



MAHRAGAN ALKERAZA | 2020

“MY CHURCH IS SPIRIT AND LIFE”

JK - SK | ENGLISH EDITION

“MY CHURCH IS



H.H. Pope Tawadros II

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



H.G. Bishop Mina

Bishop of Mississauga,
Vancouver and Western Canada

SPIRIT AND LIFE”

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INTRODUCTION

Mahragan Alkeraza 2020

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 2019 Mahragan. His Holiness Pope Tawadros II said during the Awards Ceremony in Egypt, "I am happy to see the activities of the Youth Bishopric, 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 2020 is "My Church Is Spirit & Life". This year, God is asking each one of us to grow in Christ. To do this we will learn about the following topics:

1. My Church Is A Beautiful Vine
2. Our Good Shepherd Protects The Church
3. Well Established With Strong Roots
4. We Are Its Watered Branches
5. It Makes Me Experience The Taste Of Eternal Life

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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

My Church Is A Beautiful Vine

The Orbana



The Orbana is holy bread, made of flour. It is made in the shape of a circle to symbolize God's eternity as He has no beginning and no end.

The priest chooses the best Orbana to become the body of Christ during the liturgy prayers. This is why the Orbana has to be perfect and cannot have any defects.

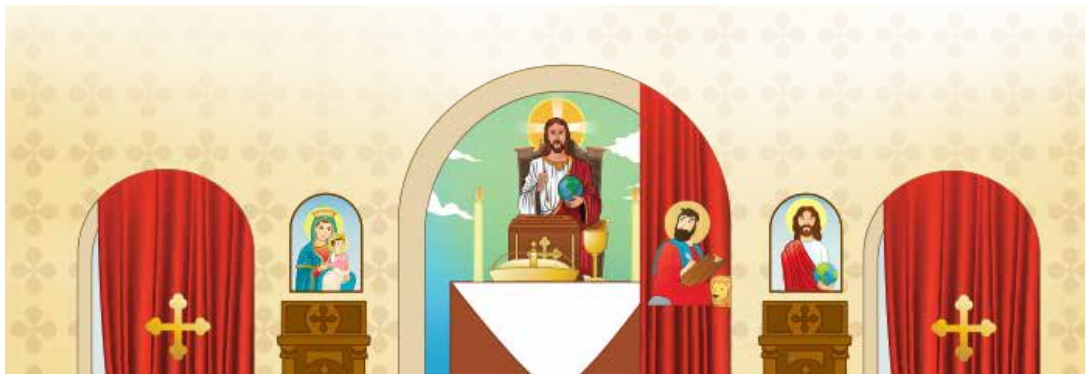
SPIRIT AND LIFE”

It should be perfectly round and all the engravements on it should be clear.

The Orbana has:

- One big cross in the middle surrounded by 12 small crosses. The large cross in the middle represents our Lord Jesus Christ and the 12 crosses represent the 12 disciples.
- Five holes – representing the wounds of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On it, we engrave the words “Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal” written in the Coptic language.



After the priest chooses the best Orbana from the basket, he takes it to the most important place in the church - the altar. Every church must have an altar. The church could have more

than one altar, but the one in the middle is named after the church’s patron saint.

The altar is either made out of wood (like the cross of our Lord Jesus), stone or marble (like our Lord Jesus’ tomb).



The altar is anointed with the Myron oil which is why it is consecrated for the church prayers and cannot be used for any other purpose. Only the church’s vessels can be put on it. These include:

- The paten holds the Orban which will be transformed into the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- The seat or the throne is a wooden box used to carry the chalice.
- The chalice holds the wine which will be transformed into the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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The church teaches us to:

- Take off our shoes before we go inside the altar
- Bow down and make the sign of the cross as we go inside
- Stand quietly while we are praying



MEMORY VERSE:

“How lovely is Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts!” Psalm 84:1

Our Good Shepherd Protects The Church

The Good Shepherd



Ever wondered why a shepherd's rod is bent at one end? It is actually used by the shepherd to redirect the sheep and bring them back to the flock if they go astray.

The shepherd takes care of every single one of his sheep and does not want any one of them to get lost or wander off.

Our Lord Jesus Christ called Himself the Good Shepherd.

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MEMORY VERSE:

“I am the good shepherd”

John 10:11

Our Lord Jesus said that He is the good shepherd because:

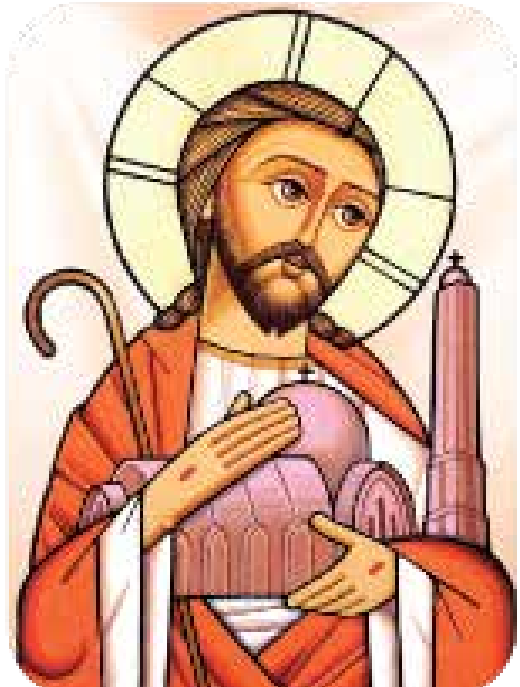
- The good shepherd knows his sheep by name and his sheep know him and recognize his voice. Likewise, our Lord Jesus knows His children by name and His children follow Him and obey His commandments.
- The good shepherd takes care of his sheep and feeds them, taking them to good green pastures and water sources so that every sheep can eat and drink and be satisfied. Likewise, our Lord Jesus gives His children their needs in the right time.



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- The good shepherd stays awake all night to guard his sheep, protecting them from the thieves and wolves who are out to harm them. The shepherd walks in front of the sheep and with his rod protects them from any animal that wants to hurt them.

Likewise our Lord Jesus Christ is the good shepherd who protects His children and guides His church.



MEMORY VERSE:

“I, the LORD, keep it” Isaiah 27:3

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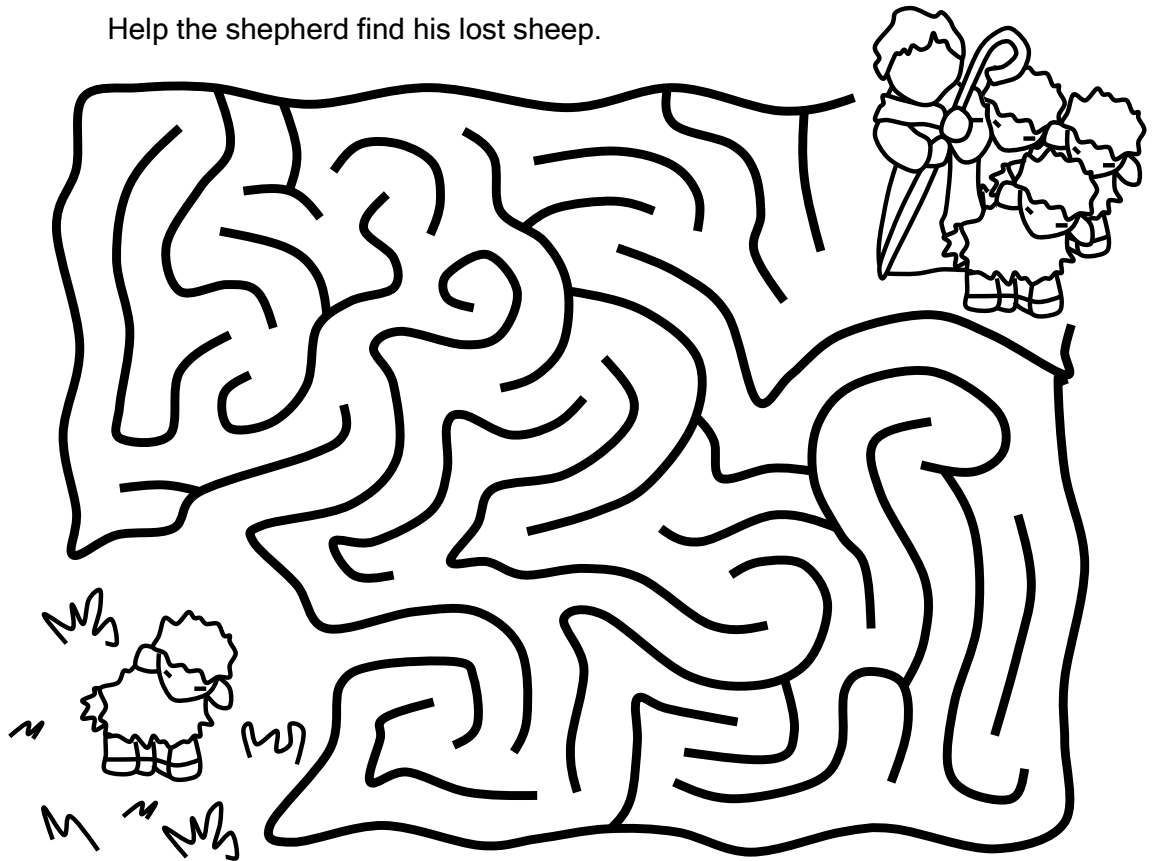
The Lord Is My Shepherd

ACTIVITY



The Lost Sheep Puzzle

Help the shepherd find his lost sheep.



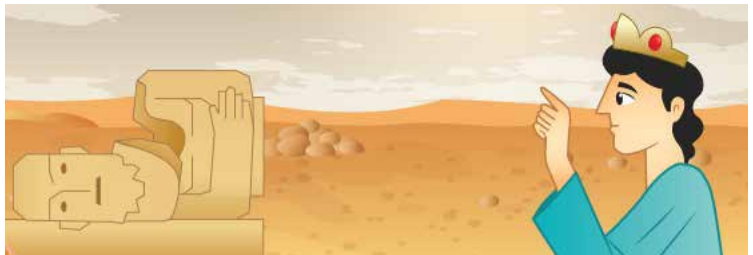
Well Established With Strong Roots

Josiah Holds Onto God’s Words (2 Kings 22)

As a child, Josiah’s mother taught him the word of God, so he grew in God’s love. When he was 8 years old, he became the king, succeeding his father.

Josiah followed God’s word and followed Hilkiah the priest’s instructions who taught him how to follow God’s words and how to deal with the different matters of the kingdom.

When Josiah grew, he saw that the people worshiped idols instead of worshiping God.



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The people were also doing many wrong things and left God and disobeyed His word.

In fact, they even stopped reading God’s word and did not teach it to their children.



However, Josiah was strong in his faith and quickly began to fix the wrong things that the people were doing.

He ordered his soldiers to destroy the idols that the people were worshiping so they can go back and worship God alone.

He made sure that his orders were followed. He also started

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renovating the destroyed parts of the temple.

While they were renovating the temple, Hilkaih the priest found the Book of the Law that was lost for years. He sent it to Josiah the king.

When Josiah got the book, he gathered the elders and all the people to the temple and read the book in front of them and told them “we have to follow God’s word that we heard in the Book of Law”.



The people listened to him and obeyed God’s commandments, and stopped worshipping the idols. Josiah fulfilled the verse that says:

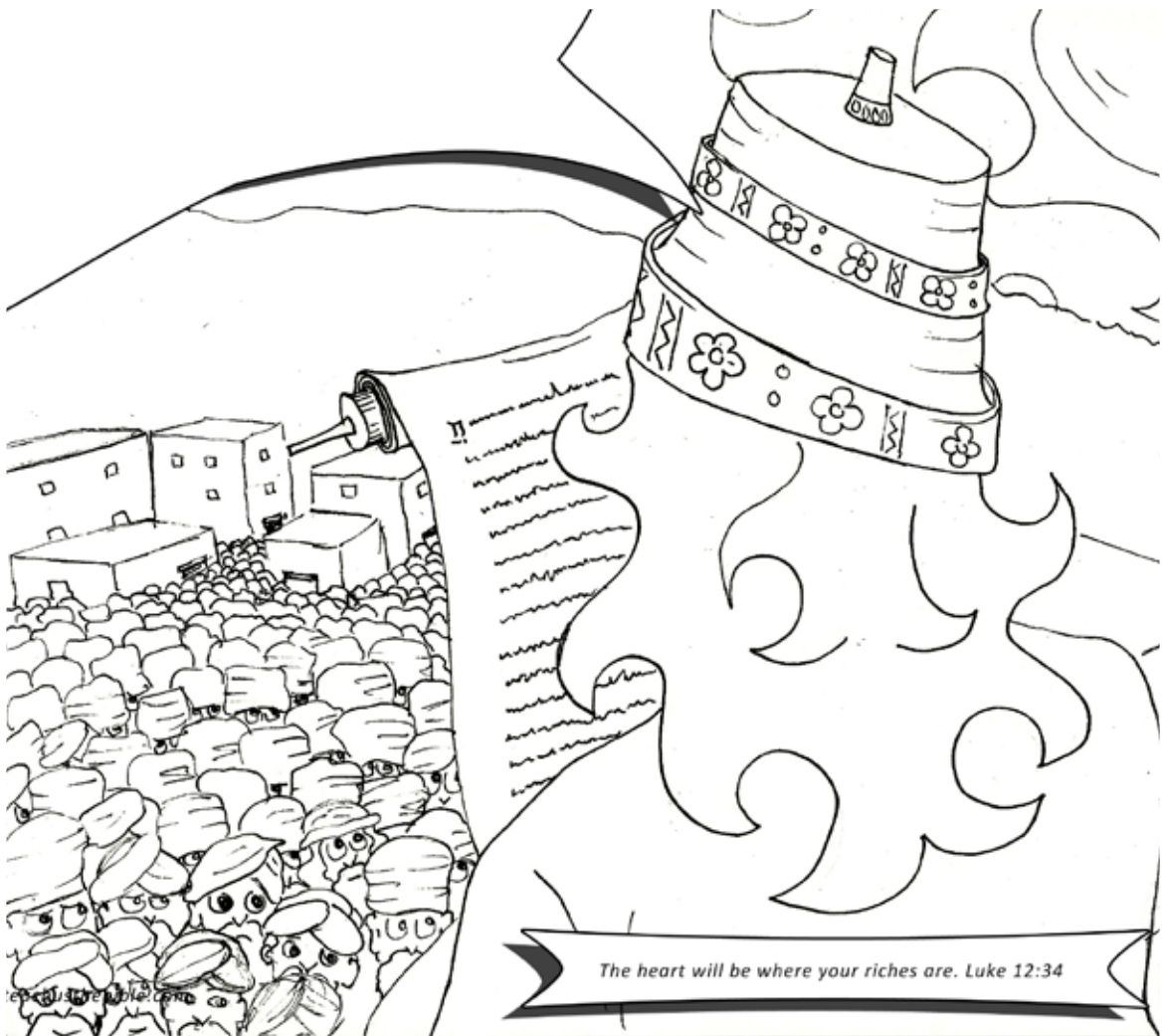
MEMORY VERSE:

“I do not forget Your precepts” Psalm 119:141

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ACTIVITY

The Boy King Josiah



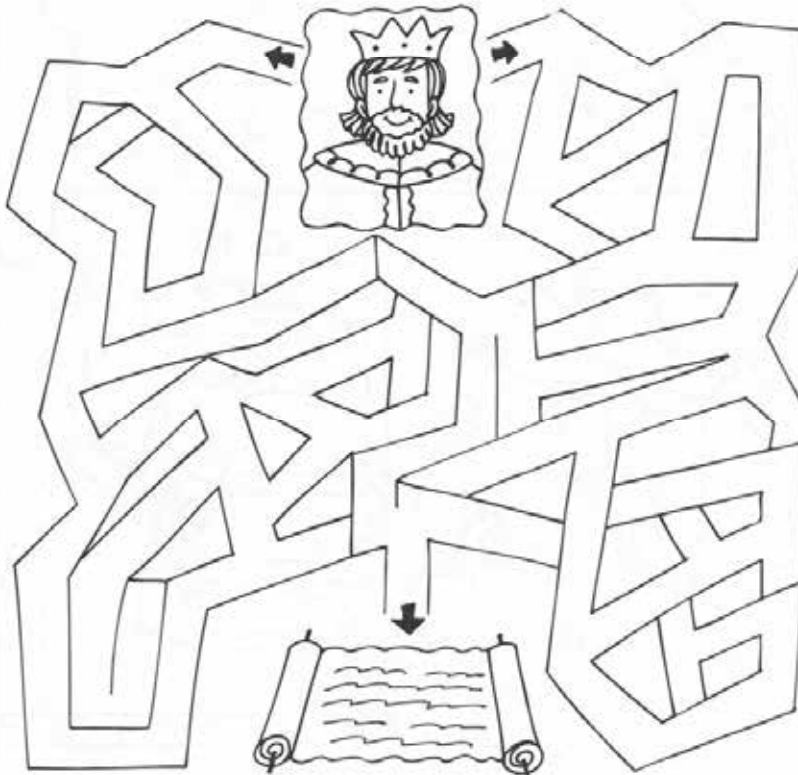
Help King Josiah Find God's Law

King Josiah

(2 Kings 22)

Josiah was only eight years old when he became the king of Judah. When Josiah became a man, he ordered that the temple be fixed up. While work was being done, a priest found an important scroll.

Help Josiah choose the right path to find the scroll.



We Are Its Watered Branches

Saint Athanasius The Apostolic
The Defender Of The Faith (Synaxarium 7 Bashans)

St Athanasius was born of pagan parents who worshiped idols. His mother took good care of his education and St. Athanasius was very advanced in his studies.



When Pope Alexandros saw how brilliant he was, he gave him special attention, taught him about the church and baptized him.

When St. Athanasius completed his studies, he went to see Saint Anthony and stayed with him for a long time learning from him about God’s love and commandments. After that



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Pope Alexandros ordained St. Athanasius a deacon and made him his private disciple. St. Athanasius continued to learn more and more about God’s teachings and commandments.



During that time, a man named Arius started to teach wrong teachings about our Lord Jesus saying that He is not God. He did not want to listen to the right teachings of the church and started to spread his wrong teachings among the people.



The church refused his teachings and called for a council (a big meeting) in a city called Nicaea. Many bishops from all around the world attended this council. Pope Alexandros also attended and he took with him his disciple St. Athanasius who was a deacon at that time.

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St. Athanasius played a very important role in the council of Nicea and fulfilled the verse that says:



MEMORY VERSE:

“But you must continue in the things which you have learned”

2 Timothy 3:14

He answered all of Arius’ wrong teachings using verses from the Holy Bible and proved to Arius that our Lord Jesus is God incarnate who was born from Saint Mary the Virgin and came to the world to save us. Unfortunately, Arius refused to go back to the church’s right teachings so he was excommunicated from the church with all his followers. This was done so that the church could protect her children from such wrong teachings.

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It Makes Me Experience The Taste Of Eternal Life

The Sacrament Of The Eucharist - Mark 14:12-26

Our Lord Jesus Christ instituted the sacrament of Eucharist. When the feast of the Jewish Passover was approaching, our Lord Jesus asked His disciples, Peter and John, to prepare the place where He will celebrate the feast with His disciples.



He told them to go to the city and find a man carrying a jar of water. He told them to follow him and ask him about the place where they would celebrate the feast.

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The man took them to the Upper Room in the house of Mary, the mother of Saint Mark and they prepared it there.

There, our Lord Jesus took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to His disciples saying “Take, eat; this is My body.” He also took the cup and gave thanks. He gave it to His disciples saying, “This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many”.



This is how our Lord Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Communion that we celebrate in every liturgy.

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This sacrament is very important which is why our Lord Jesus said:

MEMORY VERSE:

“Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life”

John 6:54

This means that whoever eats from our Lord’s Body and drinks from His blood will be happy with the Lord and will live with Him in heaven forever.

When we take communion, we get a taste of eternal life.

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ACTIVITY

The Last Supper



Memorization

BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. Matthew
2. Mark
3. Luke
4. John
5. Acts
6. Romans
7. 1 Corinthians
8. 2 Corinthians
9. Galatians
10. Ephesians
11. Philippians
12. Colossians
13. 1 Thessalonians
14. 2 Thessalonians
15. 1 Timothy
16. 2 Timothy
17. Titus
18. Philemon
19. Hebrews
20. James
21. 1 Peter
22. 2 Peter
23. 1 John
24. 2 John
25. 3 John
26. Jude
27. Revelation



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To order please contact

Canadian Coptic Centre

1245 Eglinton Avenue West
Mississauga, ON, L5V 2M4

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www.mahragan.ca

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