

Sunday 14th September 2025

# Christ Church with St Mary's

## Service of Holy Communion

Theme: Growing in Jesus and  
**Community**

We say together the words in **bold**





Welcome and Introduction



Grace, mercy and peace  
from  
God our Father  
and  
the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**and also with you**







Bible verse of the year 2024 - 2025

**‘For all who are  
led by the  
Spirit of God are  
children of God’**

Romans 8 : 14

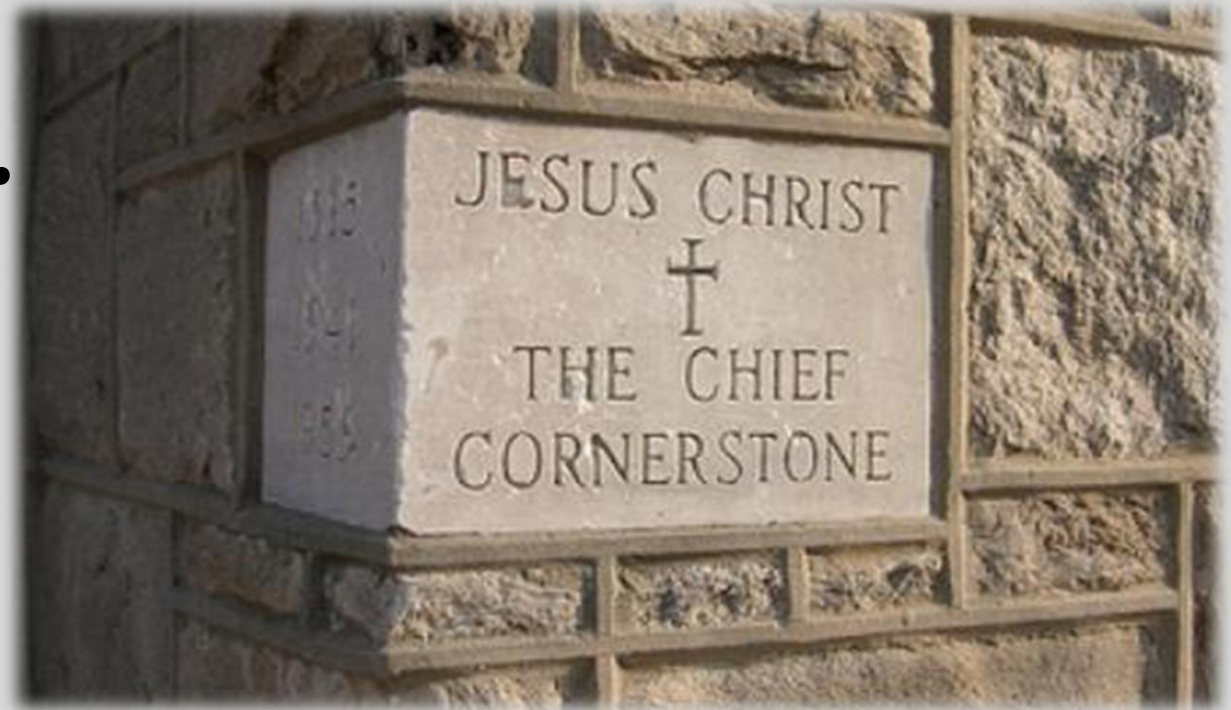
## A Prayer for Growth

**God of mission**

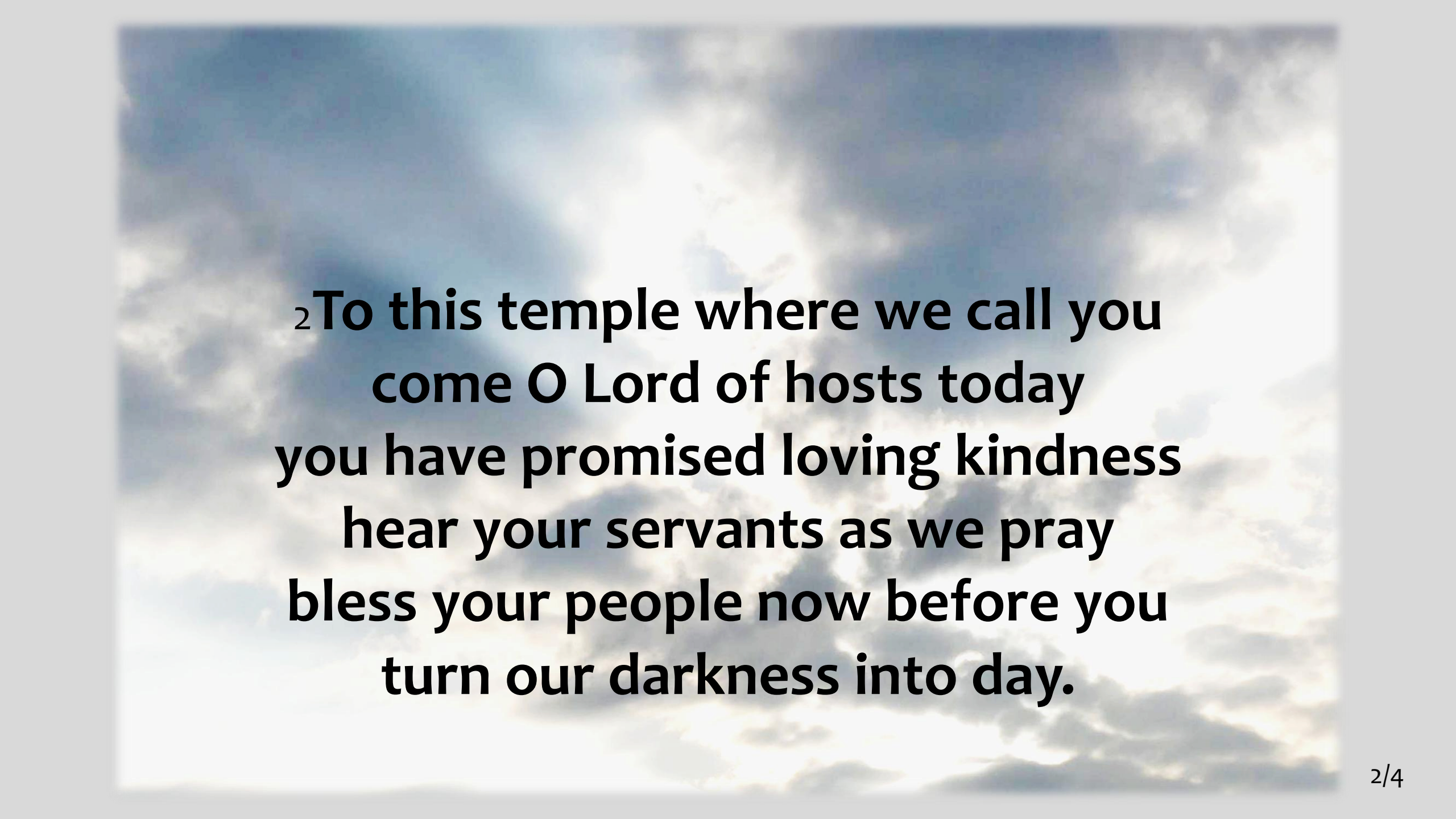
**who alone brings growth to your church,  
send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning  
wisdom to our actions and power to our witness.  
Help our Partnership of Churches to grow in numbers  
in spiritual commitment to you  
and in service to our Swindon community  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen**

**1 Christ is made the sure foundation  
Christ the head and cornerstone  
chosen of the Lord and precious  
binding all the Church in one  
holy Zion's help for ever  
and her confidence alone.**







**<sub>2</sub>To this temple where we call you  
come O Lord of hosts today  
you have promised loving kindness  
hear your servants as we pray  
bless your people now before you  
turn our darkness into day.**

**3 Hear the cry of all your people  
what they ask and hope to gain  
what they gain from you for ever  
with your chosen to retain  
and hereafter in your glory  
evermore with you to reign.**





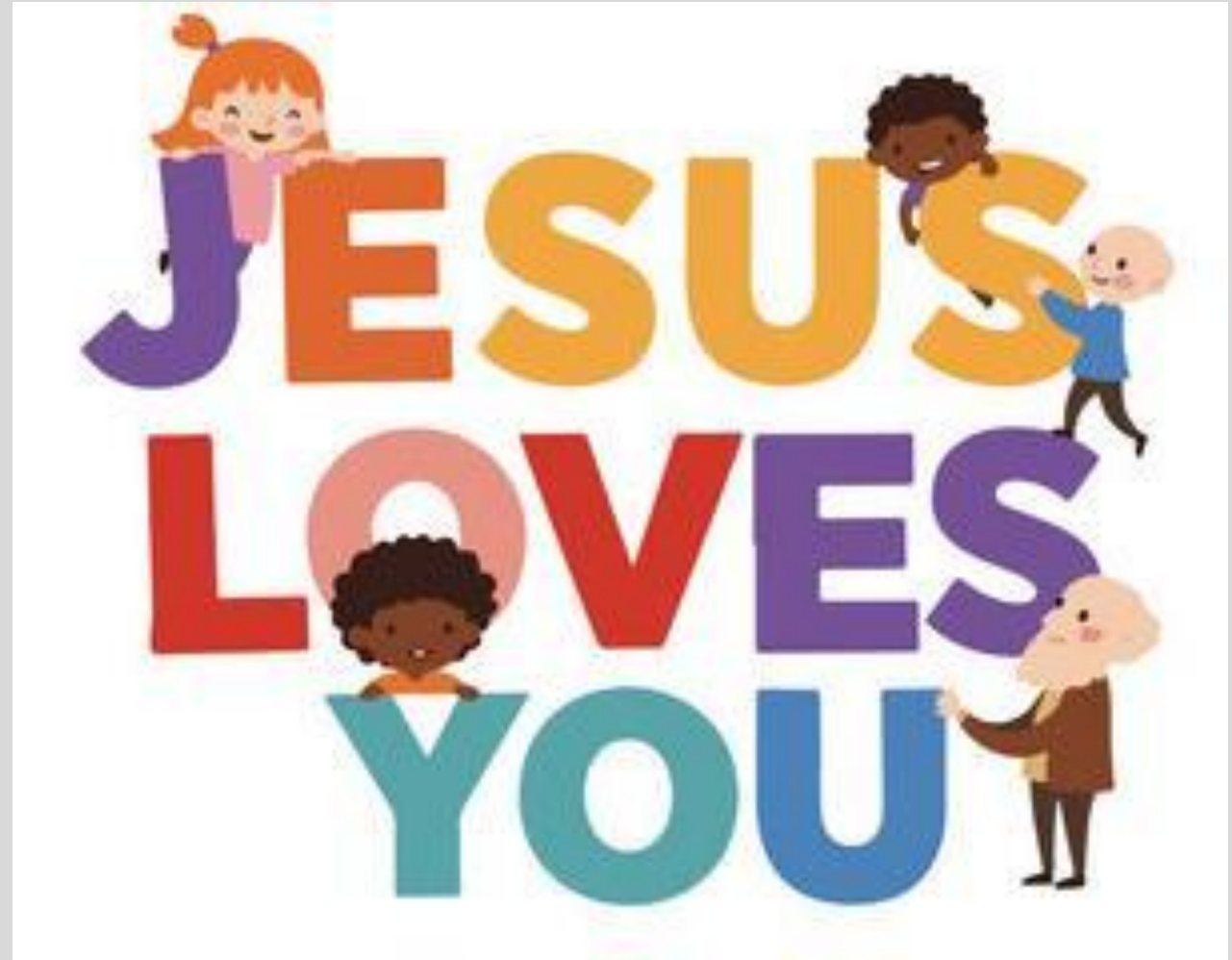
**5 Praise and honour to the Father  
praise and honour to the Son  
praise and honour to the Spirit  
ever Three and ever One  
One in might and One in glory  
while unending ages run.**





Offertory  
and  
thank you  
prayer





Children's Talk – 'Jesus loves you'



Prayer with the children



**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known  
and from whom no secrets are hidden  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you  
and worthily magnify your holy name  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

# Prayer of Confession

St Paul says

‘Be imitators of God; love as Christ loved  
do not grieve the Holy Spirit  
put away all anger and bitterness,  
all slander and malice’.

So let us confess our sins to God  
who forgives us in Christ.



**God of mercy,  
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.  
We turn from the wrong we have thought  
and said and done and are mindful of all  
that we have failed to do.**

**For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past and help us to live each  
day in the light of Christ our Lord.**

**Amen**

May the God of love  
bring us back to himself,  
forgive us our sins  
and assure us of his  
eternal love in  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**



**Glory to God in the highest  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**





**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us, you are seated at the  
right hand of the Father, receive our prayer.**



**For you alone are the Holy One  
you alone are the Lord  
you alone are the Most High  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**



The Collect prayer for today

Almighty God,

who called your church to bear witness that  
you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself.

Help us to proclaim the Good News of your love  
that all who hear it may be drawn to you.

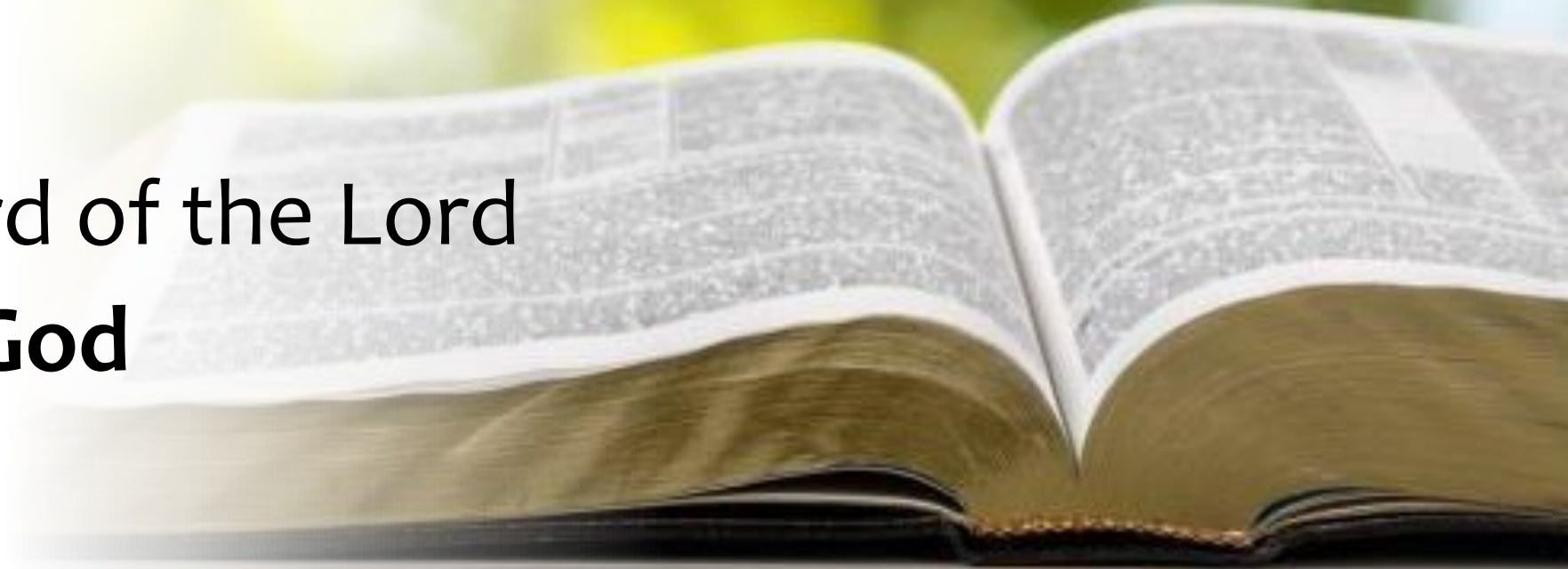
Through him who was lifted up on the cross  
and reigns with you in unity with  
the Holy Spirit, One God now and forever.

**Amen**



Philippians 2 : 6 - 11

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**



**<sup>1</sup>Holy, holy, holy, holy  
holy, holy, holy Lord God almighty  
and we lift our hearts before you  
as a token of our love  
holy, holy, holy, holy.**





**<sup>2</sup>Gracious Father, gracious Father  
we are glad to be your children gracious Father  
and we lift our heads before you  
as a token of our love  
gracious Father, gracious Father.**





**3 Risen Jesus, risen Jesus  
we are glad you have redeemed us, risen Jesus  
and we lift out hands before you  
as a token of our love  
risen Jesus, risen Jesus.**



**<sup>4</sup>Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit  
come and fill our hearts anew, Holy Spirit  
and we lift our voice before you  
as a token of our love  
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit.**



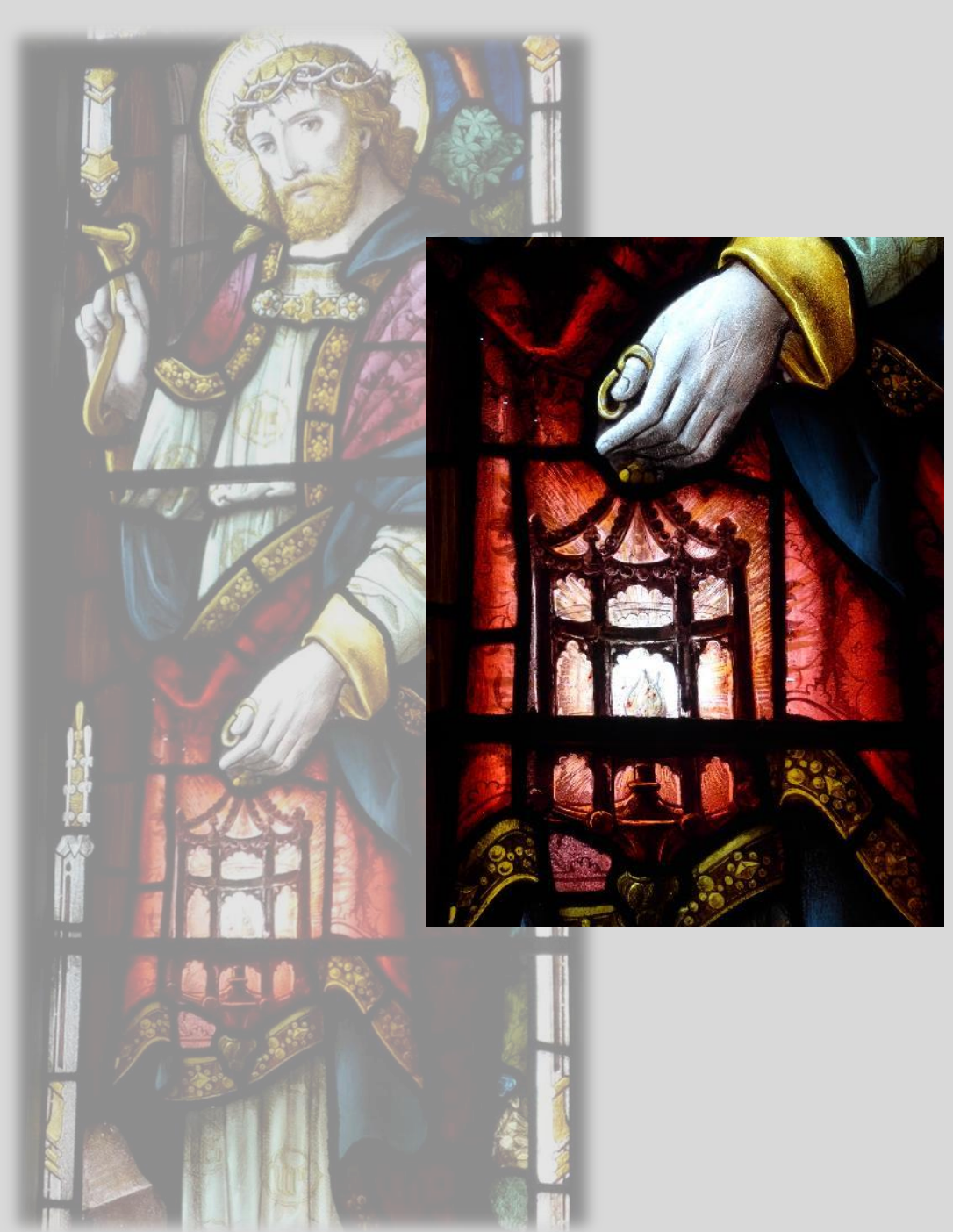
**<sup>5</sup>Hallelujah, hallelujah,  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah  
and we lift our hearts before you  
as a token of our love  
hallelujah, hallelujah.**





Alleluia, alleluia.  
I am the Light of the  
World, says the Lord.  
Whoever follows me  
will never walk in  
darkness but will have  
the light of life.

**Alleluia**



Hear the Gospel of  
our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to.....  
**Glory to you O Lord**

John 3 : 13 – 17

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you O Christ**







Sermon – ‘Growing in Jesus and in Community’



# The Creed

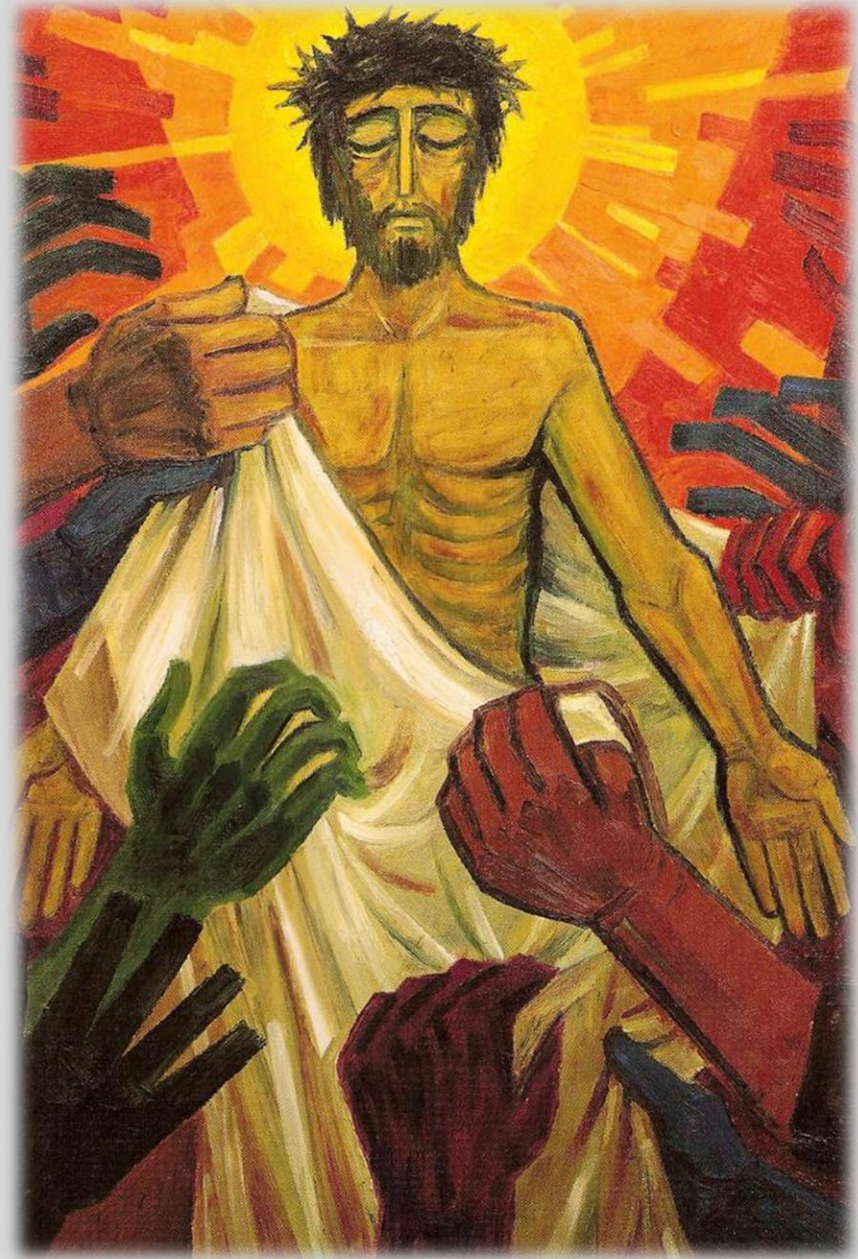
**We believe in God the Father  
God almighty, by whose plan  
earth and heaven sprang to being  
all created things began.**

**We believe in Christ the Saviour  
Son of God in human frame  
virgin-born, the child of Mary  
upon whom the Spirit came.**



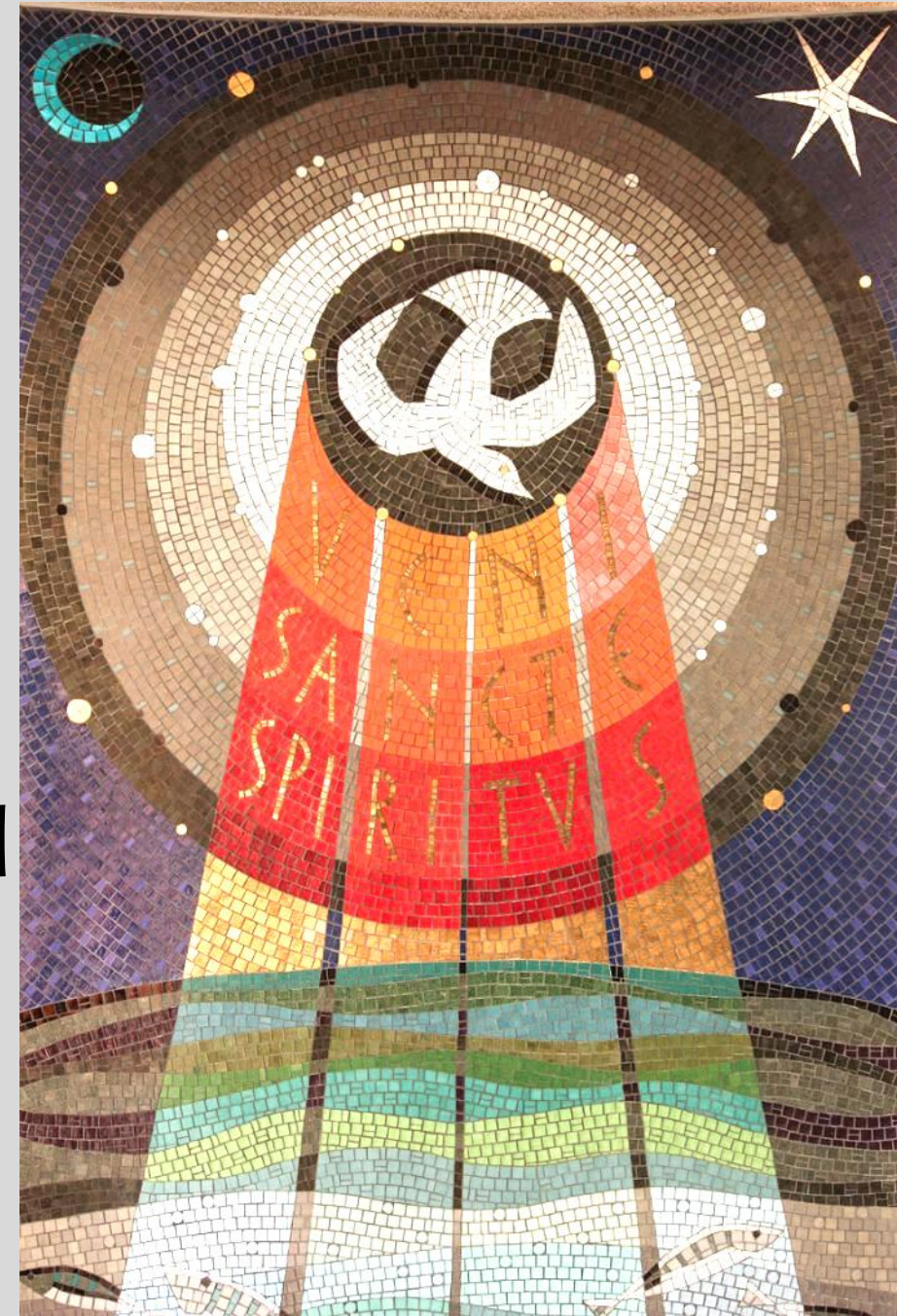


**Christ, who on the cross forsaken  
like a lamb to slaughter led  
suffered under Pontius Pilate  
he descended to the dead.  
We believe in Jesus risen  
heaven's king to rule and reign  
to the Father's side ascended  
till as judge he comes again.**





**We believe in God the Spirit  
in one Church, below, above  
saints of God in one communion  
one in holiness and love.  
So by faith, our sins forgiven  
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend  
we shall rise with him in glory  
to the life that knows no end.**



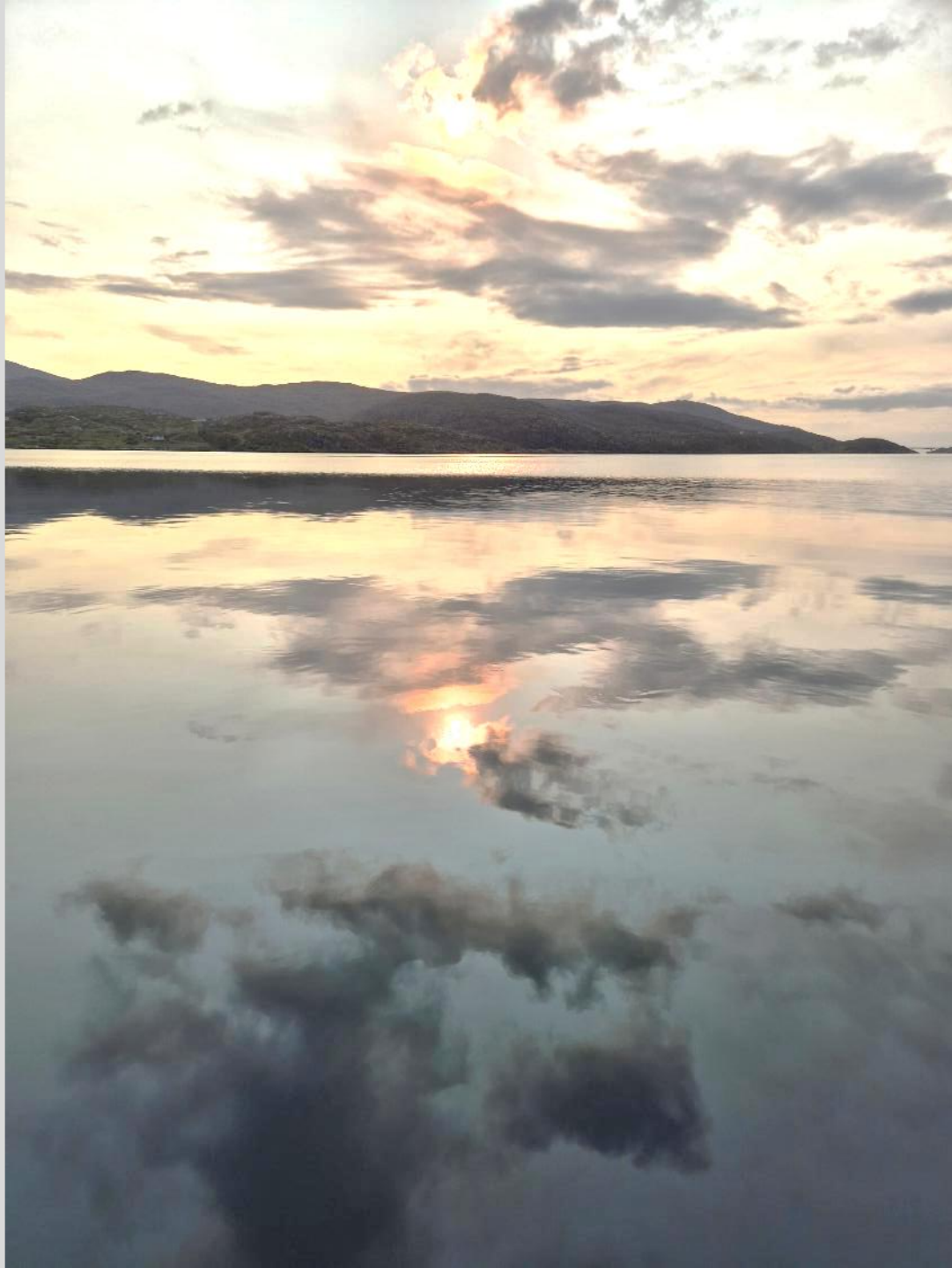


# Prayers of Intercession



Final Response

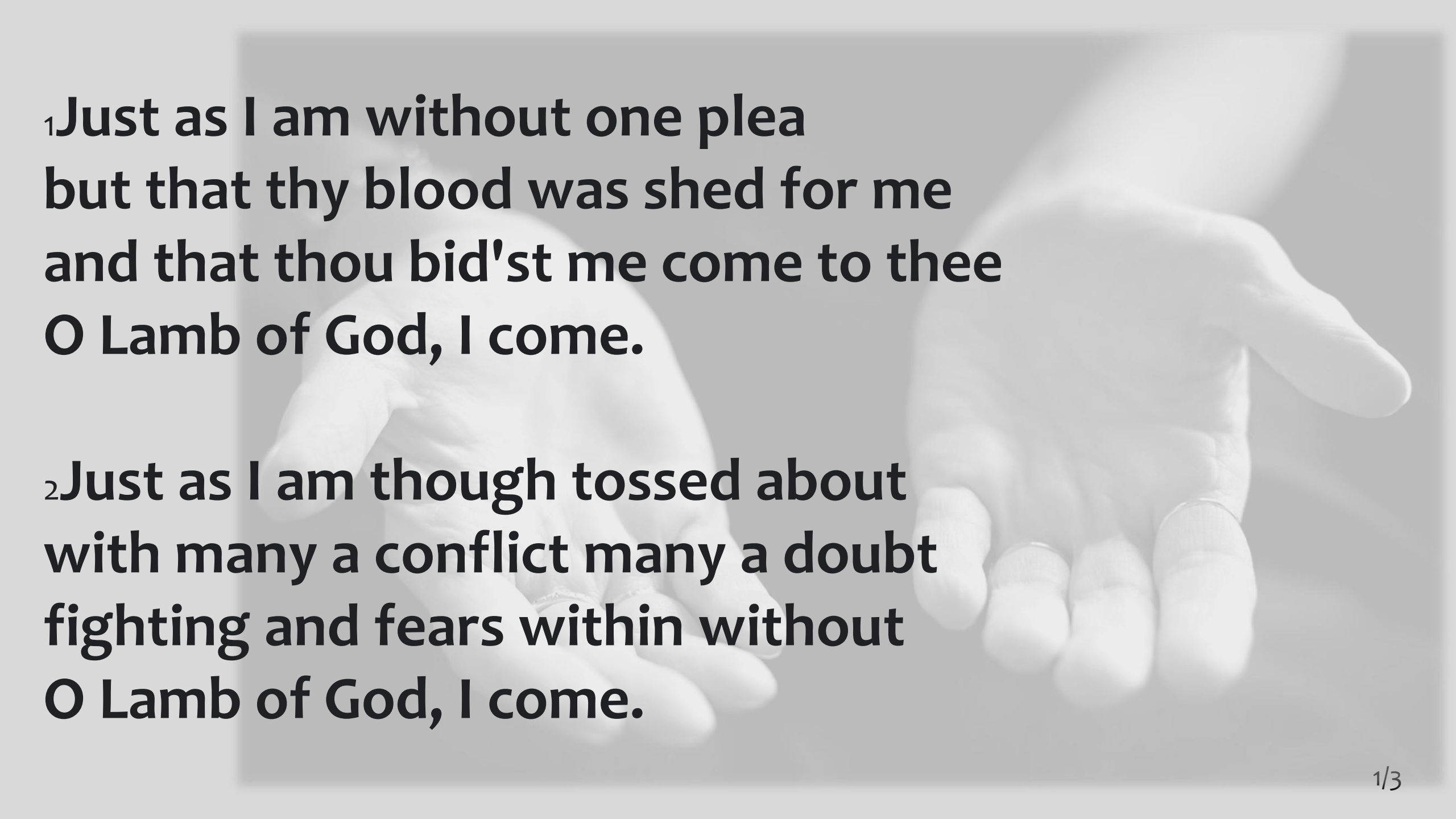
Merciful Father - **Accept these prayers  
for the sake of your son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**



# The Peace

God is love and those who  
live in love live in God  
and God lives in them.

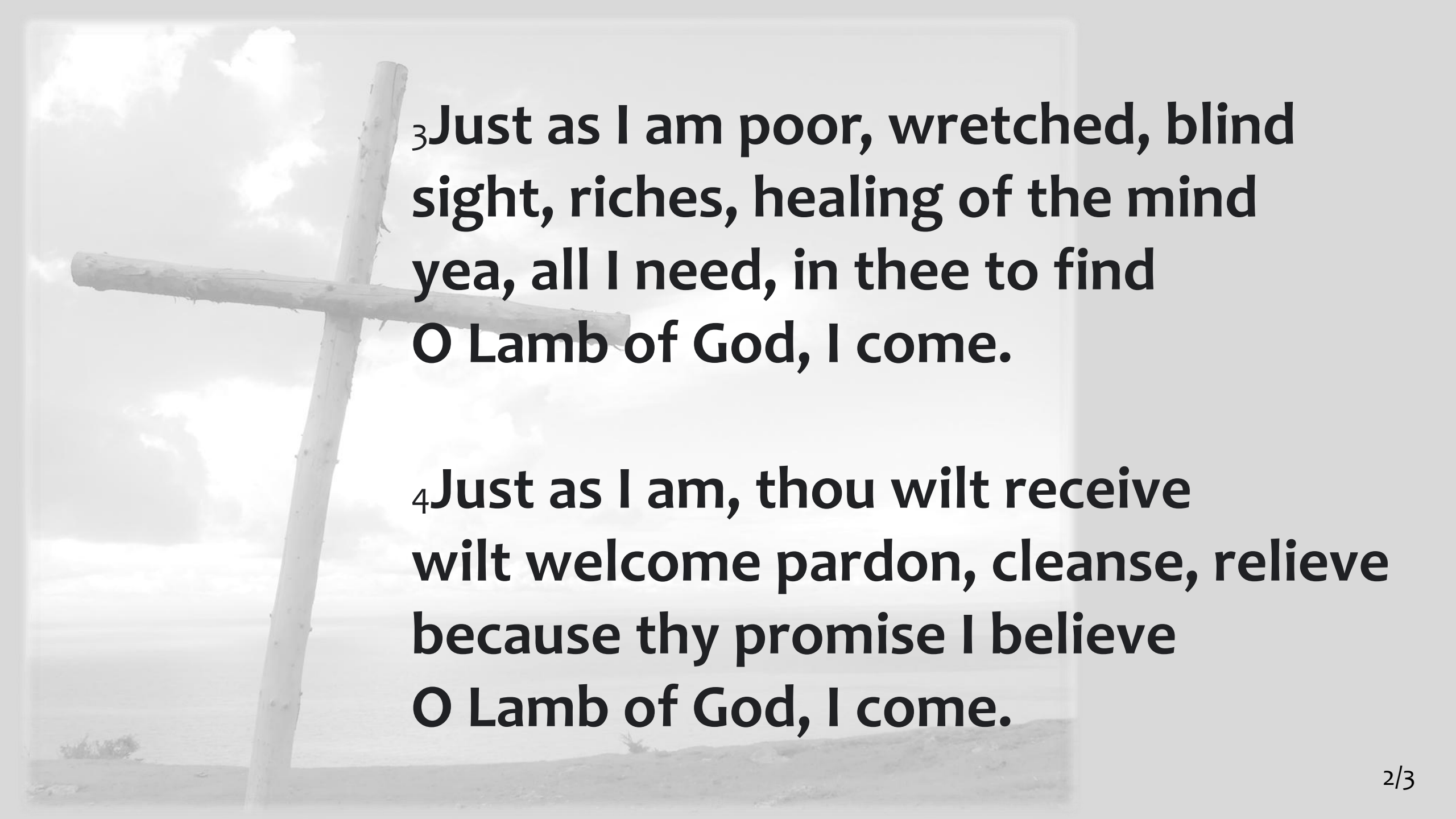
The peace of the Lord  
be always with you  
**and also with you.**



**<sup>1</sup>Just as I am without one plea  
but that thy blood was shed for me  
and that thou bid'st me come to thee  
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**<sup>2</sup>Just as I am though tossed about  
with many a conflict many a doubt  
fighting and fears within without  
O Lamb of God, I come.**



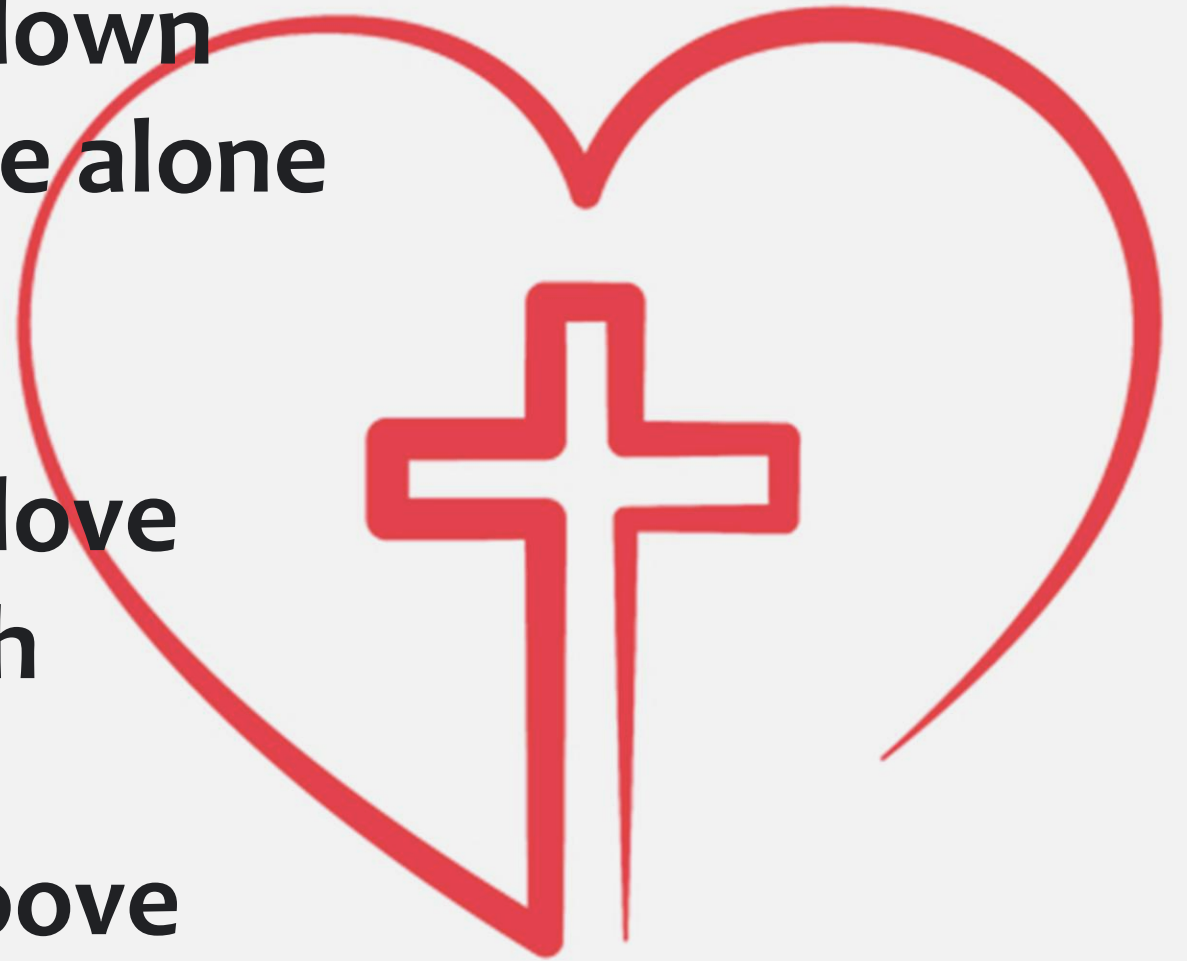
A large, rustic wooden cross stands on a sandy beach. The background features a calm ocean meeting a sky filled with soft, white clouds. The cross is made of two weathered logs, with the vertical post slightly leaning to the left. The overall scene is peaceful and evokes a sense of faith and reflection.

**<sup>3</sup>Just as I am poor, wretched, blind  
sight, riches, healing of the mind  
yea, all I need, in thee to find  
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**<sup>4</sup>Just as I am, thou wilt receive  
wilt welcome pardon, cleanse, relieve  
because thy promise I believe  
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**5 Just as I am, thy love unknown  
has broken ev'ry barrier down  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone  
O Lamb of God I come.**

**6 Just as I am, of that free love  
the breadth, length, depth  
and height to prove  
here for a season, then above  
O Lamb of God, I come.**



Pour upon the poverty of our love  
and the weakness of our praise,  
the transforming fire of your presence.

**Amen**

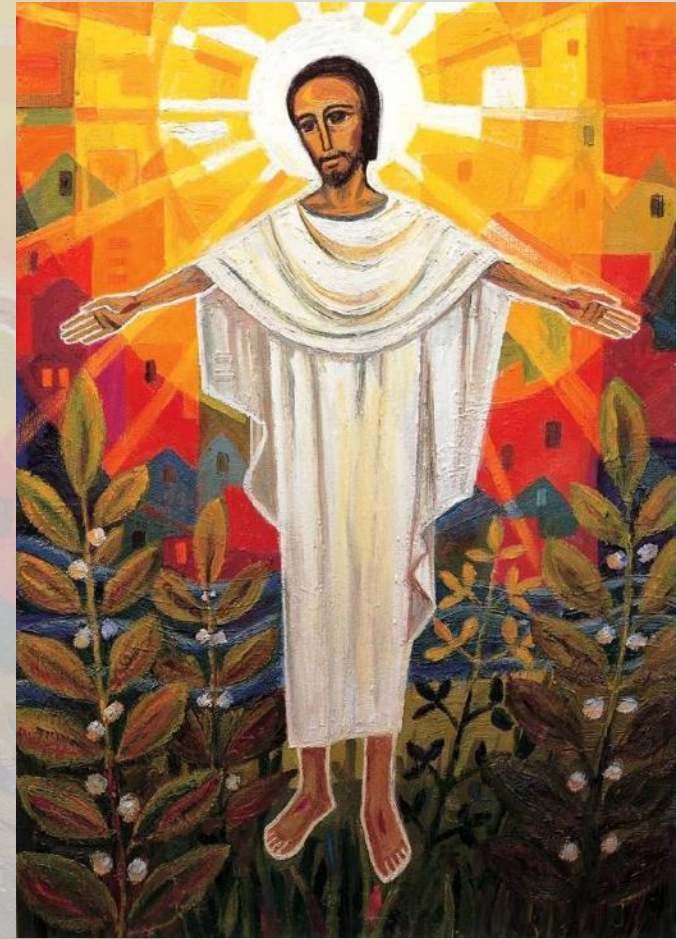




The Lord is here.  
**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**



It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation  
in your love you made us for yourself.  
When we turned away you did not reject us  
but came to meet us in your Son.



**You embraced us as your children  
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life  
that we might live in him and he in us.



**He opened his arms of love upon the cross  
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**



On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends  
he took bread and gave you thanks  
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you  
do this in remembrance of me.



**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper,  
taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks and said:  
Drink this all of you, this is my blood of the new  
covenant which is shed for you  
and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.



**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death  
and celebrate his rising in glory,  
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine  
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

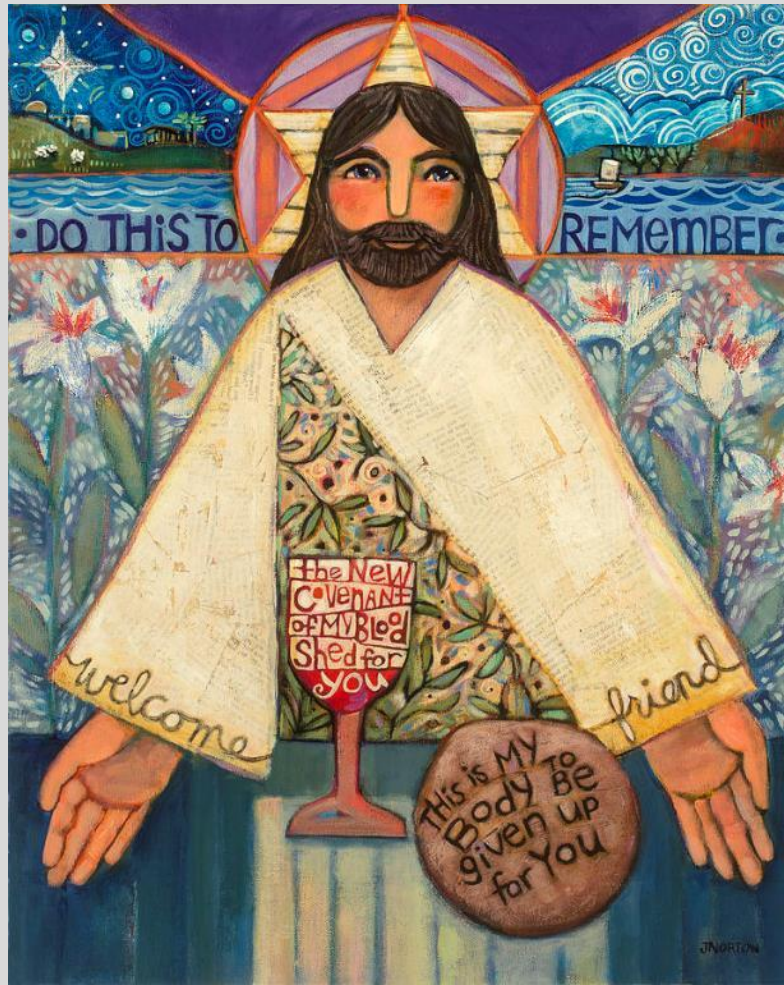


**As we eat and drink these holy gifts  
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**





With your whole Church throughout the world  
we offer you this sacrifice of praise  
and lift our voice to join  
the eternal song of heaven:



**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

# The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

**Amen**

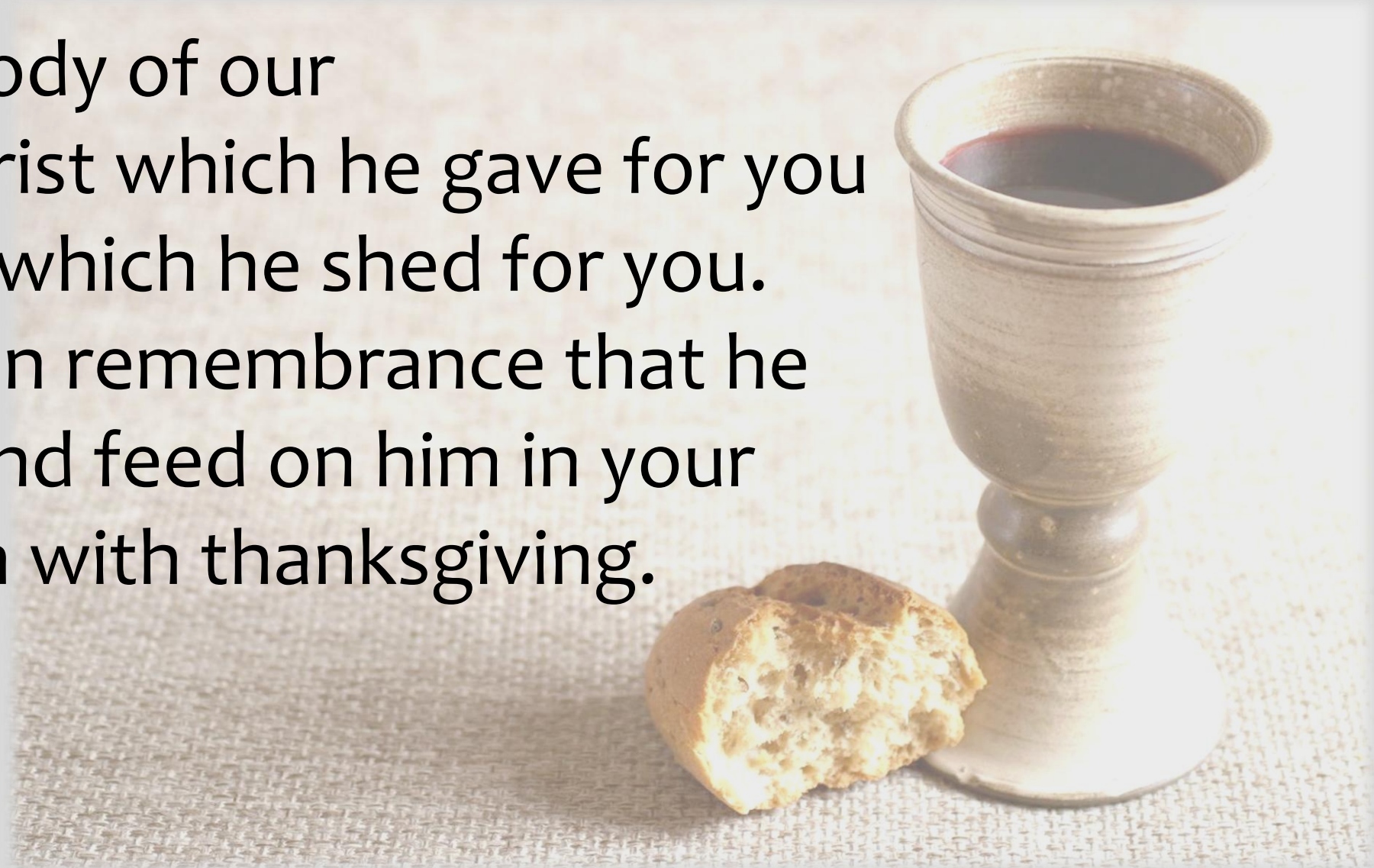


We break this bread to share in the body of Christ



**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

Draw near with faith.  
Receive the body of our  
Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you  
and his blood which he shed for you.  
Eat and drink in remembrance that he  
died for you and feed on him in your  
hearts by faith with thanksgiving.







**We do not presume to come to this your table,  
O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.**

**We are not worthy so much as to  
gather up the crumbs under your table.**

**But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.**



**Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son  
Jesus Christ and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made  
clean by his body and our souls  
washed through his most precious  
blood and that we may evermore  
dwell in him and he in us.**

**Amen**





We sing together –

**Jesus, Lamb of God  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Redeemer of the world  
give us your peace.**







# Jesus Is the Bread of Life

Receiving the bread and wine





# Anthem

‘I lift up my eyes’

David Ogden



# Jesus Is the Bread of Life

Receiving the bread and wine



## Post Communion Prayer

God our Creator  
you feed your children with the true manna,  
the living bread from heaven:  
let this holy food sustain us through  
our earthly pilgrimage until we come to  
that place where hunger and thirst are no more  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**



**We thank you, Lord,  
that you have fed us with this sacrament,  
united us with Christ and given us a foretaste  
of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples.**



**Amen**

**What is going on ?**

**Family News**

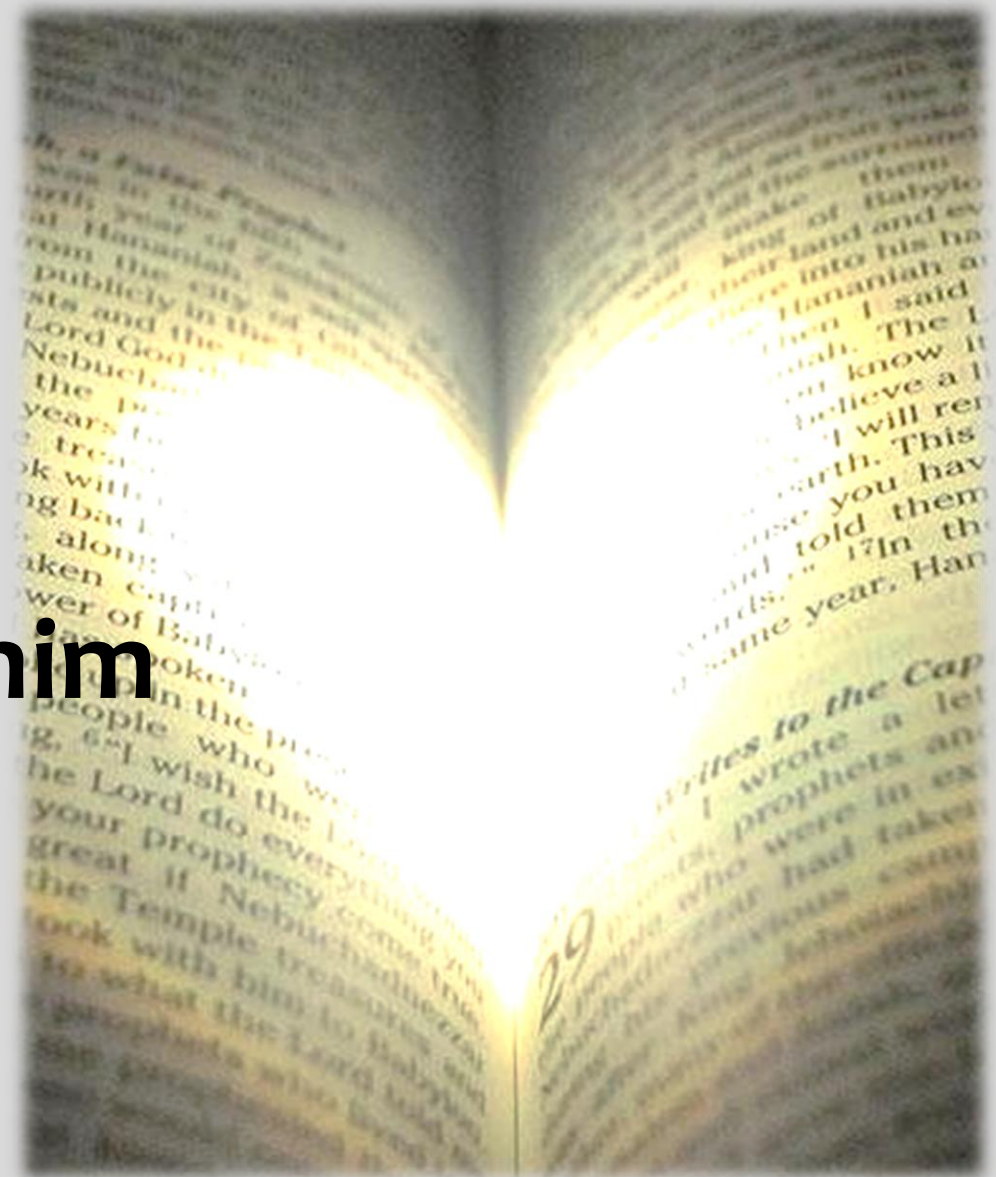


**<sup>1</sup>Stand up stand up for Jesus  
stand up before his cross  
an instrument of torture  
inflicting pain and loss  
transformed by his obedience  
to God's redeeming plan  
the cross was overpowered  
by Christ both God and man.**





**2 Stand up stand up for Jesus  
be counted as his own  
his gospel of forgiveness  
he cannot spread alone.  
The love which draws us to him  
he calls us out to share  
he calls us to the margins  
to be his presence there.**



**3 Stand up stand up for Jesus  
in faith and hope be strong  
stand firm for right and justice  
opposed to sin and wrong.  
Give comfort to the wounded  
and care for those in pain  
for Christ in those who suffer  
is crucified again.**





**4 Stand up stand up for Jesus  
who reigns as King of kings  
be ready for the challenge  
of faith his Kingship brings.  
He will not force obedience  
he gives to each the choice  
to turn from all that's holy  
or in his love rejoice.**

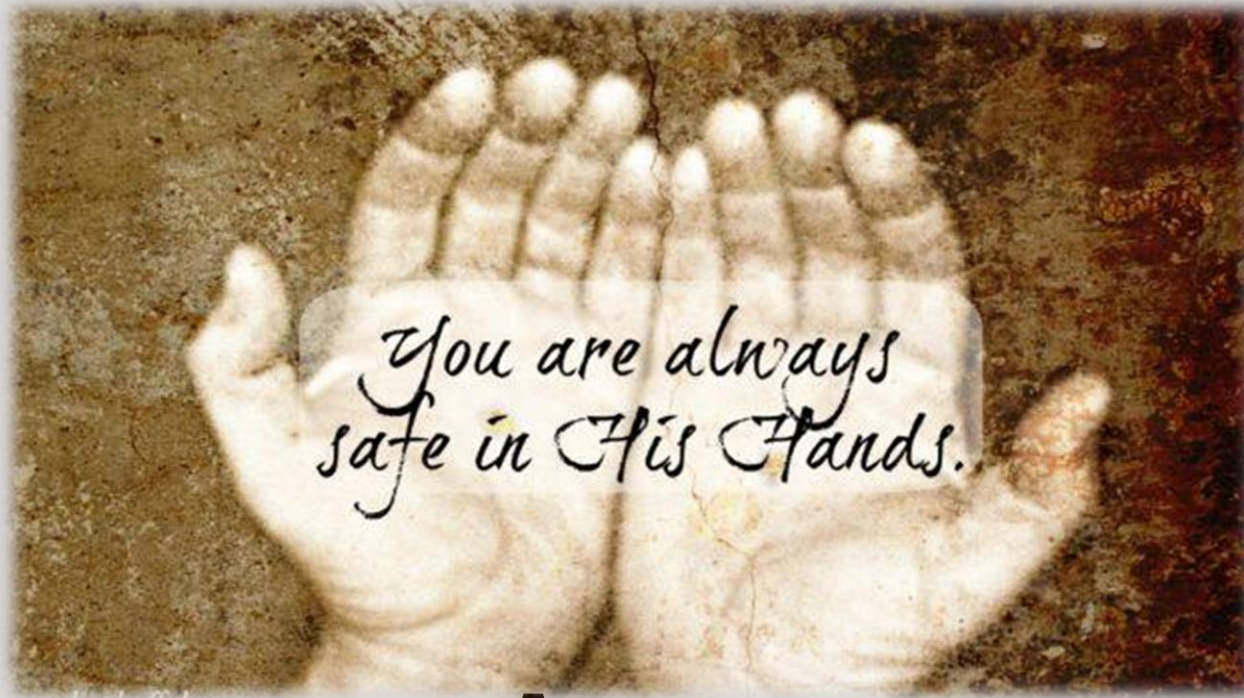




**5 Stand up stand up for Jesus  
give courage to the weak  
be unashamed to praise him  
be bold his name to speak.  
Confront the cross unflinching  
Christ's love has set us free  
he conquered death for ever  
and lives eternally.**



You are called and loved by God the Father  
and kept safe by Jesus Christ.  
Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance,  
from God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



**Amen**



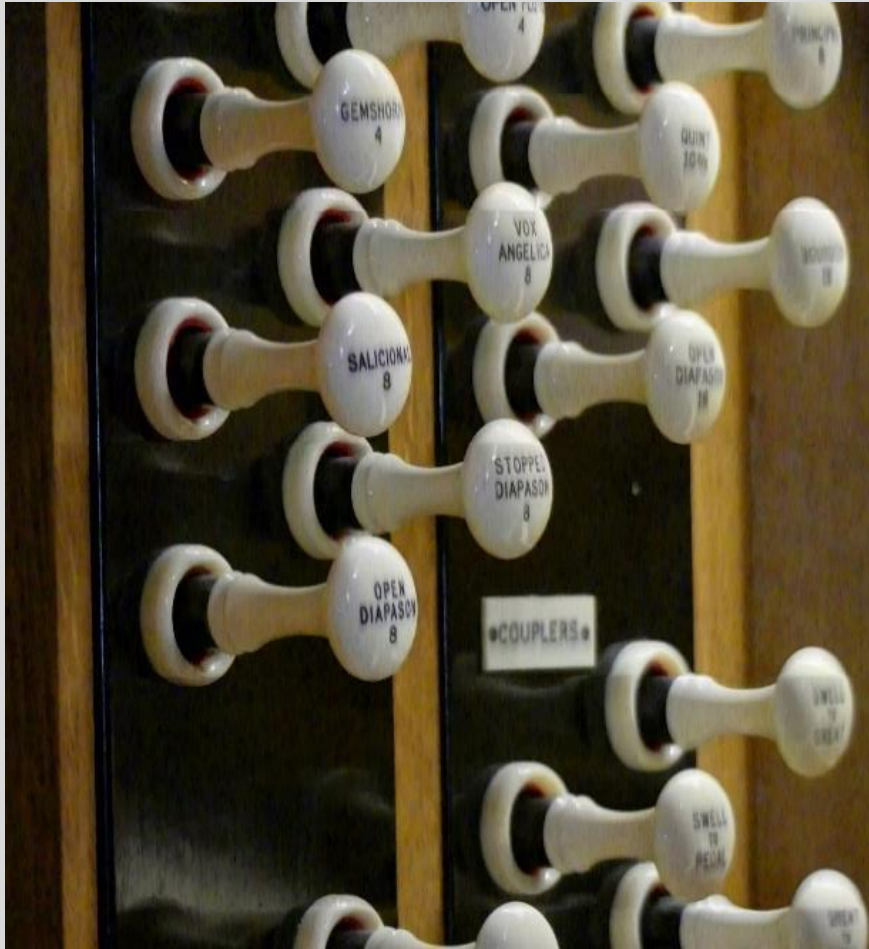


The Blessing

Go in peace to love  
and serve the Lord

**In the name of Christ  
Amen**





Christ Church Organ

Organ Voluntary

‘Hyfrydol: Fanfare postlude’ –  
David Bednall