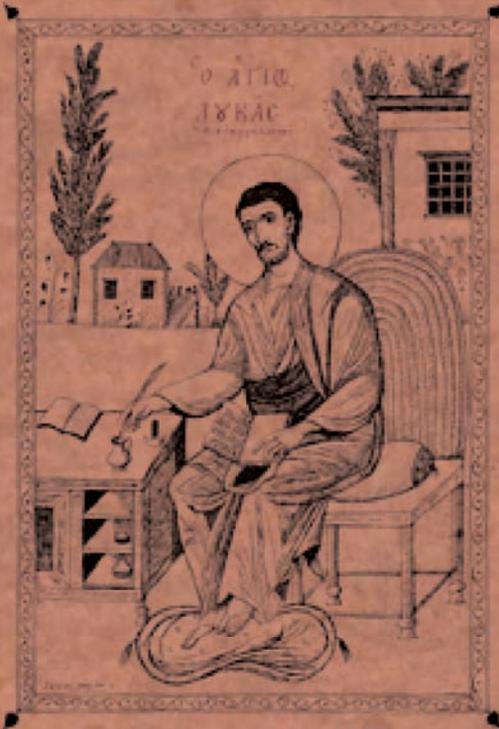


**EXPOSITION OF THE HOLY GOSPEL  
ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE**

Saint Ambrose of Milan



Translated by  
Theodosia Tomkinson

**CENTER FOR TRADITIONALIST  
ORTHODOX STUDIES**

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**EXPOSITION OF THE HOLY GOSPEL  
ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE**

**WITH FRAGMENTS ON THE  
PROPHECY OF ESAIAS**

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Second Edition



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## INTRODUCTION

Saint Ambrose was born in 339 at Trier. Although his mother was a Christian, his father, the Imperial Governor of Gaul and Spain, was a pagan. Saint Ambrose was well educated by the standards of his day and trained as a lawyer. After the death of his father, he was appointed Governor of Liguria, with his residence at Milan.

When the local Bishop died, dissension arose between the Orthodox and the Arians about his successor. Saint Ambrose was summoned to restore order: as he entered the Church, a babe in arms cried out, "Ambrose for Bishop!" This was taken by the crowd to be the voice of God, and Saint Ambrose, although still a catechumen, was Baptized forthwith, Priested, and Consecrated Bishop. Prepared through the years by his upbringing in a powerful family, his career as a lawyer, and his service as governor, he diligently and efficiently performed his Episcopal duties. He was an austere, humble man who nevertheless did not shrink from reproaching men and women holding high office when the need arose.

Many Latin versions of the Bible were current in the fourth century. It proved impossible to trace that which Saint Ambrose used, but it was obviously more faithful to the Septuagint than the later Vulgate. I draw on the King James Version for the most part, occasionally the Douai translation of the Vulgate, and the Orthodox Psalter for the Psalms, but sometimes had to translate his quotations myself, as Saint Ambrose's comments on the text would otherwise not make sense.

It seems presumptuous for me to offer my personal opinion of Saint Ambrose, but I have felt obliged to do so, to introduce him to readers to whom he is perhaps little more than a name.

I undertook this translation of his Exposition of Saint Luke as a holy task. I have worked with this text for four years and have come to know the man who wrote it as a beloved friend. How could I not? Saint Ambrose strikes me as a holy man, with

a clear legal mind. He is demanding of himself and of those who would understand his thought. He used all of his talents: those of an aristocrat with an excellent education, of a lawyer, a governor, a Bishop, and a man of authority who must rebuke the proud and be an example to the humble. By the same token, he expects us to use all of our talents, to ponder and partake of his words, to learn from them, to apply them to our own lives, to think clearly, and to do our best.

*Theodosia Tomkinson*

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*From the “Introduction,”  
by Theodosia Tomkinson*