

LITURGICAL COLORS & COLOR IN ICONOGRAPHY

GOLD: Depicts divinity, as it is a rare and precious metal; when light strikes gold it gives a radiance which most closely reflects uncreated light. Gold is linked with sanctity, splendor, the divine energy, the glory of God, and the life in the kingdom of God.

WHITE: Depicts light, as well as spiritual purity. White is associated with the divine world, purity, innocence, and is sometimes used with what can be called "the uncreated light," the light that Jesus revealed in the Transfiguration to Peter, James and John.

BLUE: Depicts Transcendence, truth and humility. "Theotokos" Blue is also associated with heaven, mystery, and the mystical life. Dark blue is often used in the cloak Christ wears in the Pantocrator icon as well as the clothing of Mary, the Mother of God

RED: Is the color of blood that is life, Martyrdom, and love of God. Red suggests life, vitality, and beauty. (in Slavonic the word for Beauty and red is the same). The inner robe of Christ in the Pantocrator icon is red. Orange-red, is associated with fire, suggests fervor and spiritual purification.

GREEN: Signifies the earth's vegetation, fertility in a general sense, youth, and freshness. It is often used in the clothing of martyrs, whose blood nurtures the Church.