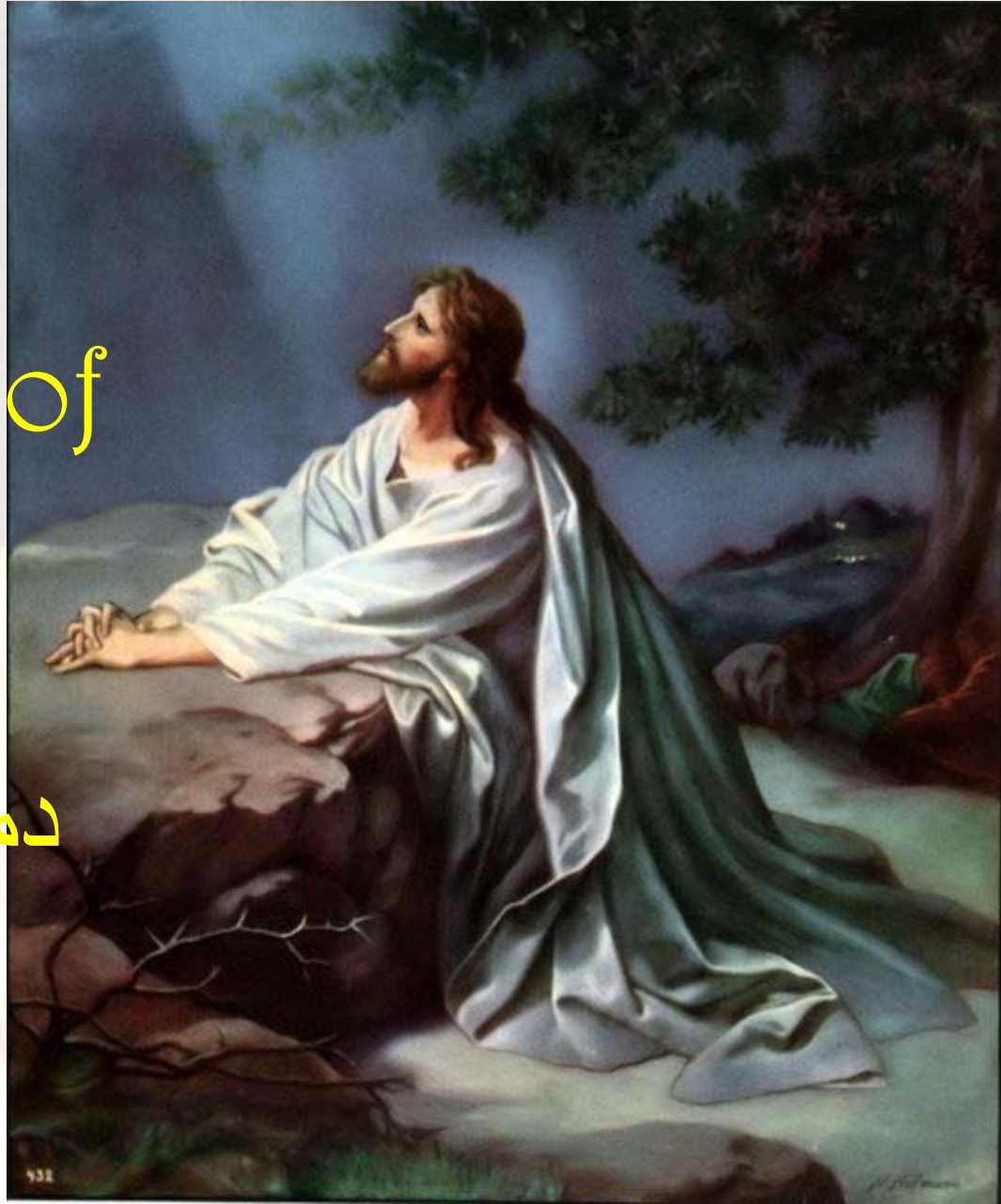


Tears of
God

دموع الله

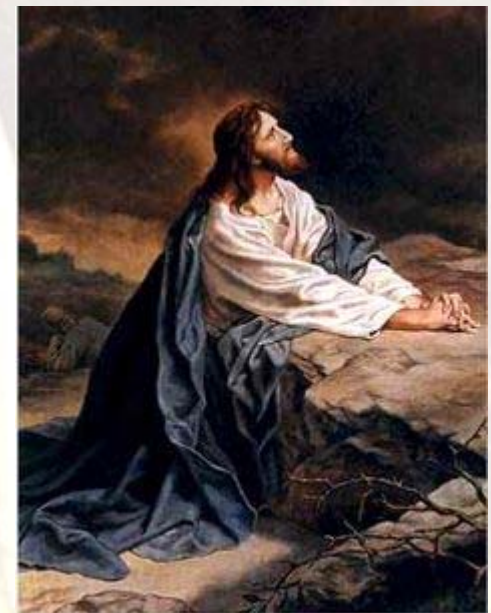


Does God Weep?

- How many times did the Lord Christ weep?
- Three
 - *At Lazarus' Tomb: "Jesus wept." (Jn 11:35)*
 - *For Jerusalem (Lk 19:41-44)*
 - *"Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it..."*
 - *At Gethsemane*
 - *"His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground." (Lk 22:44)*
 - *"Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear" (Heb 5:7)*

Does God Weep?

- Did the Lord weep on Great Friday?
- Outline:
 - *When does God weep?*
 - *Why does He weep?*
 - *How to weep with Him*



Does God Weep?

- Complete Man

- *“You were incarnated and became man, and became like us in everything, save for sin alone.” (Gregorian Prayer of Reconciliation)*
- *Weeping is a sign of weakness; Is God weak?*
- *Hymn of “O monogenees”: “Holy Mighty, who by weakness showed forth what is greater than power.”*

- He showed weakness, but He’s more powerful than power

- *“The weakness of God is stronger than men.” (1Cor 1:25)*
- *God is not weak, but He “showed” weakness*
- *“Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren” (Heb 2:17)*
- *As complete incarnate man, He wept as any human, otherwise, He’s not “complete”*
- *God’s image – before and after Incarnation*

What Saddens the Lord?

- What makes the Lord weep?
 - *Lack of love*
 - *Our sufferings and sadness*
 - *The bitterness of the cup of sin*

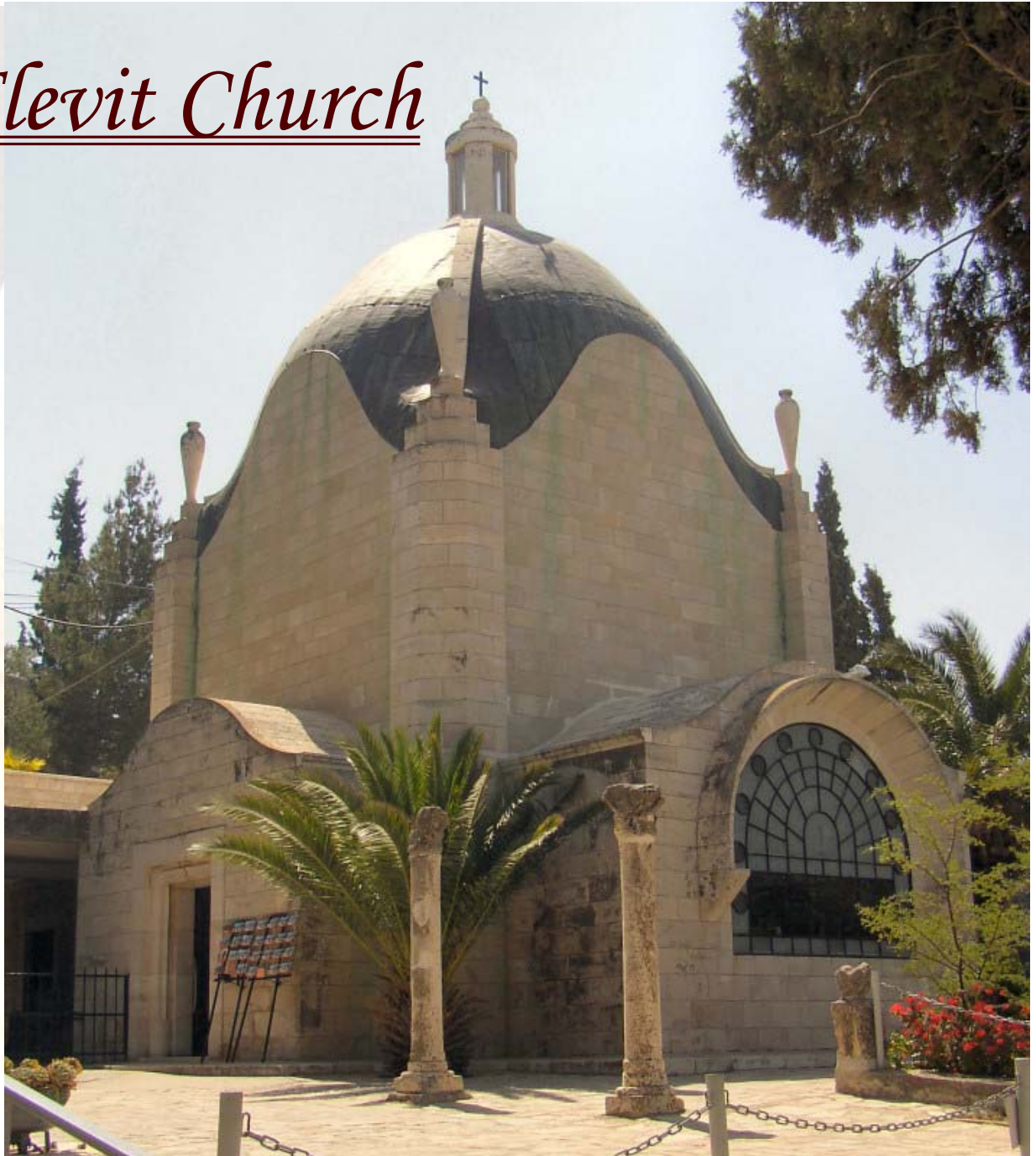


(1) Lack of Love

- Jerusalem:
 - *City of the Great King, City of Peace*
 - *Resembles: Man's heart, the church, the Kingdom of God*
- Jerusalem's haughtiness and arrogance
 - *"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!"*
(Mt 23:37)

Dominus Flevit Church

- “*The Lord Wept*”
- *Fashioned in the shape of a teardrop to symbolize the tears of the Lord Christ.*



“You were not willing”

- The Lord Christ wishes to gather us under the wings of His cross
- Two reasons a chick is not willing to be under its mother's wings:
 - *He doesn't like life under her wings*
 - *Doesn't want to be associated with God*
 - *He wants to separate from another chick under her wings*
 - *Doesn't love his brother*
- To be under God's wings:
Love God, Love each other



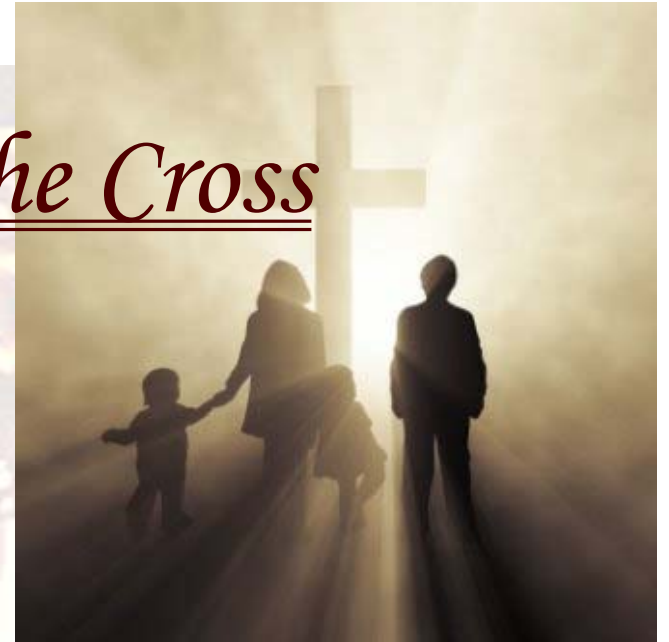
A World Poor of Love

- Lack of Love saddens the heart of God
 - *The world struggles with love; every group fights:*
 - *Rich, poor, strong, weak, enemies, terrorists, brethren!*
 - *God created us to be united in Him thru love*
 - *“...That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us” (Jn 17:21)*
 - *If we can't love God, nor each other → Jesus weeps!*
 - *God respects our choice:*
 - *“How often I wanted ... but you were not willing!”*
 - *He will not force us to come to Him; He will weep over our poor choice*



Under the Wings of the Cross

- Our refuge, protection:
 - *“In the shadow of Your wings
I will make my refuge” (Ps 57:1)*
- Second condition: Love each other
 - *Accept all - those who are: different, those who wronged us*
 - *They all came under the cross, asking for forgiveness*
 - *When we see our brother under the wing, will we leave the refuge and lose our salvation because of our hatred to him?*
 - *The elder son: hatred toward his brother*
 - *Despite his father’s pleading, he remained outside, was a source of weeping*
 - *“God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we
were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom 5:8)*



Lack of Love

- First reason for God's tears
 - *If we love each other truly, we will learn to love God*
 - *“He who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?” (1Jn 4:20)*
 - *Otherwise, we will not find a place under His wings*
 - *If we refuse to come under His wings:*
 - *“See! Your house is left to you desolate” (Mt 23:38)*



(2) Our Sufferings and Sadness

- At the tomb of Lazarus (Jn 11)
 - *To respond to our questions of sorrow:*
 - *“Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”*
 - *“Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?”*
 - *Why don't you answer me, Lord?*
 - *“LORD, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me. Many are they who say of me, “There is no help for him in God.” (Ps 3)*

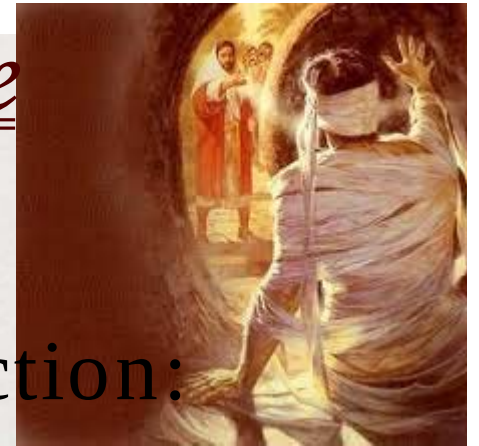


It is His Response to our Accusations

- God is unable to explain to us His will, because we are unable to understand!
 - *“What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this.” (Jn 13:7)*
 - *St. Augustine: pour the entire ocean into a hole*
 - *If He grants us our prayer, it may harm us:*
 - *Story: sick girl*
 - *Palsied man*
 - *“You can not understand My will; you’ll cry, I’ll cry with you!”*



We Accuse Him Because *We Can't Understand*



- We can't understand the Resurrection:
 - *“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”*
 - *He didn't ask: “Do you understand this?” – Only believe!*
 - *He didn't explain to the people gathered*
 - *“How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!” (Rom 11:33)*
 - *He wept at their accusations*
 - *He showed them the Resurrection, so that they may believe.*

Our Sufferings are the Narrow Gate

- The Lord weeps with those who weep
 - *He will not wipe away their tears, not until heaven*
 - *He carries the cross with us, He doesn't take it away*
 - *“In the world you will have tribulation” (Jn 16:33)*
 - *He did not promise to take away the tribulations:*
 - *He promised to help us, and weep with us:*
 - *“...but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”*
 - *“In all their affliction He was afflicted” (Isa 63:9)*
 - *Rest will be in heaven*
 - *“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying.” (Rev 21:4)*



(3) The Bitterness of the Cup of Sin

- At the Garden of Gethsemane
 - *Before the Father alone*
 - *He was in great agony (Mt 26)*
 - *“He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death.”*
 - *“O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me”*
 - *What is this bitter cup?*
 - *It is our sins, but more...*
 - *It is our refusal to accept His will*
 - *“...nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”*



The Cup of Rejection

- His Will: to give us eternity
 - “[He] desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Tim 2:4)
- We reject His will:
 - Fast, pray, forgive, take the last seat, enter the narrow gate, love each other, love our enemies, carry the cross...
 - This is the cup – our will against his will
 - “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.” (Matt 16:24)
 - “Thy will be done!” (Lord’s prayer) -- do we mean it?



No Tears on the Cross



- On the cross, he showed His power:
 - *“No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.” (Jn 10:18)*
 - *“Thoke Te Ti-gom” – Thine is the Power!*
 - *If we humble ourselves under the cross, enter under the wings of the cross, believe without understanding, relinquish our wills, and accept God’s will...*
 - *We will not weep, even if we are hung on the cross!*

How to Weep With Him



- Weep for everyone who refuses to enter under His wings
- Weep with those whom God did not grant their prayers; stand with them, weep with them
 - *Weep with those who are suffering and in pains*
- Weep - each of us - struggling against our own will and accepting God's will.

