Two angels flanking Christ each hold an instrument of the passion - one holds the chalice which caught His blood; the other holds the three ladders used to crucify Christ and the two thieves.

This hand crowns Christ's Holy Church represented with four domes, beneath which are the four evangelists with their respective tetramorphs presented as seraphim (*Ezekiel's description of animals with human faces, assigned to the four evangelists. Seraphim are the six winged angels who burn with love for God.*)

The resurrected can be seen awakening in their tombs. We know they are in the place of the dead because of the color black (privation of light, literal and metaphysical).

The Fruits of the Passion of Christ icon was graciously donated by Darlene & Dr. Thomas Dunham to Classical Iconography Institute



Late 19th Century Russia, Egg Tempera on Wood
Inscriptions in Old Slavonic Cyrillic

Lord Sabaoth, holding a scroll (Holy Wisdom) and the globus cruciger (symbol of authority). Within God's bosom is the Holy Spirit, overseeing the fulfillment of the scriptures.

The sun and moon represent the Old and New Covenants, reminding us that the God of the Old Testament is the same God of the New Testament and of all creation.

The hand from the shaft of the cross reaches up with keys to unlock the gates of Heavenly Jerusalem, overseen by the Lord Sabaoth.

IC XC are the first and last letters of the name of Jesus Christ. (ΙΗΣΟΥΣ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ (Greek) translated to ΙΗCOYC XPIC-TOC). Naming a person distinguishes an icon from other religious art. It is the final step that "activates" the icon. A name expresses a person's essence and identity and the meaning of this person's life. Disclosing the one depicted to the viewer, makes him accessible, capable of being known more intimately and addressed personally. (CCC 203)

On Christ's proper left, another hand holds a curved sword piercing the figure of Death riding a pale horse.

St. John the Apostle and the Roman centurion (*Longinus*) were present at the crucifixion.

The hand holding a hammer extends from the suppedaneum to break the chains of the Devil as Christ has defeated death.

A horned, winged Satan is chained to the cross, clutching the soul of Judas. Satan sits at the mouth of the dragon-like monster devouring souls as the entrance to Hades.