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MAHDERE-SEBEHAT LEDETA LEMARIAM
ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX
TEWAHEDO CHURCH



**Lessons are prepared by Ledeta LeMariam
Sunday School
Alexandria, Virginia**

**For information please contact:
Yonas Assefa
Email: ledetasunday@yahoo.com**

In the name of the
Father, and the Son, and
the Holy Spirit, one God.
Amen.



Begin with the Lord's prayer

Our Lord and Savior, our King and God, we thank you for gathering us here to stand before you to call on your Holy Name.

Heavenly Father, teach us to trust You in everything we do. Our God open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds that we may hear Your Word, keep it in our hearts and tell our friends about your glory and honor.

Bless all the children and keep them safe. Hear us when we humbly and thankfully pray to you.

Our Father, who art in heaven

Hallowed be thy name,

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done

On earth as it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our trespasses

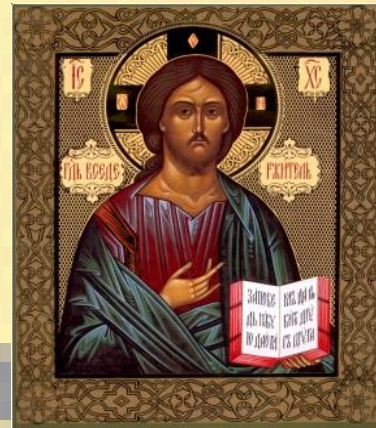
As we forgive those who trespass against us

And lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from the evil one

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the

Glory. Forever, Amen.



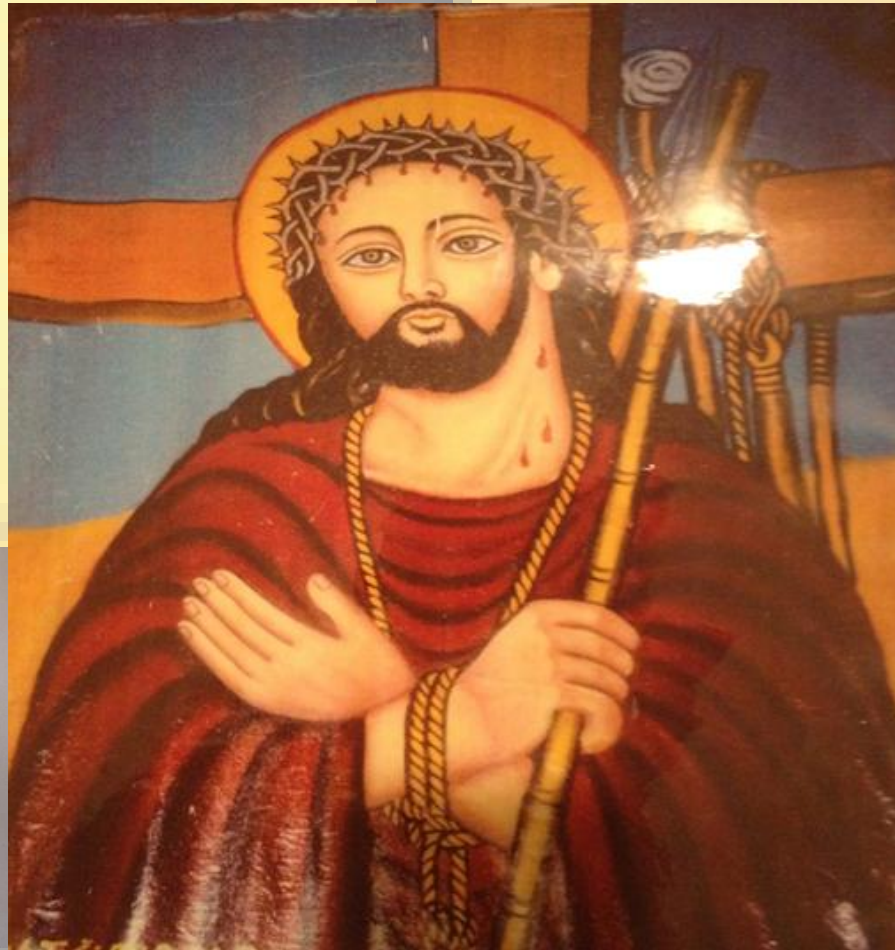
O our Lady, as St. Gabriel greeted you, “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.” True Virgin in conscience as well as body, blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

Holy Mary, the God-bearer, pray that your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, may forgive us our sins. Amen.



Say The Jesus Prayer 3 times

**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.**

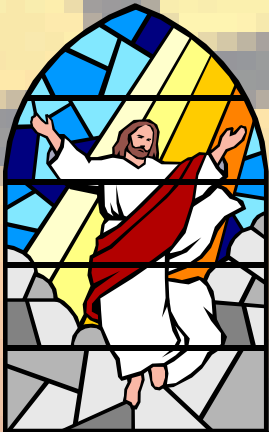


MEMORY VERSE

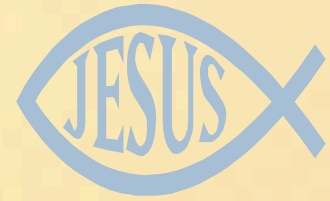
**Can anyone tell me
last week's
memory verse???**

Recite Last week's memory verse

**“For we have seen his star in the East,
and have come to worship him.”
(Matthew 2:2)**






Review



1. Where was the baby Jesus born?
 - In Bethlehem
2. What was the name of the King?
 - King Herod
3. What did the king want to do?
 - He wanted to kill baby Jesus
4. Did the Wise men go back to report to the king as he asked them to do?
 - No, because an angel appeared to them and told them to go to another direction
5. What did the Wise men offer to the Baby Jesus?
 - Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh

Class Covenant

I will keep my  on my teacher,
my  in control,
my s on God's Word;
knowing God is my goal.

Simeon the Elder



January 26, 2014

Memorize today's Verse

**“Lord, now you are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation”
(Luke 2:29)**



Practice this verse again during the week.

Objective

- To teach the children that everything that God tells us is true and we have to believe it even if it does not make sense to us at the moment.

References:

Luke 2:22-35

Mary and Joseph took God's Son when He was 8 days old and had Him circumcised. At that circumcision ceremony babies were given their name. Before this baby was born an angel named Gabriel told Mary what to name Him.

Who remembers the name Gabriel told Mary to give God's Son? What does the name mean?

When Jesus was 40 days old Mary and Joseph traveled to the temple in Jerusalem for another ceremony.

Many, many years before Jesus came to earth as a baby, God had given Moses laws for His people to obey.

One of those laws was that any family who had a firstborn son had to take that son and have him dedicated at the temple. To dedicate someone means to offer him to God.

They met with a very old man of about 330 years. He carried the baby Jesus on his hands and said very strange words.

“Lord, now you are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation” (Luke 2:29). The people did not understand what he meant until he sat down and started telling them his strange story.

He said: “I was about thirty years old when I completed my study of the Old Testament and started teaching in the temple.

In those days they named us “Elders” because nobody knew how to read and write. Everybody knew that the Old Testament is full of things that will happen in the future.

And everybody was waiting for a Savior to appear as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Everybody wants to know the future, whether he believes in God or idols.

They were also afraid of the God of Israel who defeated their idols and saved His people several times from slavery.

Then came the war and a powerful man named Alexander the Great defeated our city, but he was good. He did not destroy the temple and he allowed us to pray to our God.

He was Greek and forced the people to use his language everywhere he went. But it was an easy language to learn.

So I learned it very quickly and became an expert at it. He also conquered Egypt and found a great library there and built a great city in his name “Alexandria,” and also forced them to use his language.

To this day the city is named Alexandria in Egypt.

This man went all the way to India and succeeded but he died young and after him came a man named Ptolemy who ruled us and Egypt.

This new ruler was afraid of the things written in our Holy books and wanted them translated to Greek and put in the famous Alexandria library. He ordered 72 of the Elders to be taken to Alexandria.

When we arrived there, we were put in a separate place from the rest, and given our Hebrew Holy Book to translate to Greek.

He did that, so we would not be able to cheat him.

My part of the book was Isaiah the prophet. I started translating until I reached the verse in 7:14 “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Emmanuel.”

I was afraid to translate the word “Virgin” lest the king laugh at me because no virgin can bear a child because a virgin is an unmarried lady.

Also, I start thinking this is impossible. So, I decided to change the word “Virgin” to a “woman” and leave it unclear and general. I was tired that night and left it to the morning to write it down.

In a dream, the Lord told me, that I am wrong and that I have to translate it “Virgin.” He told me that I will live to see it happen with my two eyes.

In the morning I translated it to “Virgin” and they collected all the translations and sent us home to Jerusalem. They named this translation the “Septuagint” meaning seventy in Greek because we were 72 Elders.

They kept it in Alexandria library and made copies of it and sent it everywhere. I was hoping that I will see this happen soon, a Virgin with the baby Lord, but it didn't.

I saw many wars, famines, and disasters and I grew older hundred years. My body became very weak but nothing happened. My wife and children and grand children died and I was left alone. Then the worst happened, I lost my sight and all hope that I will see Christ the Lord and His mother the Virgin.

I told myself maybe I will hear about them, but after another hundred years, it didn't happen. I think I was punished by the Lord for trying to change His word.”

Today, I wake up and found myself here in the temple. The Spirit of the Lord carried me here. The Lord gave me strength to stand on my feet without a staff and I started asking the people where I was?

And they told me that I am at the temple. Then I remembered the Lord's word to me 300 years ago.

My eyes start seeing again. All the mothers and their children were like shadows to me except one very young mother and her child.



They were clear to sight as I used to see when I was a young man. I took her child on my hands and start seeing everything and everyone clear.

I knew that the Lord fulfilled his promise to me 300 years ago to see with my two eyes, Christ the Lord and His mother the Virgin. *He is our Salvation and all the nations too.*

At this point, this 330 years old man bowed down to the ground, worshipped God and died. All the people around him were surprised, especially the people who knew him before.

They took his body and buried him with great honor on the same day the baby Jesus was presented to the temple.”

Conclusion

When I read the bible next time, I will trust what is written in it even if I cannot understand it now.

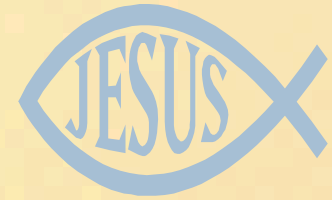
God is going to make it clear to me when I grow older.

I can always ask my parents, my Sunday school teacher or my priest to explain to me what I cannot understand.

Movie Clip

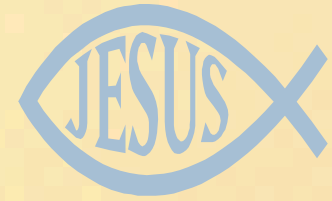
Show a short movie clip about the story, if available.

Pop Quiz



- Where did Simeon meet Virgin Mary and the child Jesus?
- How old was Jesus? How old was Simeon?
- When did Simeon die?
- What was his work?
- What was the name of the king who built Alexandria? Who followed him after he died?
- Why Ptolemy was afraid of the Holy Book of the Jews?
- How many Elders he sent to Alexandria? And to do what? What is the name of this Translation?

Pop Quiz

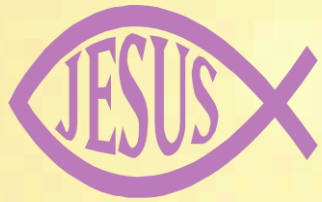


- What book did Simeon translate? What verse did he want to change? Why?
- What happened during the night?
- How long did he live after that? What happened to his country? His family? His health?
- How did he come to the temple that day if he was weak and blind?
- When did he start seeing? Who did he see more clearly than anybody else?
- What happened after he finished his story?

The End

Next Week

We will learn about the escape to Egypt.





May the love of God the **Father** and the grace of our Lord **Jesus Christ** and the fellowship of the **Holy Spirit** be with you.

All: And with your Spirit.

Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

3 things we all can do to strengthen our relationship with God

1. Read the Holy Bible daily preferably when we get up in the morning. 5 minutes to start.
2. Partake Holy Communion regularly.
3. Remember God throughout the day. We can repeat short prayer such as “Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on me.”

JESUS CHRIST

- “For there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12)





*“And you shall know
the truth, and the
truth shall make you
free.” John 8:32*

Any question?

Close with prayer.

