

CultureTalk Ethiopia Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>  
**Choirs in Procession**

**Video description:**

On holidays like Timket,<sup>1</sup> the equivalent of Epiphany, the major churches have processions centered on their *tabot*.<sup>2</sup> The procession may include a short sermon, group singing, singing by the choirs, a liturgical dance performed by the priest, and, of course, the *tabot* wrapped in cloth and carried on the head of a priest. This procession is from St. Michael's church and is traveling on Bole Road, one of the busiest and better known roads in Addis Ababa.

These choirs are made up of young members of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. They are accompanied by large drums. During the procession, they occasionally stop to sing.

**About CultureTalk:** CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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<sup>1</sup> Ethiopian Orthodox celebration of Epiphany

<sup>2</sup> Each major church in Ethiopian Orthodoxy has *tabot* which can refer to a replica of the Ark of the Covenant or of the stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments were written. During the procession, the *tabot* is always wrapped in cloth.