



Saint John the Beloved

(The Disciple Whom the Lord Jesus Loved)

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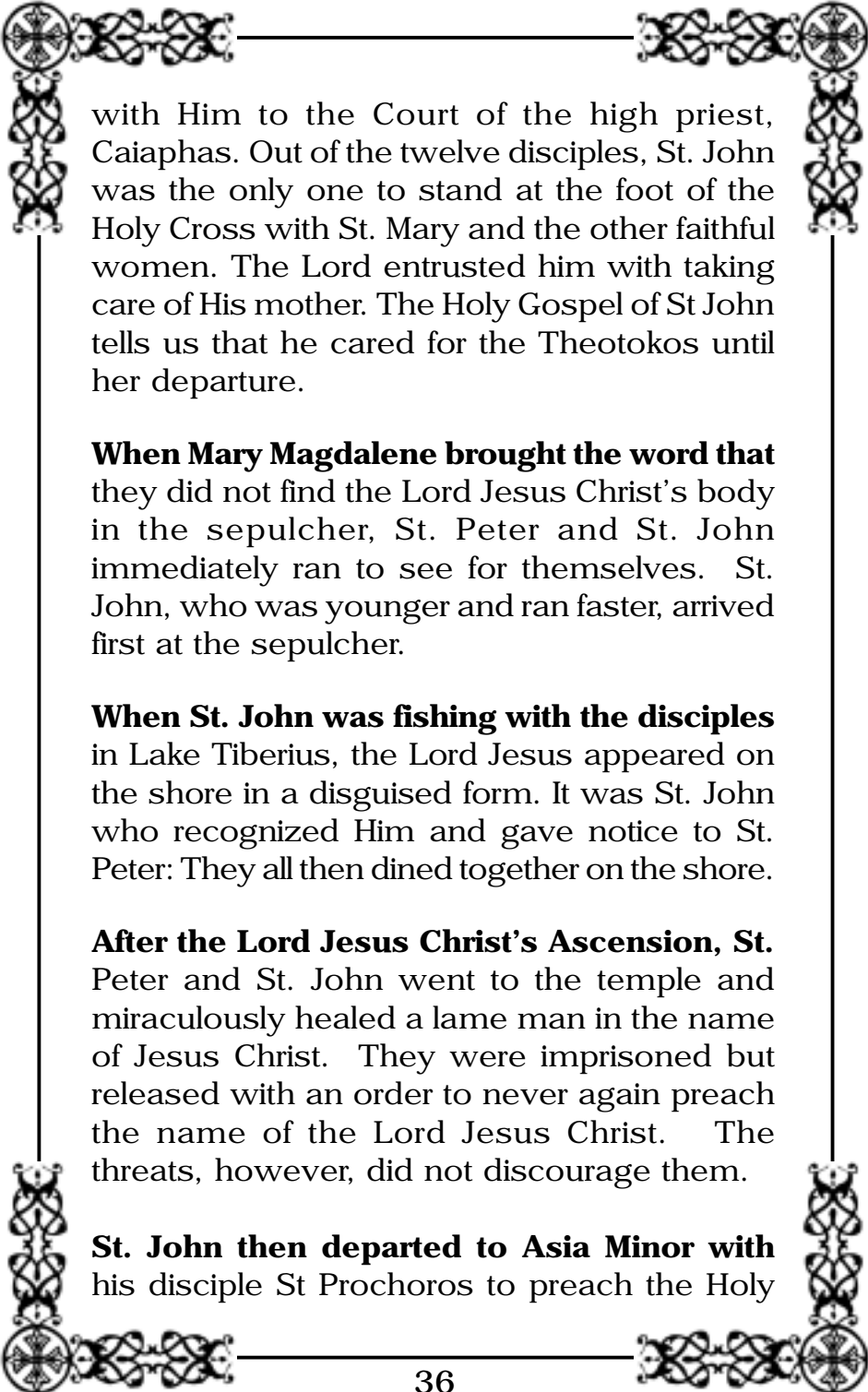
St. John was from Galilee. He was the son of Zebedee and Salome. He grew up to be a fisherman. When the Lord Jesus called him and his brother James to follow Him, they left their father with the fishing nets and followed Him. Later, the Lord Jesus chose them to be His disciples. St. John was the youngest of all the apostles when he was chosen to follow Jesus (about 25 years old). The Lord Jesus gave him the nickname “*son of thunder*” to express his strong faith in the word of God without fearing the power of man. St. John was never married and he consecrated his life to serving the Lord Jesus’ name.

St. John was present with St. Peter and St. James at the raising of Jairus daughter. He was also at our Lord’s Transfiguration and at His Agony in the garden before His arrest. The Lord chose St. John to go with St. Peter into the city to prepare the Last Supper and at that supper he laid his head upon the breast of the Lord Jesus and found out from Him who would betray Him.

After the Lord Jesus’ arrest, St. John went



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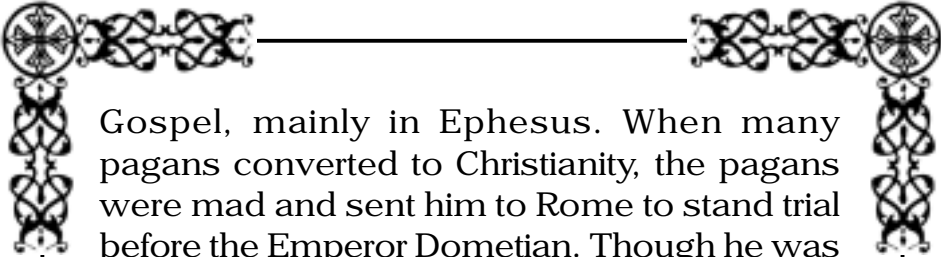
with Him to the Court of the high priest, Caiaphas. Out of the twelve disciples, St. John was the only one to stand at the foot of the Holy Cross with St. Mary and the other faithful women. The Lord entrusted him with taking care of His mother. The Holy Gospel of St John tells us that he cared for the Theotokos until her departure.

When Mary Magdalene brought the word that they did not find the Lord Jesus Christ's body in the sepulcher, St. Peter and St. John immediately ran to see for themselves. St. John, who was younger and ran faster, arrived first at the sepulcher.

When St. John was fishing with the disciples in Lake Tiberius, the Lord Jesus appeared on the shore in a disguised form. It was St. John who recognized Him and gave notice to St. Peter: They all then dined together on the shore.

After the Lord Jesus Christ's Ascension, St. Peter and St. John went to the temple and miraculously healed a lame man in the name of Jesus Christ. They were imprisoned but released with an order to never again preach the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The threats, however, did not discourage them.

St. John then departed to Asia Minor with his disciple St Prochoros to preach the Holy



Gospel, mainly in Ephesus. When many pagans converted to Christianity, the pagans were mad and sent him to Rome to stand trial before the Emperor Dometian. Though he was tortured by many means, he was not harmed because the Lord protected him. The Emperor became afraid of him and exiled him to the island of Patmos where he continued to preach the Holy Gospel. This is where he wrote the Holy Book of Revelation, which is a prophetic book about the end of the days and judgment. He then wrote his Holy Gospel and his three Holy Epistles. After the death of Domition, St. John returned to Ephesus.

When he became old and weak and could no longer preach to the people, he used to be carried to the church. Every time he was with people, he would say, “ *My little children, love one another.*” When they asked him why he always repeated these same words, he replied, “*Because it is the word of the Lord and if you keep it you did enough.*” St. John departed in peace in the year 100 A.D., when he was about 95 years old. He outlived the other apostles and was the only one who did not die as a martyr. The church celebrates his departure on the fourth of Toubah (January 12th).

May the prayers and the blessings of St. John “the disciple whom the Lord Jesus Christ loved” be with us all, Amen.