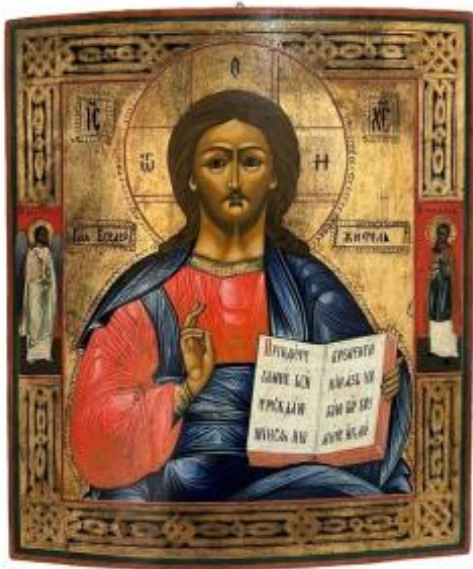




## Christ Pantocrator - 19th-century Russian Icon



990 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oil painting on wood

Width : 31 cm.

Height : 36 cm.

### Description

Russian iconographer Central Russia (Mstera region), late 19th century Christ Pantocrator Egg tempera on wood, 36 × 31 cm The icon depicts Christ Vsederzitel' ("Almighty," corresponding to the Greek Pantokrator), as indicated by the Slavonic inscriptions on either side of the halo--?? ?? (Jesus Christ)--and the inscription ?????? ????????????? ("Lord Almighty") arranged in two scrolls on either side of the figure. Christ is depicted in a frontal half-length portrait, with his right hand raised in the Greek rite blessing and his left hand holding an open Gospel. The text quotes the passage from Matthew 11:28 -- "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" -- in the customary Slavonic liturgical version, with the initial letter in red according to the tradition of

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Russian liturgical manuscripts. On either side of the main composition, within narrow side bands on a dark green background, two minor figures appear: on the left, an angel with a cross (??, ????????, the Guardian Angel), on the right a holy martyr identifiable from the inscription as ??, ?????? (St. Stephen the Protomartyr). Their presence suggests a personal commission, with the patron saints of the dedicant flanking the Lord. The gold background is decorated with cekan engraving featuring geometric motifs--lozenges, interlacing, and rosettes at the corners--executed with great finesse, while the cruciform nimbus bears the Greek letters ? ? ? ("He who is") within its arms. Christ's drapery, rendered with broad, confident brushstrokes that sculpt the red and blue robes with plastic vigor, and the overall quality of the painting point to the workshops of Mester, which in the second half of the nineteenth century developed a style recognizable for its chromatic vibrancy, the clarity of its design, and the excellence of its ornamental chasing.