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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

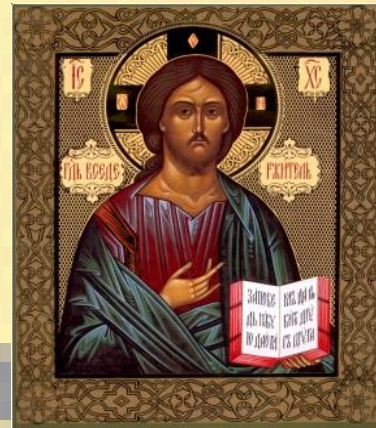
As we forgive those who trespass against us

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.



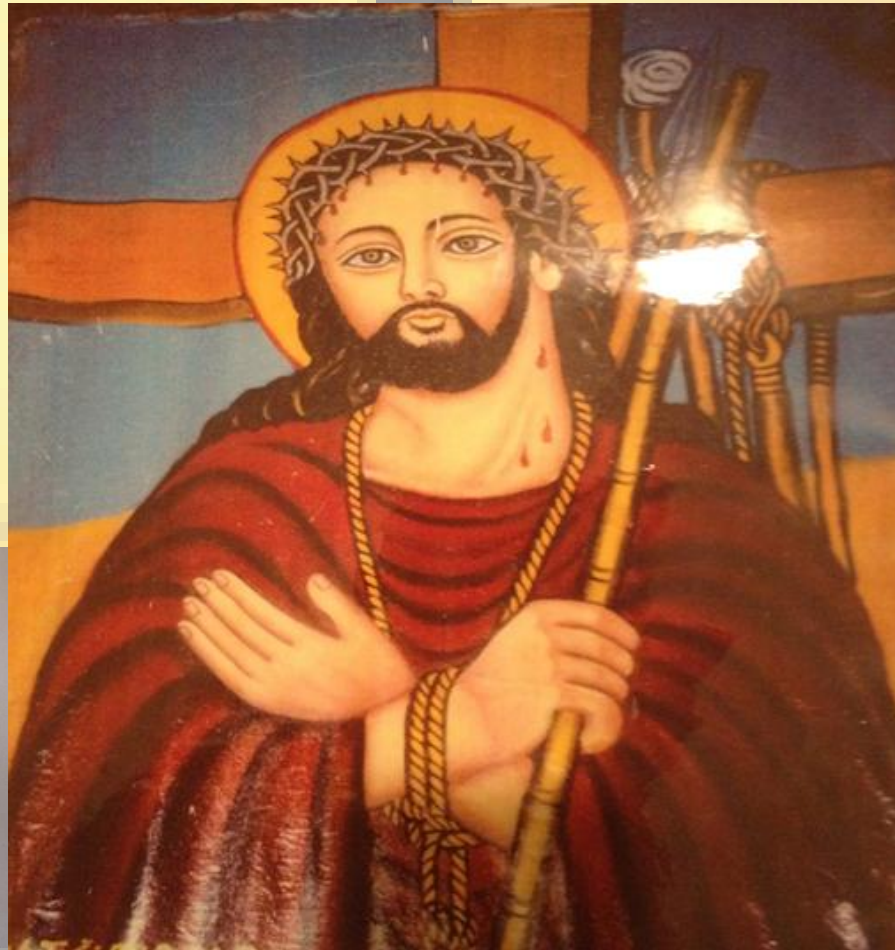
O our Lady, as St. Gabriel greeted you, “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.” True Virgin in conscience as well as body, blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

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.**



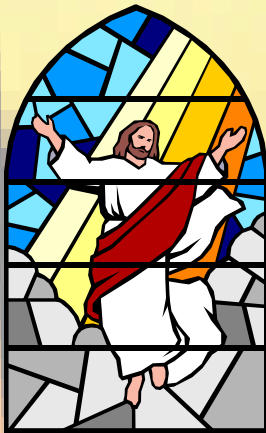
# MEMORY VERSE

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

# **Recite Last week's memory verse**

**“Blessed are those who hear the Word  
of God and obey it.”**

**Luke 11:28**







## Review



1.) Who was Ahasuerus' queen at the beginning of the book of Esther?

Amestris

Esther

Vashti

Adah

2.) The king was angry at the queen during a party because:

They ran out of wine

She disobeyed him

He was insane

She wouldn't dance

3.) How long did Esther spend preparing herself to meet the king?

3 months

6 months

12 months

18 months



## Review



4.) Esther invites the king to a banquet, and also invites who?

Haman

Mordecai

Hathach

Memucan

6.) What gift did the king give Mordecai?

Haman's position

His ring

His signet




7.) Which feast do Jews celebrate because of their deliverance at Esther's time?

Pentecost

Feast of Weeks

Purim

# Class Covenant

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

# Birth of Saint John the Baptist



December 22, 2013

# Memorize today's Verse

**“Prepare the way of the Lord”**

**(Luke 3:4)**



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



# Introduction

- "Today we are going to learn about wonderful news that God sent to a man named Zechariah. God used a heavenly messenger—the angel Gabriel.

- What is the meaning of John?

John means "the Lord is gracious (kindness)."

He is called John the Baptist because he baptized Jesus Christ our Lord.

# Zacharias and Elizabeth

- During the time of king Herod, the king of Judea, there was a priest named **Zachariah**
- His wife's name was **Elizabeth**
- They were both righteous before God, obeying all of God's commandments.
- But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren and they were both really old.



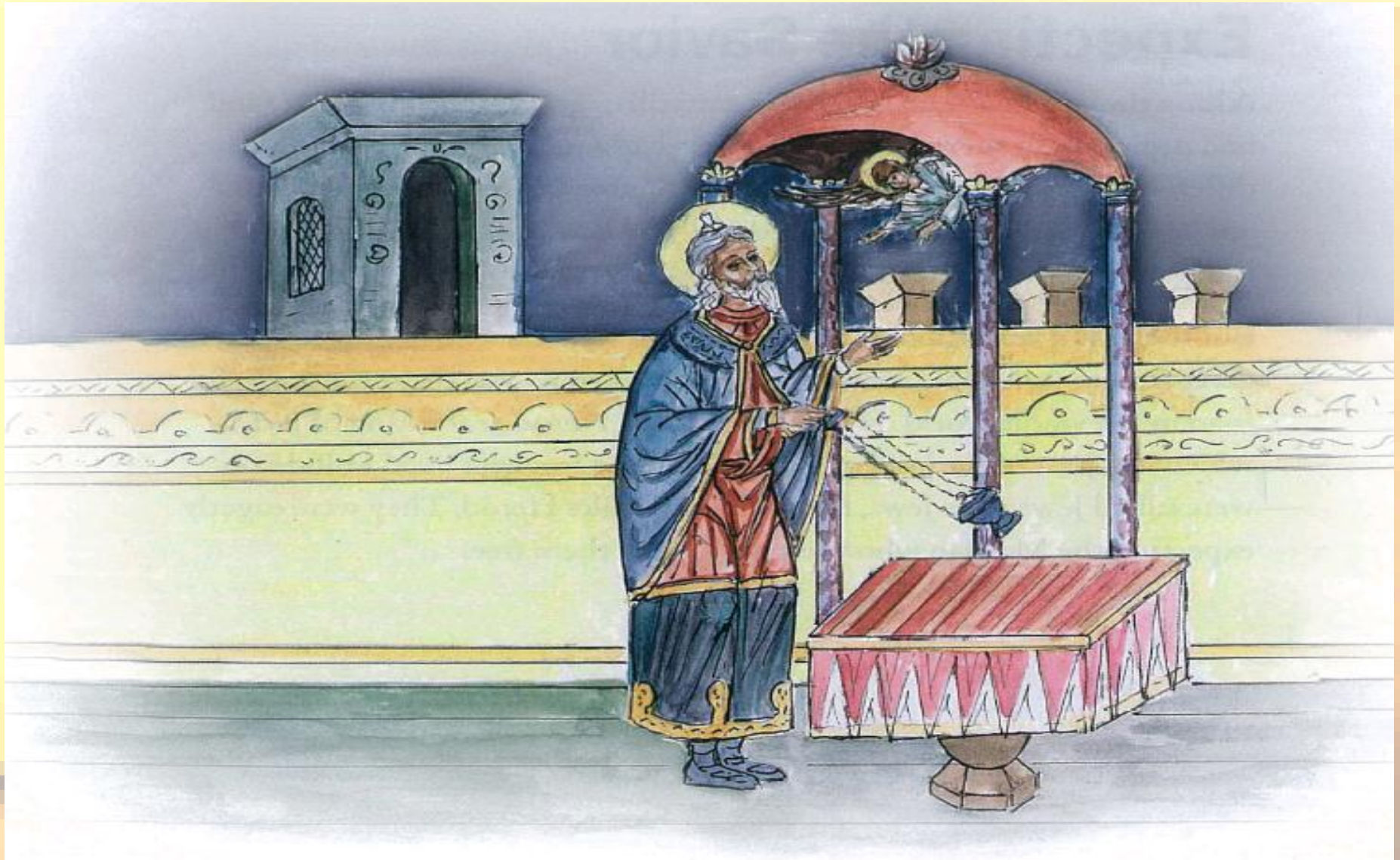


**They prayed** to the Lord that he would give them a child.

# Raising Incense

- One time when Zachariah was praying to God and raising incense on the altar, an angel appeared to him.
- The **angel** was standing on the right side of the altar of incense.





**When Zachariah saw him, he was troubled and he was afraid.**



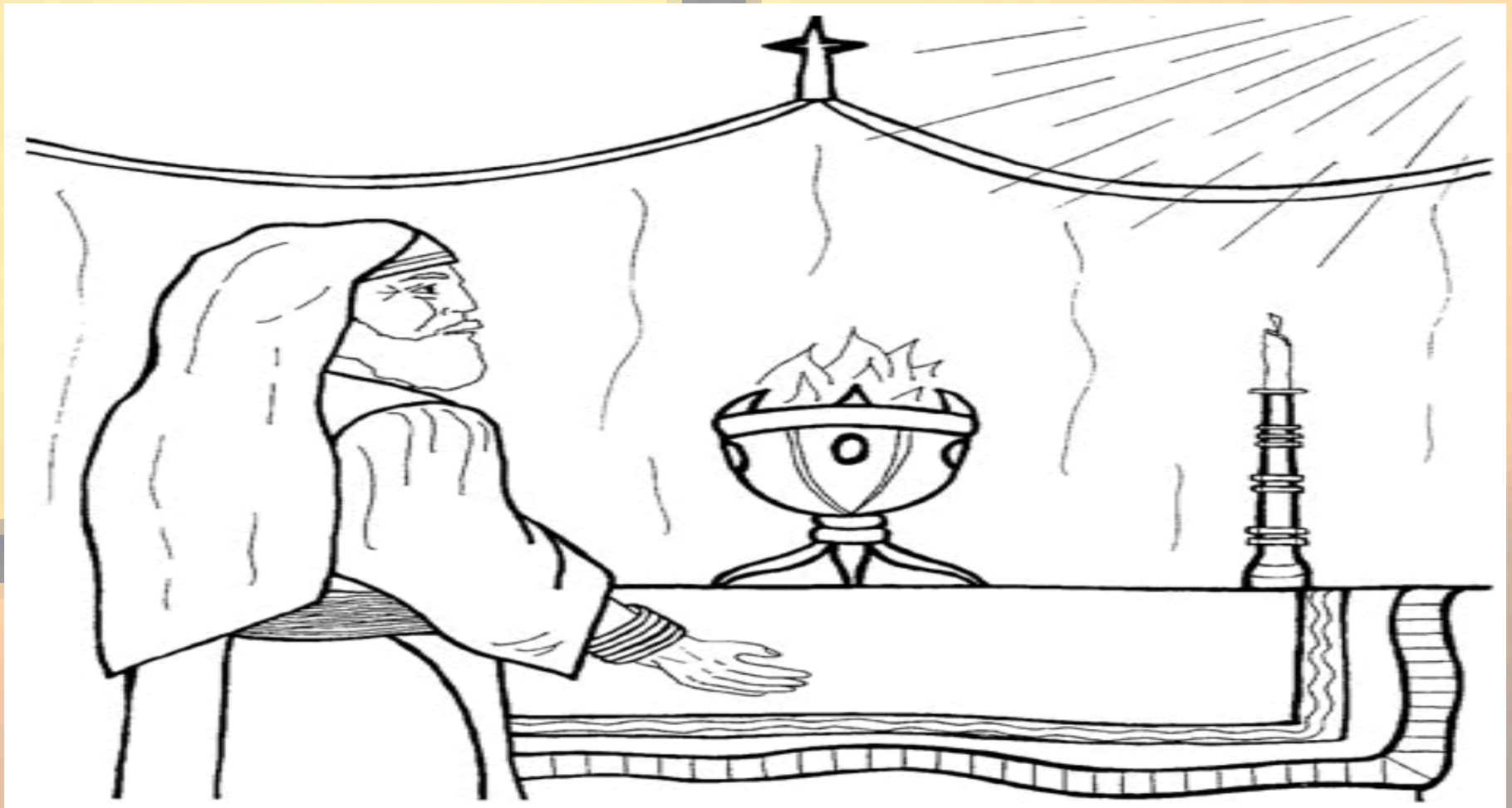
**Angels minister continually at the altar (In the Ethiopian Church it is named after a Tabot) of the Lord, though usually unseen. Those priest of pure heart, such as Zachariah, are occasionally chosen by God to witness this angelic liturgy. Even today, some people do see angels when the Holy Liturgy (Kidasse) is prayed. We cannot deny this, for Zachariah is a proof of it. What is needed is a pure heart. We know that Our Lord Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. That is why we need to be quiet and be reverent when prayers are said in Church.**

# Archangel Gabriel

- The angel said to him: " Do not be afraid, Zachariah, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will call his name John."
- " And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice in his birth."
- "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink."
- " He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb"
- " And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God."

# Zachariah did not believe

- Zachariah said to the angel: "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years."



The angel said to him: "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings."



But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time."





# Zachariah was speechless

- The people outside the temple wondered why Zachariah was taking so long.
- He came out and tried to talk to them but he had no speech and so they thought that he must have seen a vision.
- So Elizabeth became pregnant with John and she hid herself for 5 months.

# St. Elizabeth gives birth to a boy

- It finally came time for St. Elizabeth to give birth to St. John.
- Her delivery was easy because the Lord had mercy on her.
- It was time to name the child on the **8<sup>th</sup> day** and they were going to name him as his father, Zachariah
- His mother answered and said, **"No, he shall be called John."**



# They called him JOHN

- But they said to her:  
"There is no one in your family who is called by this name"
- So they made signs to Zacharias asking him what his name should be.



- He took a **writing tablet** and wrote:
  - " **His name is John.**"
- As soon as he wrote that, his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, **praising God.**

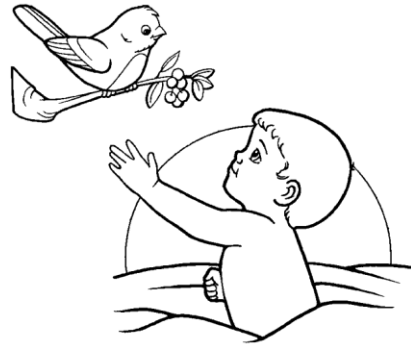


**Zechariah praised God for keeping His promise to send the Savior. He praised God that John would grow up and prepare the people for the coming of God's Son, the Savior Jesus Christ.**



# St. John makes straight the way of the Lord

- All were amazed and fear came on all who dwelt around them.
- Everyone wondered in their hearts, saying **"What kind of child will this be?"**
- The hand of the Lord was with St. John.



Zacharias and Elizabeth are righteous before God, not only in outward appearance but in everything they do. They had a good heart. The holiness of Saint John the Baptist came in part through the faith and goodness of his parents.

“What saves and makes for good children is the life of the parents in the home. The parents need to devote themselves to the love of God. The holiness of parents will shower grace on their children.”

Elder Porphyrios of the Holy mountain

# St. John

- This is he of whom it is written by Malachi the prophet:
  - "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You." (Luke 7:27)





# Conclusion

- Our Lord always hears our prayers, and will answer us even after a long time.
- We may even forget about it but God does not forget our prayers.
- No, could be the answer to our request which we must accept and be thankful for He knows what is best for us.
- God also gives us time to repent from our bad ways. We have a chance in the New year to change and follow God with all our hearts.

# Conclusion

- **Saint John was the last prophet** of the old Testament. He was kind of a bridge from the old to the new testament.
- **Once the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross, no other prophets came after Him** and there was no need for any other prophet.
- As Saint John brought happiness to his family and nation. We all should pray that the Lord Jesus Christ will bring peace to our homes, our ancestral land Ethiopia and the country we call home The United States of America.
- May God bless us all.

# Movie Clip

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

<http://www.cross.tv/87654>





# Pop Quiz



1. What are the names of the priest and his wife?
  - Zachariah and Elizabeth
2. What did they pray for?
  - That they can have a child
3. What did the angel say to Zachariah?
  - The lord has heard your prayers and you will have a son and name him John
4. Why did Zachariah not believe?
  - Because him and his wife were very old
5. How could Zachariah tell his wife about the good news?
  - He wrote it on a tablet



# Pop Quiz



**6. Who visited Zechariah with a message from God?  
(the angel Gabriel)**

**7 • Why did God send John?  
(to get people ready for the coming of the promised  
Savior)**

**8• When Zechariah could speak again, what did he say?  
(He praised the Lord.)**



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.

The End

# Next Week

We will learn about  
Saint Gabriel's visit to  
Saint Mary.



## 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*