The Christian Heritage of Kosovo and Metohija
Gračanica’s uniqueness lies in the fact that the icon known as Pantocrator, which inspires liturgical awe, is depicted not just as the God-Man—i.e., God who assumed human nature—but as Co-Man, identifying Himself with man in his suffering and helplessness, with human pain through His suffering on the Cross and His humiliating death. Through His philanthropic gaze, the majestic Pantocrator lowers Himself and meets His creation. The eternal and infinite meets the finite in a particular place and time, within history, where they reconcile within the same fate. This composition, with its wrinkles in the forehead, was not repeated in other Byzantine churches, perhaps because its boldness brought it to the threshold of the psychologization of the divine drama. Gračanica’s Pantocrator is truly unique, since it was not copied from anyone. It is original and loving, and for this reason it constitutes a portrait of God, as Christ’s wonderfully loving eyes have revealed it to human beings. The riddle of human destiny finds its solution in the Pantocrator’s theandric gaze.
The Christian Heritage of Kosovo and Metohija

The Historical and Spiritual Heartland of the Serbian People

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Wisdom has built her house (Proverbs 9:1), altar, east wall, Gračanica, 1318–1321
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Concerning Orthography
Note on the spelling and pronunciation of Serbian words and names
č not to be found precisely in English: a sound between the English t in tune, and ch in chalk
c as English ts in lots
če as English ch in church
dž as English j in George
j as English y in yell
lj as English li in million
nj as English n in new
š as English s in ship
ž as English s in pleasure, or French j in jour
Ascension of Christ, detail: the Mother of God, Church of the Holy Apostles, tambour of the dome, the Patriarchate of Peć, ca. 1260
Serbia in Europe, Kosovo-Metohija in Serbia