



**BE PREPARED**



**ENGLISH EDITION GRADE 1-2**

“Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” Matt 24:44



**H.H. Pope Tawadros II**

Pope of Alexandria &  
Patriarch of the See of St. Mark



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# INTRODUCTION

## MAHRAGAN ALKERAZA 2018

As we celebrated the conclusion of last year's Mahragan with the distribution of the trophies for the first, second and third place winners, we were grateful for God's blessings for a successful 2017 Mahragan. His Holiness Pope Tawadros II said during the Awards Ceremony in Egypt, "I am happy to see the activities of the Youth Bishopic, I am glad that our beautiful Church that is 2000 years old is full of young youth and I am proud to see the creative work and achievements of the youth."

Last year, in addition to the usual participation from Egypt and Sudan, we had a great worldwide participation from 192 Churches representing more than 20 countries and 8 languages.

The theme for Mahragan 2018 is "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." (Matt 24:44). This year, God is asking each one of us to grow in Christ. To do this we will learn about the following topics:

1. Be Ready
2. Work Hard
3. Reject Foreign Thoughts
4. Serve Everyone
5. Joyful In Suffering

We hope that all of you will participate in the Mahragan activities this year, and encourage everyone you know to join us in one of the greatest annual events, presented by our mother, the Coptic Orthodox Church.

May God bless Mahragan Alkeraza this year and the efforts of all the participants and coordinators, through the prayers of our beloved father Pope Tawadros II.

✠  
My best wishes for a happy  
Festival  
✠ Bishop Mousa

# Be Ready

## *St. John The Baptist, The Forerunner And The Martyr (Synexarium - Tout 2nd)*

A long time ago at the time of King Herod the great, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias and his wife's name was Elizabeth. They were both righteous before God, and followed all His commandments. But they did not have any children because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both very old. One day, when Zacharias went into the altar to offer incense, Archangel Gabriel appeared to him and told him that his prayer was heard; and that his wife Elizabeth will bear him a son. His name will be John and many will rejoice at his birth.

He will teach the people how to be ready and to stop doing the bad things that upset God. He will also prepare the way before our Lord Jesus Christ comes. The angel said to Zacharias that John will come...



### **MEMORY VERSE:**

***“To make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” Luke 1:17***

And just as the angel told Zacharias, St. John the Baptist was born.

St. John lived a very simple life in the wilderness. He was clothed in camel's hair and his food was locusts and wild honey. St. John the Baptist started his ministry before our Lord Jesus Christ in order to prepare the way before Him; that's why we call him the "forerunner".

It is also said that he is "the voice of one crying in the wilderness" because he was always preaching to the people telling them about the Kingdom of Heaven. He always asked them to repent from their sins, to do good deeds, not to accuse anyone falsely and to take care of the poor.

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

***"He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise." Luke 3:11***

He baptized people in the Jordan River with water only for the repentance of sins. When people thought that he was the Christ, he told them no, and that he was preparing the way before Him. Our Lord Jesus Christ came to John to be baptized, which is also why we call him John the Baptist.



Our Lord Jesus Himself said about him “among those born of women, there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist”.

St. John the Baptist himself lived the life of readiness, always following God’s commandments. When the king wanted to disobey God, St. John stood in front of him bravely and told him that what he was doing was wrong.

The king was upset and put him in jail, and St. John was eventually martyred. The Church celebrates his martyrdom on 2nd Tout.





## The Birth of John The Baptist

Find these objects hidden in the picture below: book, cake, fish, football, magnet, moon, needle and thread, snail, sock, spoon, sheriff's badge, star.



# Work Hard

## *Our Church Rites*

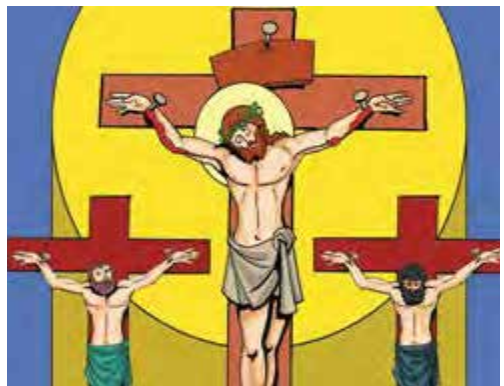
The Church is the house of God, and because our God is a God of order, the Church is organized in everything. The organized prayers and practices are called rites. The Church rites help us to always be ready.

1. Ready to express our faith. For example, the way we do the sign of the Cross is a rite. When we do the sign of the Cross we say “In the name of the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit one God Amen”, declaring the power of the Cross in our life.
2. Church rites also help us prepare to live and understand the various Church occasions. For example, the last week of the Great Lent (one of the Church fasts which lasts 55 days), is called Passion Week and it’s followed by the Feast of the Resurrection.



During the Great Lent, we share in the Lord’s fasting, passion, death and resurrection and we follow Him step by step.

Church readings during Lent tell us about how our Lord Jesus Christ loves us all and accepts our repentance and



forgives our sins. That's why He came and was crucified for us.

Church Hymns during Lent use the fasting tune, which is different from the annual tune we use on regular days.

During Passion Week, the rites and hymns are different from the ones for lent. That's because Passion Week is the week in which our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and was crucified. The Church rites during this week prepare us to live this week differently and to feel how much the Lord suffered for us because He loves us. We follow Him step by step in everything He did during this week. During Passion Week, Hymns are sung using the sad tune. One of the hymns we repeat during this week is "Thok te gom..." which means "Thine is the power and the glory..."



The Church has black curtains on the door of the altar, instead of red ones and the pillars and stands are decorated with black fabric. There is also an icon of our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross.

The altar remains closed (except for Holy Thursday) and all prayers are done in the second chorus of the Church because our Lord was crucified outside of Jerusalem at the mountain of Golgotha.



On Good Friday in the evening, the Church is happy because of this great redemption, and it expresses this joy.

Hymns change to the joyful tune. The Church's black curtains are replaced with white ones, and the icon of the Cross is replaced with the icon of the resurrection. This celebration continues for 50 days after the feast of the Resurrection.

Then the white curtains are removed and the red ones are used again. This is how our beautiful Church uses its rites to help us live through the different occasions. And these rites are passed on from one generation to the next.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***“Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught.” 2 Thessalonians 2:15***



# Reject Foreign Thoughts

## *Saint Athanasius The Defender Of The Faith*

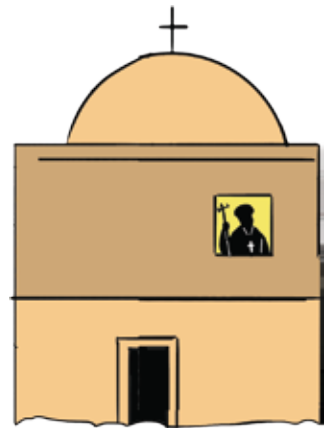
### *(Synexarium 7 Bashans)*

St. Athanasius is one of the Church saints who defended the faith, standing against many people who opposed him. They would even tell him, “the world is against you Athanasius” and he would answer “and I am against the world”.

St. Athanasius was born from pagan parents, who did not worship the true God. His father died when he was young and his mother raised him and took care of his education.

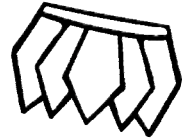
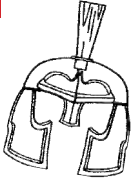
St. Athanasius was very advanced in his studies. One day as Pope Alexandros the 19th Patriarch was looking through his window, he saw a few boys playing by the water. St. Athanasius was playing the role of the bishop and was baptizing his friends in the water and was praying for them.

Pope Alexandros called him and took care of him. When St. Athanasius finished his studies, he went into the desert and stayed with St. Anthony the Great to learn from him about God’s commandments and love. He stayed there for 3 years.

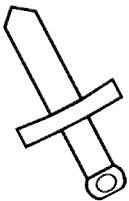


# Armor of God Word Search

Find the hidden words.



L S V S T S T F B L E S Y  
 E S T L W E H S E T Y S W  
 P H E A M O T I A E P E O  
 S B T L N R R L E I T N R  
 O W E I E D P R R L J S D  
 G H O N A T F I A R D U O  
 G J G R S F T I H Q K O F  
 G T Z A D H T U R T W E G  
 H R E S I S T S Z M W T O  
 C R S A L V A T I O N H D  
 B G N I M A L F U A V G T  
 U D R O M R A Y L V W I W  
 P E A C E V I L L U F R H



- |             |         |               |             |
|-------------|---------|---------------|-------------|
| ARMOR       | FEET    | PEACE         | STAND FIRM  |
| ARROWS      | FLAMING | RESIST        | STRENGTH    |
| BELT        | FULL    | RIGHTEOUSNESS | SWORD       |
| BREASTPLATE | GOD     | SALVATION     | TRUTH       |
| EVIL        | GOSPEL  | SHIELD        | WAIST       |
| FAITH       | HELMET  | SPIRIT        | WORD OF GOD |



After that, Pope Alexandros asked St. Athanasius to come back. He ordained him a deacon and made him his private secretary. St. Athanasius continued to study the Holy Books and the Church teachings. He rejected any ideas or beliefs that were different from what the Church taught. At that time, there was a man named Arius who started to spread wrong teachings about our Lord Jesus Christ claiming that He was not God.



Arius insisted on his wrong teachings and continued to spread these teachings to the whole world. He even created songs containing his beliefs to make it easy for the people to memorize.

Unfortunately, many people believed him and followed him. But our Church remained strong and did not accept any teachings other than those received from our Lord Jesus Christ. The Church refused Arius' teachings and held a council.



“Council” means a big meeting attended by many bishops from all over the world. A council was held in the city of Nicea and 318 bishops attended.

Pope Alexandros also went to the council and took with him St. Athanasius who was still a young deacon at that time.

St. Athanasius stood in front of all the attendees, defending the faith, using proofs from the Holy Bible that our Lord Jesus Christ is God. He proved that Jesus was born from St. Mary the Virgin and was incarnate to save the world. All the attendees were amazed because despite his young age, St. Athanasius was able to dispute all of Arius' wrong teachings. He defended the faith with boldness and courage.



But since Arius insisted on his wrong teachings and would not change his mind, the council made the decision to excommunicate Arius and his followers. St. Athanasius was able to stand against Arius and reject him and his teachings. It was said about St. Athanasius that if it was not for St. Athanasius the whole world would have become Arius' followers. This is why the Church calls him "the Defender of the Faith".

After the departure of Pope Alexandros, St. Athanasius was chosen to succeed him to become the 20th Patriarch of the See of St. Mark.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong." 1Corinthians 16:13***





# Serve Everyone

## *Ruth Serves Her Mother-In-Law*

*(Ruth 1-4)*

This story takes place a long time ago, after the Israelites left Egypt and went to the Promised Land, the land of Canaan. There was a man named Elimelech who lived in Bethlehem with his wife Naomi and his two sons. At that time there was a famine in the land so Elimelech went with his wife and two sons to the land of Moab. The People of Moab were gentiles (not from God's people). In Moab, Elimelech died and Naomi's two sons married Moabite women, Ruth and Orpah. They stayed in Moab for 10 years.

After that, the two sons also died. Naomi heard that the famine in Bethlehem was over so she decided to go back and live among her people. Naomi asked Ruth and Orpah to stay in Moab to live with their families. She blessed them and thanked them for taking care of her and her sons. They did not want to leave her and told her that they will stay with her. But Naomi insisted that they should stay with their families. After much convincing, Orpah accepted and went back to her family.

But Ruth loved Naomi so much and refused to leave her. She was ready to serve Naomi all her life because she knew that Naomi was old and did not have anyone to help her. Ruth left her people and her country and followed her mother-in-law to a far country where she did not know anyone, just to serve her.



At first, Naomi tried to convince Ruth to return to her people as Orpah did, but Ruth refused and told her:

**MEMORY VERSE:**

***“For wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.”***

**Ruth 1:16**

So Naomi agreed to take Ruth with her, and they both travelled back to Bethlehem

When they returned to Bethlehem it was the time of the Harvest, which is the time when people collect their crops from the fields. Naomi asked Ruth to go to the field and collect heads of grain after the reapers to provide for both of them.

Ruth went to a field and worked very hard all day long. It happened that this field belonged to a man named Boaz. This man was a relative of Naomi’s husband but Ruth did not know that. When Boaz saw Ruth’s hard work, he asked about her and learned how honest and loving she was to her mother-in-law.



Boaz was so impressed with Ruth and told her to stay and collect as much grain as she wanted from his field. He also commanded his servants to let her collect from the bundles of wheat they already collected and to let grain from the bundles fall purposely for her. He told her that she could eat and drink with his servants who reap in the field.

When Ruth went back to Naomi, she told her all what happened and how Boaz was so kind to her. Naomi told Ruth that Boaz was their relative. Ruth worked in his field till the end of the Harvest. Later on Boaz asked to marry Ruth because he saw her love, dedication and honesty. She bore him a son named Obed. God rewarded Ruth and she became one of our Lord Jesus' ancestors. Her name is mentioned in the Gospel in the list of Jesus' genealogy.



# Ruth and Boaz

Find the 7 differences between the two drawings



# Ruth and Naomi

Connet the dots

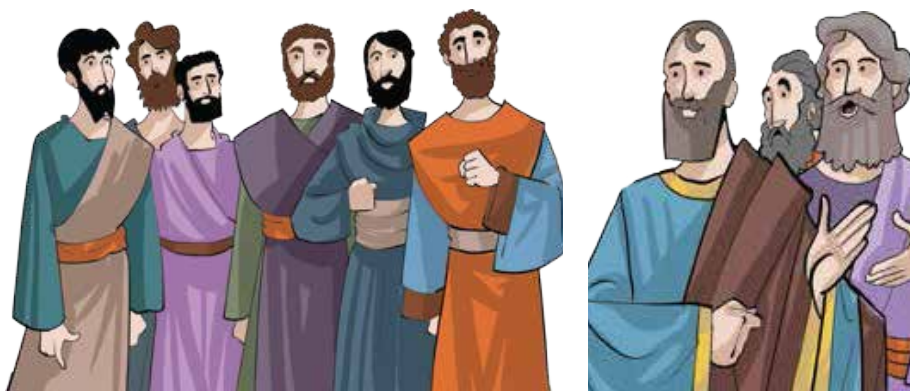


# Joyful In Suffering

## *St. Stephen The Archdeacon And First Martyr*

*(Acts 6-7)*

After the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ and the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples on the day of the Pentecost, the disciples started to preach to all people. They talked to them about our Lord Jesus Christ: His Crucifixion, His Redemption and His Resurrection. They preached in different places and many believed in our Lord Jesus Christ. The number of the believers was increasing day after day and the ministry was growing and the disciples needed help to serve the growing congregation.



They chose seven men filled with the Holy Spirit, known for their wisdom and strong faith. The disciples prayed and laid hands on them and ordained them to be deacons. Let's focus on the story of one of the seven deacons, and how in time of trouble, he was ready to witness for our Lord Jesus Christ. He did his part with full honesty.

St. Stephen is one of the Church heroes. He loved God with all his heart and was ready to witness for our Lord Jesus Christ at all times and everywhere.

No matter what he was doing, he always spoke about our Lord Jesus Christ and His love for us. Many people believed because of him. God also granted him the power of doing miracles. He was able to answer all the questions that were raised by the non-believers. No one could debate or argue his answers. This got him into a lot of trouble.

A group of non-believers brought some bad people to bear false witness against St. Stephen. They accused him of saying wrong things about God. People were very upset and sent St. Stephen to trial.

But St. Stephen was neither upset nor afraid. He was ready to witness for our Lord Jesus Christ everywhere. Everyone saw his face like that of an angel. He stood before them all and witnessed for our Lord. He spoke to them about God's great





love and His redemption. He told them that he was seeing the heavens opened and the Lord Jesus Christ sitting in heaven in His glory



**MEMORY VERSE:**

***“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne.”  
Revelation 3:21***

That’s why he was not worried. He was not afraid. He was not upset. Because of his speech about our Lord Jesus, the non-believers were furious and dragged him out of the city to stone him. He didn’t try to escape. He was happy because he was confident that our Lord Jesus Christ had prepared a better place for him in heaven and that he will be with our Lord forever.

He also asked God to forgive the Jews who stoned him and said: “Lord, do not charge them with this sin.” Acts 7:60.

Because of his faithfulness, he was given the crown of Martyrdom and became St. Stephen the Archdeacon and First Martyr. The Church celebrates his feast on the 1st of Toba.



After the martyrdom of St. Stephen, there were many other martyrs who witnessed for our Lord Jesus before the whole world. To this day the Church is still offering martyrs every day who witness for our Lord through their faith and good deeds.

These Church heroes preserve the Church with their faith throughout the years and the Church remains strong with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ.

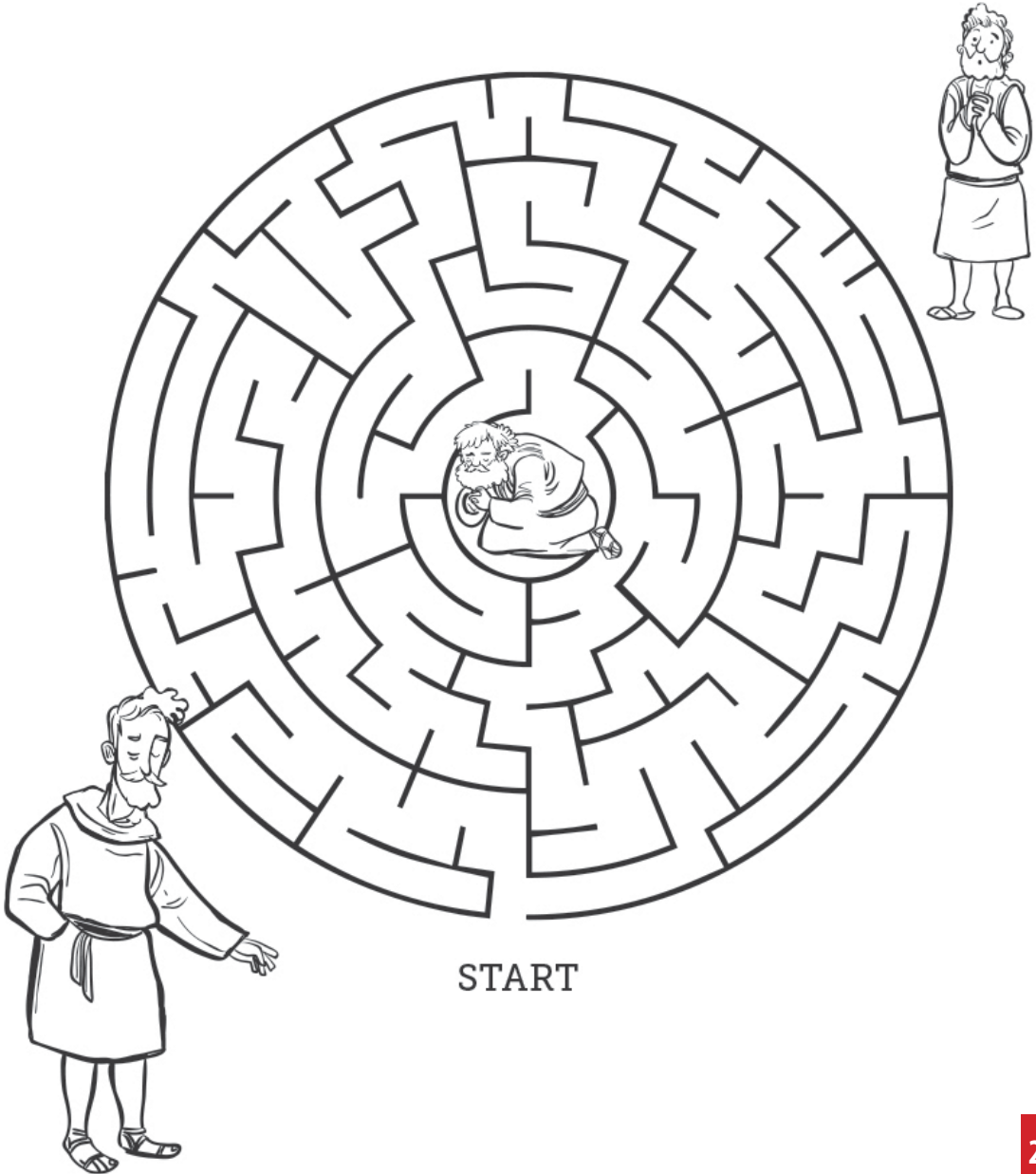


# The Stoning of St. Stephen

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures



Help St Stephen preach to the man



# BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

## Books of the Law

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy

## Historical Books

6. Joshua
7. Judges
8. Ruth
9. 1 Samuel
10. 2 Samuel
11. 1 Kings
12. 2 Kings
13. 1 Chronicles

14. 2 Chronicles

15. Ezra

16. Nehemiah

17. Esther

## Poetic Books

18. Job

19. Psalm

20. Proverbs

21. Ecclesiastes

22. Song of Solomon

## Major Prophets

23. Isaiah

24. Jeremiah

25. Lamentations

26. Ezekiel

27. Daniel

## Minor Prophets

28. Hosea

29. Joel

30. Amos

31. Obadiah

32. Jonah

33. Micah

34. Nahum

35. Habakkuk

36. Zephaniah

37. Haggai

38. Zechariah

39. Malachi





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