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MAHDERE-SEBEHAT LEDETA LEMARIAM  
ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX  
TEWAHEDO CHURCH



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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

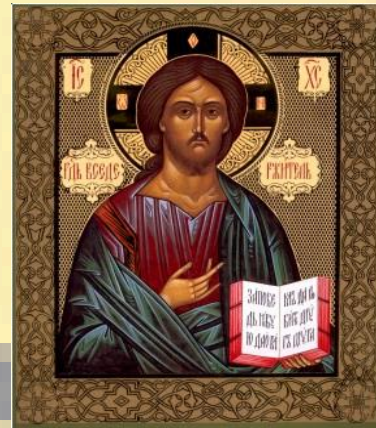
As we forgive those who trespass against us

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.



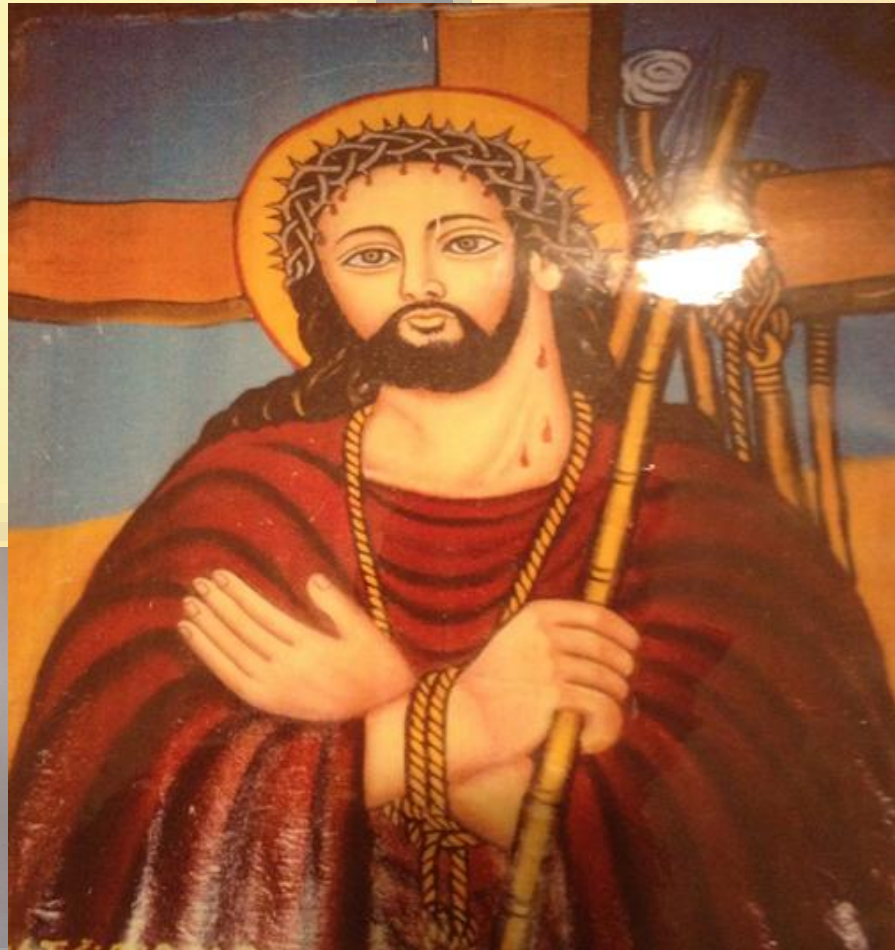
O our Lady, as St. Gabriel greeted you, “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.” True Virgin in conscience as well as body, blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

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.**

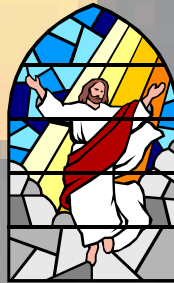


# Recite Last week's memory verse

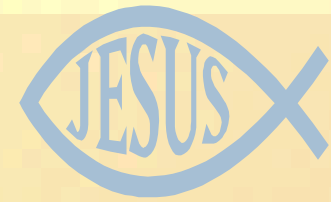
“They laid hands on them, and they  
received the Holy Spirit.”  
(Acts 8:17)



I	Jesus
X	Christ
Θ	God
Υ	Son
Σ	Saviour






# Review



1. Who is John?
2. What did the Lord Jesus asked John to do when He was on the cross?
3. What was the main work John did?
4. What is the first thing we need to do to help our brothers and sisters to repentance? Pray for them
5. Eventhough we sinned a lot, What do we need to do to return to Christ? Repent



# Class Covenant

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

# Saint Mary of Egypt

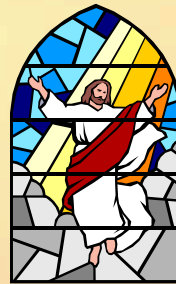


October 5, 2014

# Memorize today's Verse

**“Blessed is he whose transgressions is forgiven, whose sin is covered.”**

**(Psalm 32:1)**



**Practice this verse  
again during the week.**

# Objective



- To say sorry to God for the sins you have done is the 1<sup>st</sup> step of getting closer to God.
- Some things in this world keeps us away from God.

# Introduction

- Not all the saints began their lives close to God.
- St. Mary of Egypt is one of the people who lived their life as a sinner and she led others to sin with her until she realized how far away she was from God.

# Lesson Outline

- There in Palestine lived a holy monk and a priest named Zosimus.
- He served in the Monastery for 53 years, but God told him to leave and go to the Monastery in Jordan.
- He found that the other monks on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent after Liturgy used to go to the desert and ask for forgiveness from God until palm Sunday.
- It was 430 A.D. Zosimus was 20 days away from the monastery. He sat down to rest and say his Psalms.

- Suddenly something that looked like a human appeared to him.
- He made the sign of the cross and finished his psalms.
- Looking up he saw a white-haired, sun tanned figure , St. Zosimus thought it was a Hermit but the figure would run away every time it would get closer.

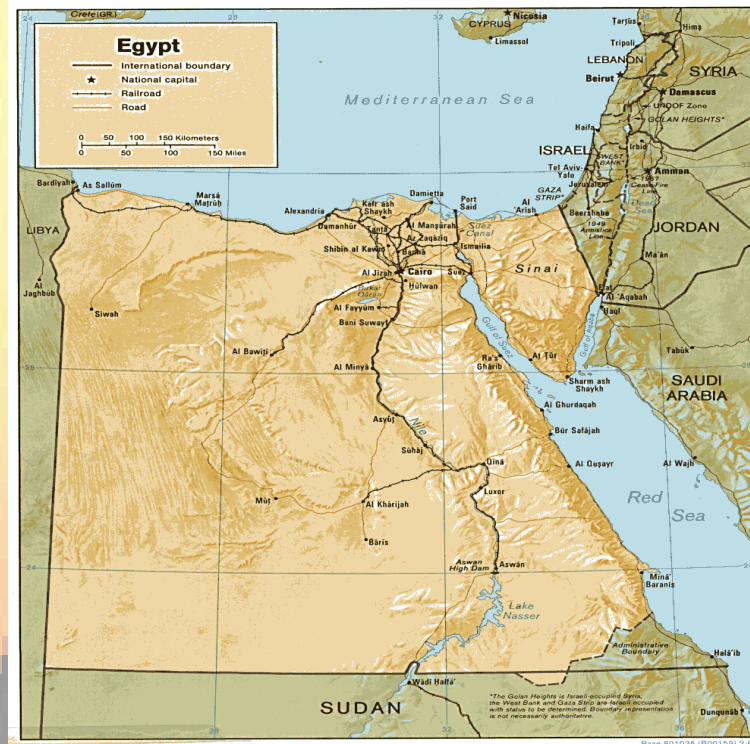


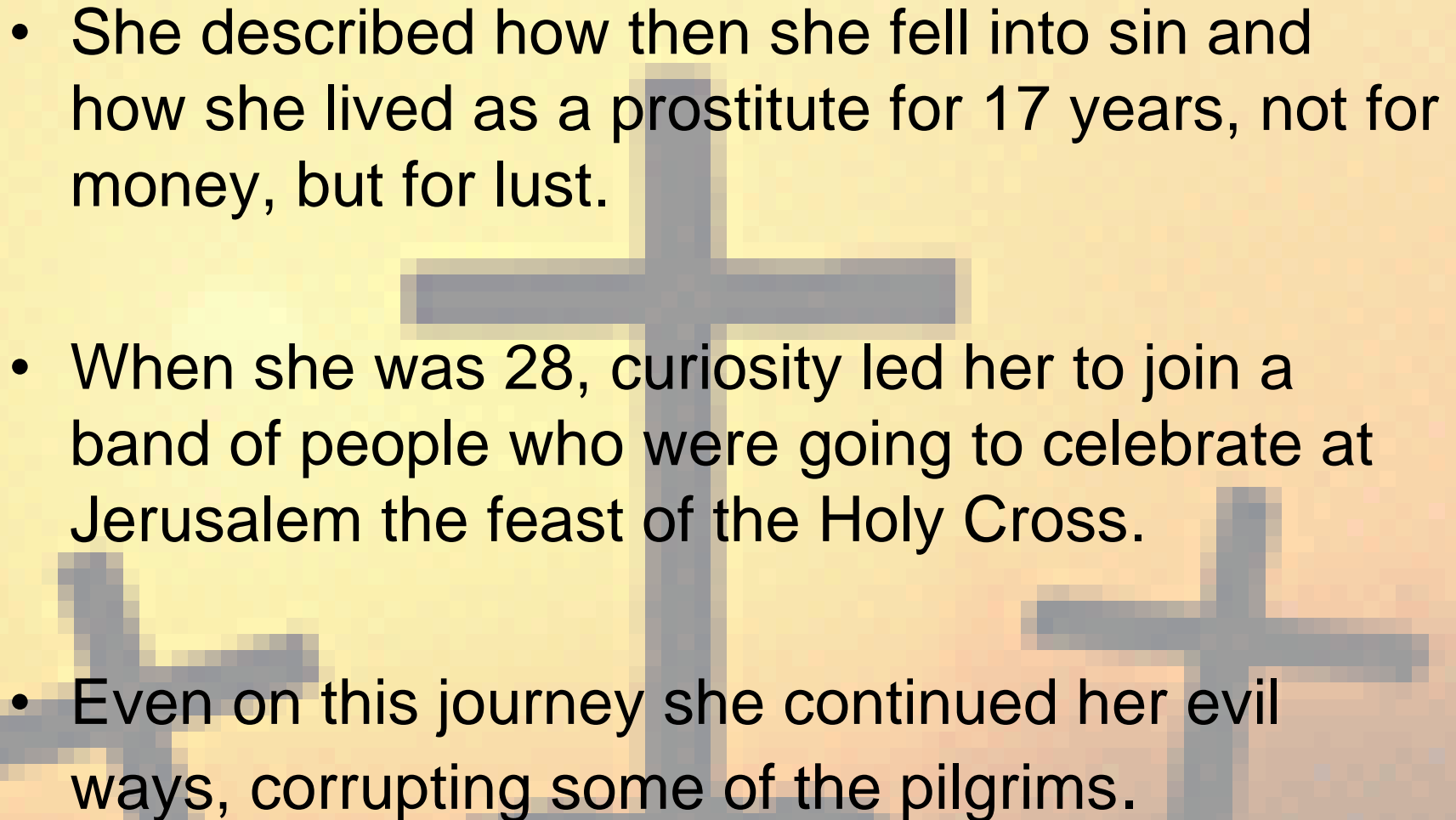
- He shouted “In Gods name don’t run away.”
- As he said this the human figure cried “Father Zosimus, I am a women, please throw me your cloak to support my nakedness, because the years in the desert has worn away my clothes.”
- He was surprised that she knew his name.





- The women began to tell him her strange story.
- “My country is Egypt.”
- “At the age of 12, while my father and mother were still alive, I went without their permission to Alexander.

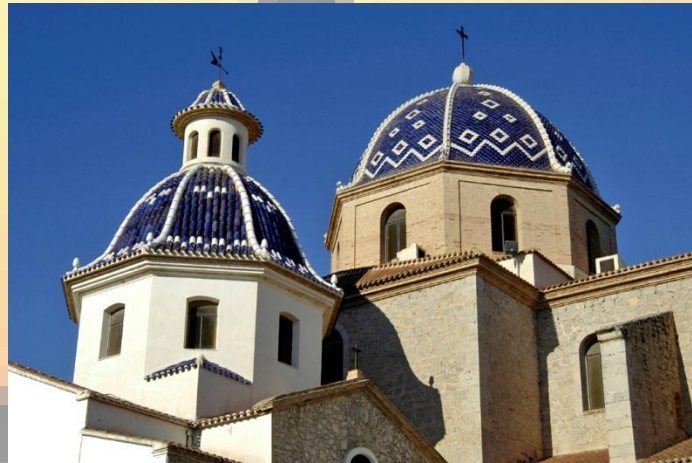


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- She described how then she fell into sin and how she lived as a prostitute for 17 years, not for money, but for lust.
  - When she was 28, curiosity led her to join a band of people who were going to celebrate at Jerusalem the feast of the Holy Cross.
  - Even on this journey she continued her evil ways, corrupting some of the pilgrims.

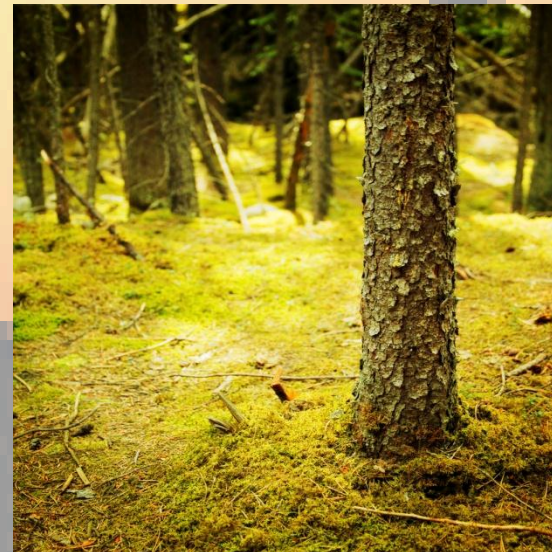
- When she arrived in Jerusalem she tried to enter the church but a strong force invisible held her back. She tried again and again but she was the only one not allowed to enter the church.
- She then went to the outer court and for the first time she realized her sinfulness.
- Raising her eyes to an icon of blessed Virgin Mary she wept and asked her for help vowing that if she could enter the church she would live the life of repentance and go wherever the Holy spirit led her.

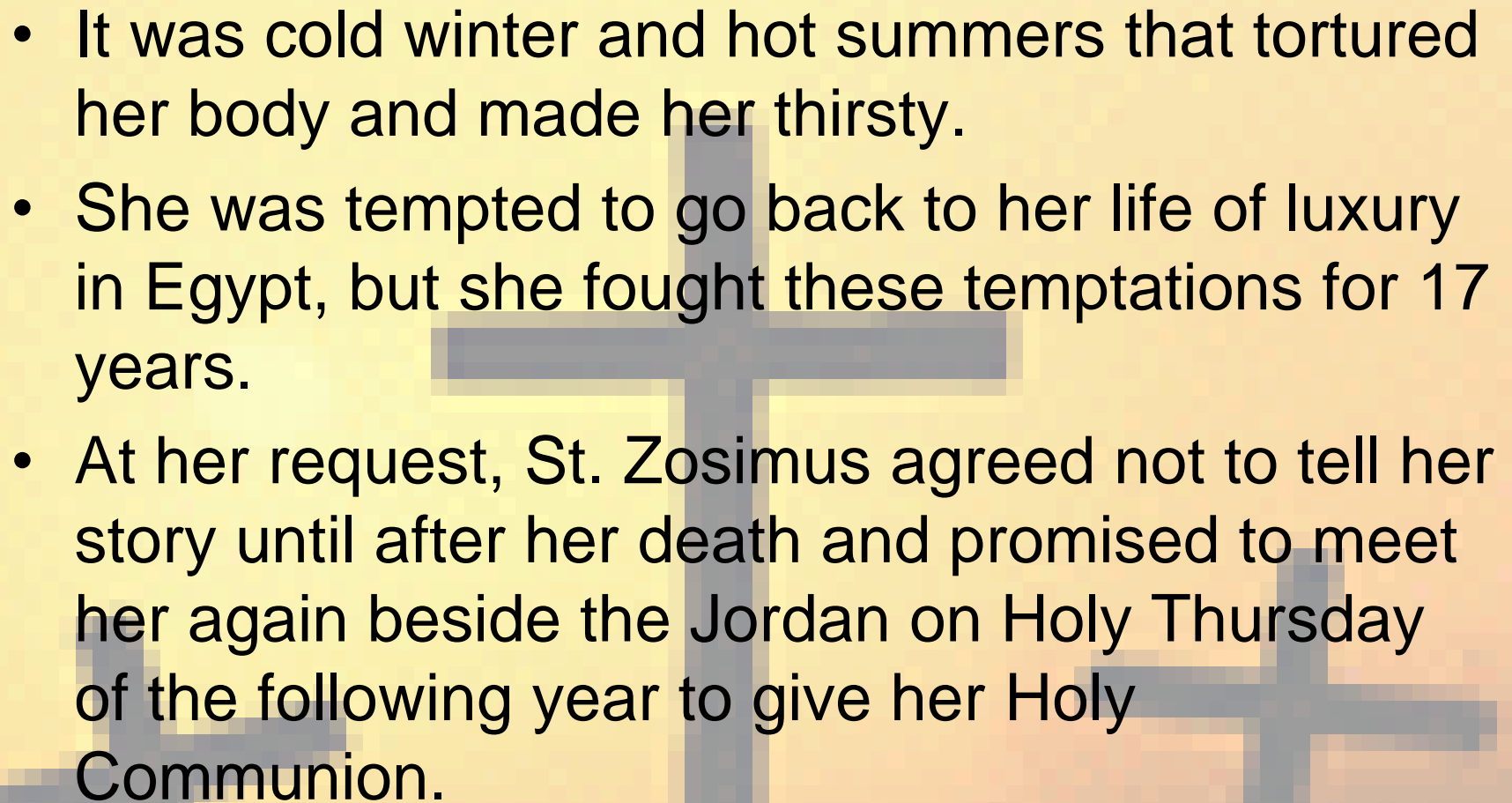


- She prayed and found herself able to enter the church.
- As she was going out of the church, she heard a voice saying. “Go over to the Jordan and you will find rest.” And she set out on her journey.
- At sunset she reached the church of John the Baptist on the bank of the Jordan.



- She spent the whole night weeping.
- In the morning she had Holy Communion, then she went out to the shore and crossed to the other side.
- She found herself to the wilderness.
- She saw no body else and lived on edible plants and dates.



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- It was cold winter and hot summers that tortured her body and made her thirsty.
  - She was tempted to go back to her life of luxury in Egypt, but she fought these temptations for 17 years.
  - At her request, St. Zosimus agreed not to tell her story until after her death and promised to meet her again beside the Jordan on Holy Thursday of the following year to give her Holy Communion.

- Next lent : on Holy Thursday Zosimus took the Body and the Blood of the Lord he put some food in a basket and went to the Jordan.
- He saw her coming on the surface of water towards him.
- She asked him to bless her and she received the Holy Communion.



- She thanked him and asked him to come back the following year to the same spot.
- Another year passed: Abba Zosimus went again to the wilderness.
- He reached the spot only to see her dead body lying on the sand.
- Beside her body, on the sand was written:  
“Father Zosimus, bury the body of humble Mary. Render Earth to Earth and pray for me.”



- She died the night of the Lord's Passion, after receiving the Communion.
- Father Zosimus was surprised that she returned to this place the same night after receiving Holy Communion last year, and that **her body had not decayed** after an entire year.
- At that moment, a lion came from the desert to help him with his claws to dig her grave.
- St. Zosimus went to the monastery and told the story of St. Mary to all the monks.

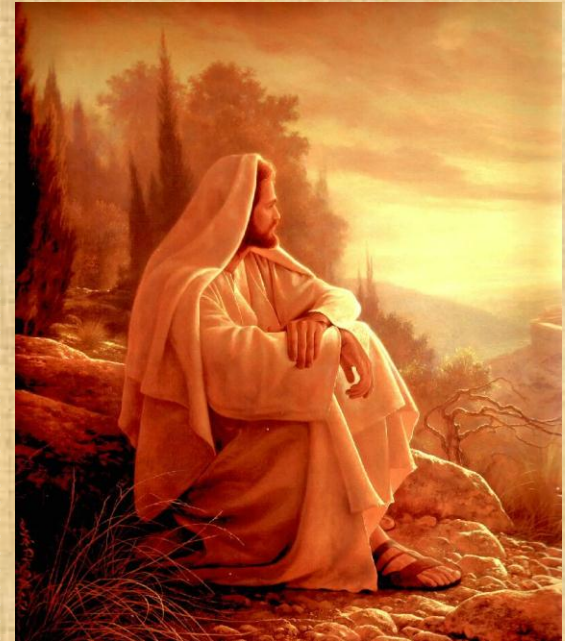


# Conclusion

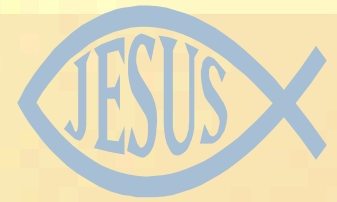
- The Lord waits for us to come to him, and he can show us his love.
- Every sin separates us from God. What is the sin that you are holding on to that is separating you from God – repent and confess. He is giving more time for sinners to repent. Let us make sure nothing would keep us away from God.

# Movie Clip

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



# Pop Quiz



1. Where is Saint Mary from?
2. Where did she go on a pilgrim?
3. Why was she unable to go into the Church in Jerusalem?
4. What did she promise St Mary the Mother of God if she is allowed in the Church?
5. How many years did she fight the temptation to go back to her previous life?

The End

# Next Week

We will learn about the Prophet Isaiah.





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.

