

Sunday 25th January 2026

Christ Church with St Mary's Service of Holy Communion

Theme: This way or that?

We say together all words in **bold**





Welcome and introduction



The Lord be with you

and also with you.



Parish Bible
verse

2025 - 2026

**Love never wrongs
anyone- hence love
is the fulfilment of
the law.**

Romans 13:10

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**

**¹For all the saints who from their labours rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed
thy name, O Jesus, be for ever blest.**

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**²Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight
thou in the darkness drear, their one true light.**

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**4 O blest communion! fellowship divine!
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**6 The golden evening brightens in the west
soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Alleluia, alleluia!**

**7But lo! There breaks a yet more glorious day
the saints triumphant rise in bright array
the King of glory passes on his way.
Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**8From earth's wide bounds
from ocean's farthest coast
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host
singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia!**



Offertory and thankyou prayer

FOLLOW



Children's Talk – 'Just ordinary people'



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.**

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed, through negligence,
through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.**

**We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past and grant that we may
serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name.**

Amen.

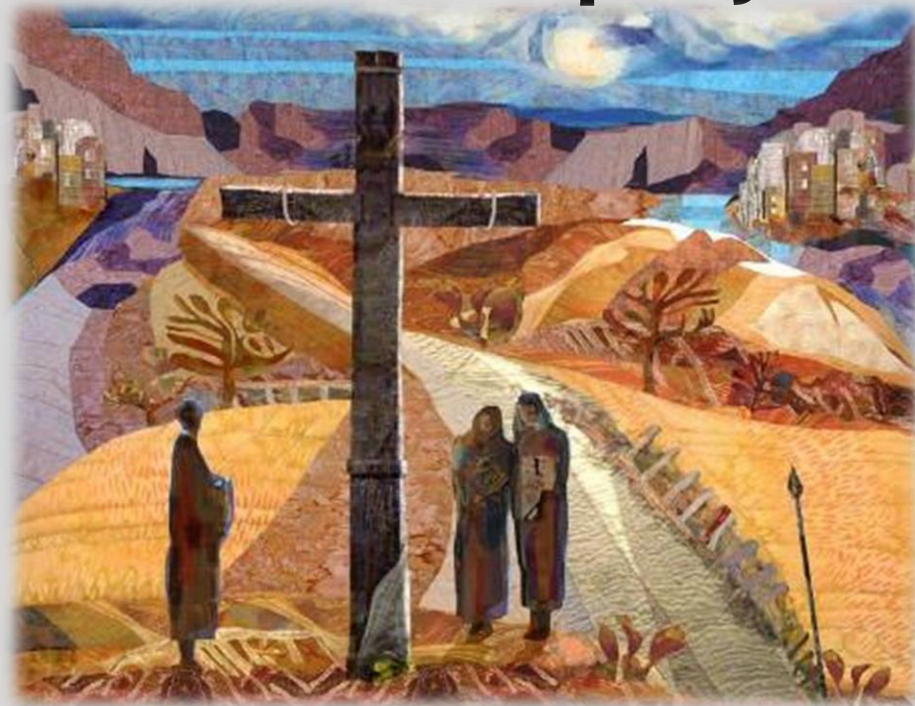
May the God
of love and power
forgive you and free you
from your sins, heal and
strengthen you by his Spirit
and raise you to new life
in Christ our Lord. **Amen**



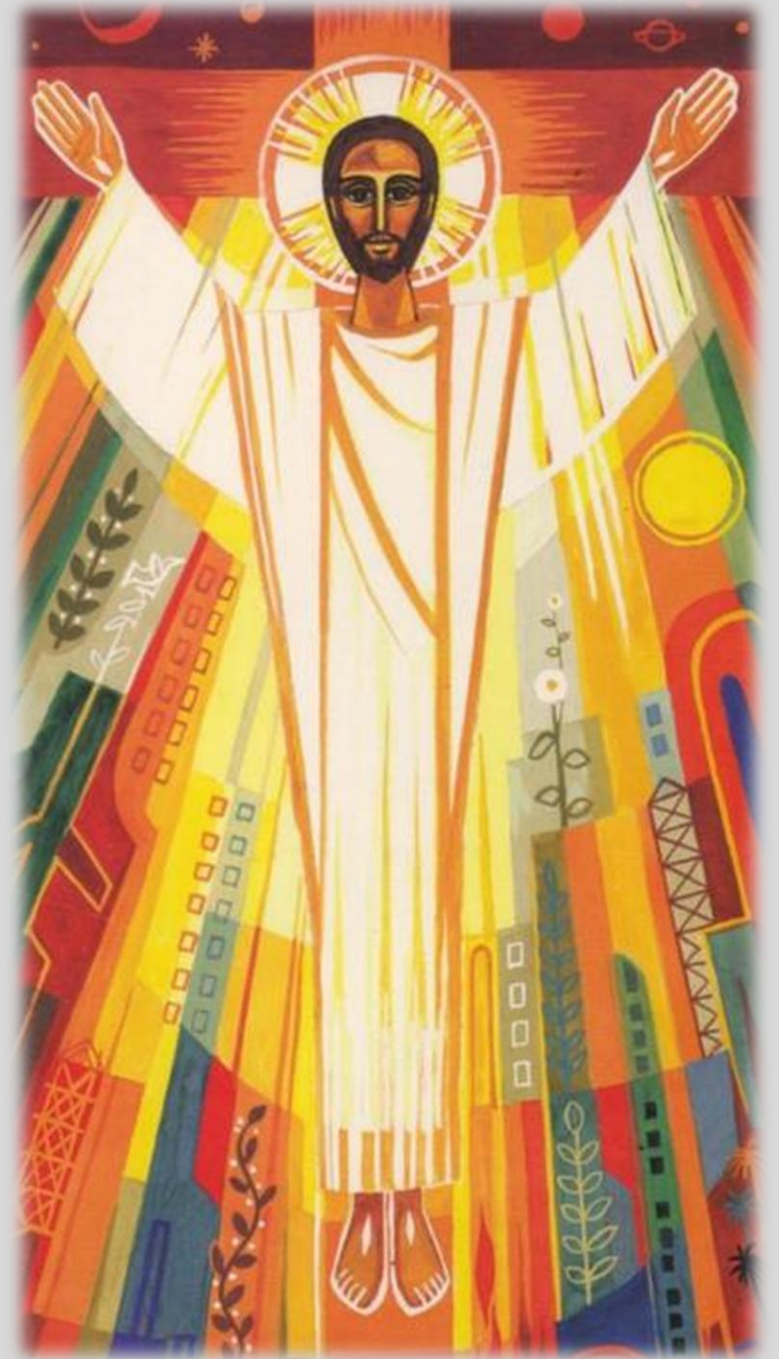
**Glory to God in the highest
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**



**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.**



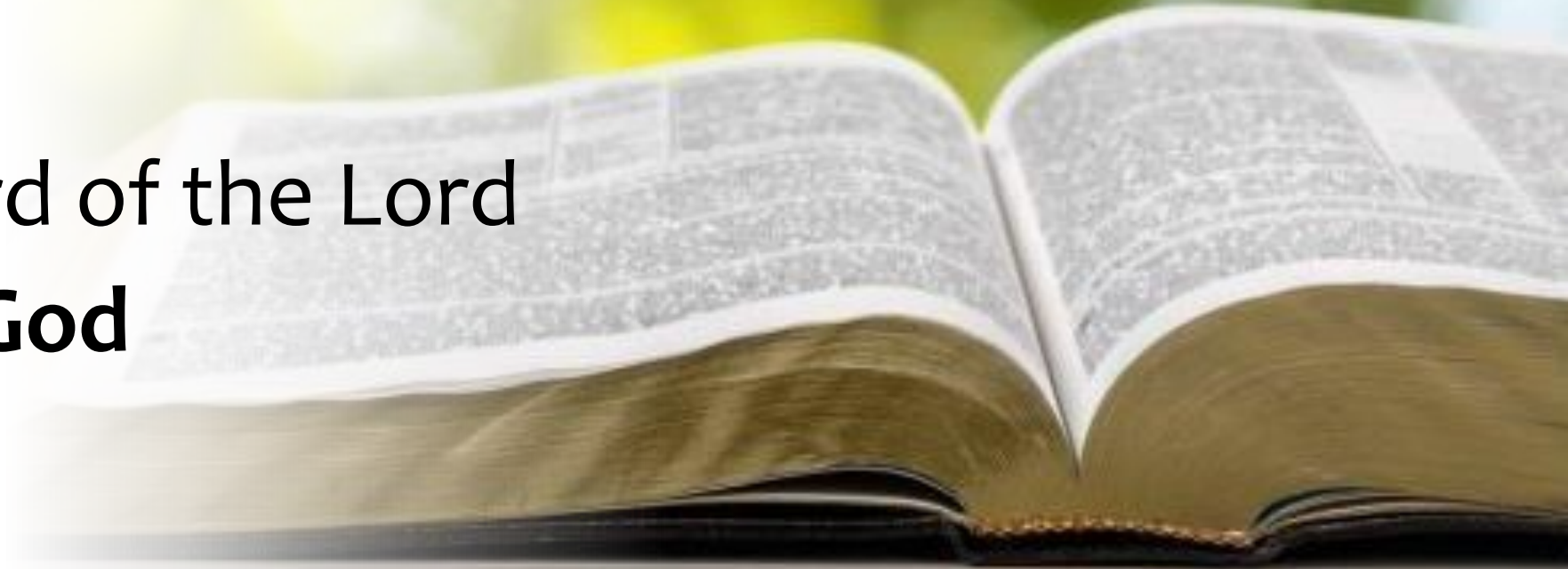
The Collect prayer for today

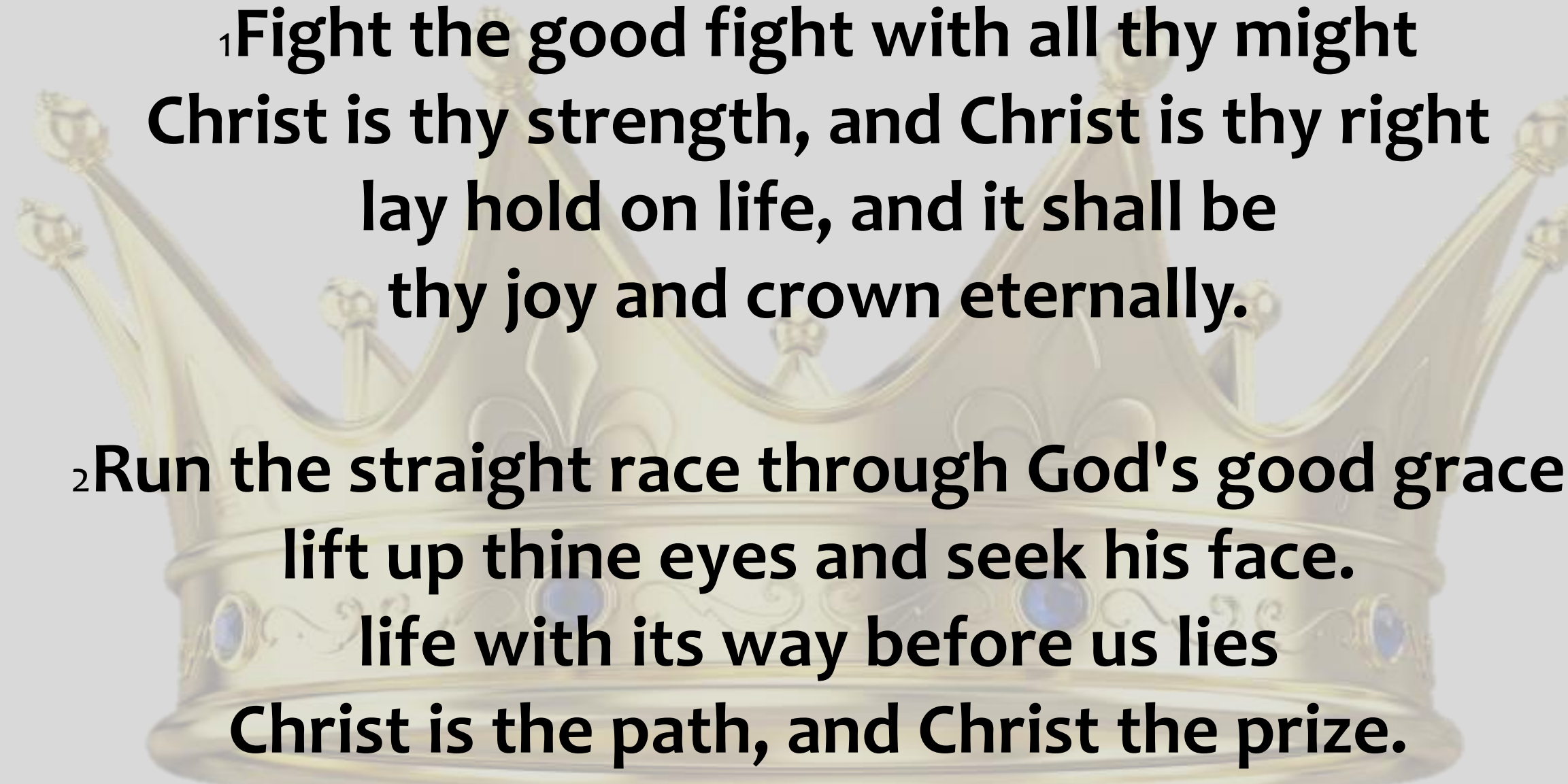
God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your
people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

Amen

1 Corinthians 1 : 10 -18

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God





**¹Fight the good fight with all thy might
Christ is thy strength, and Christ is thy right
lay hold on life, and it shall be
thy joy and crown eternally.**

**²Run the straight race through God's good grace
lift up thine eyes and seek his face.
life with its way before us lies
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.**

**3 Cast care aside lean on thy guide
his boundless mercy will provide;
trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.**

**4 Faint not nor fear, his arms are near
he changeth not, and thou art dear
only believe, and thou shalt see
that Christ is all in all to thee.**



The Gospel reading is announced

Allelulia, allelulia.
Christ was revealed in flesh,
proclaimed among the nations
and believed in throughout the world.

Alleluia



Hear the Gospel of
our Lord Jesus Christ
according to.....

Glory to you O Lord

Matthew 4 : 12 - 23

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ



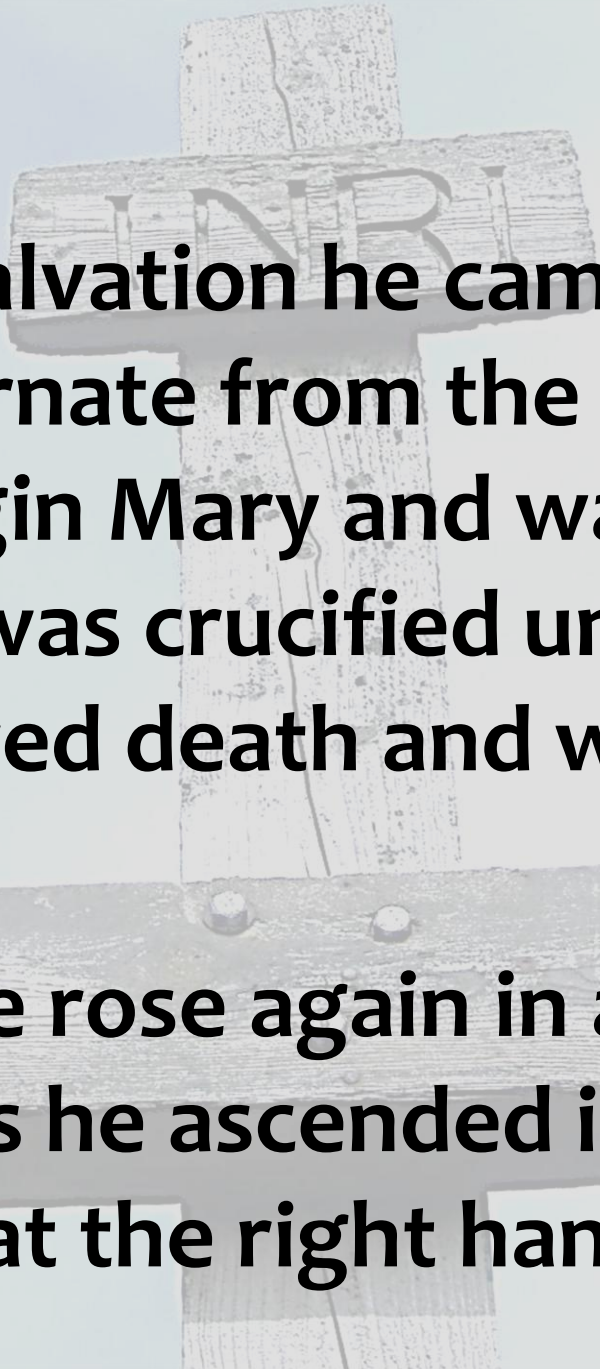


Sermon – ‘This way or that?’

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father
through him all things were made.**



**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the
Scriptures he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**





**We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen

Prayers of Intercession

Final Response

Merciful Father-

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

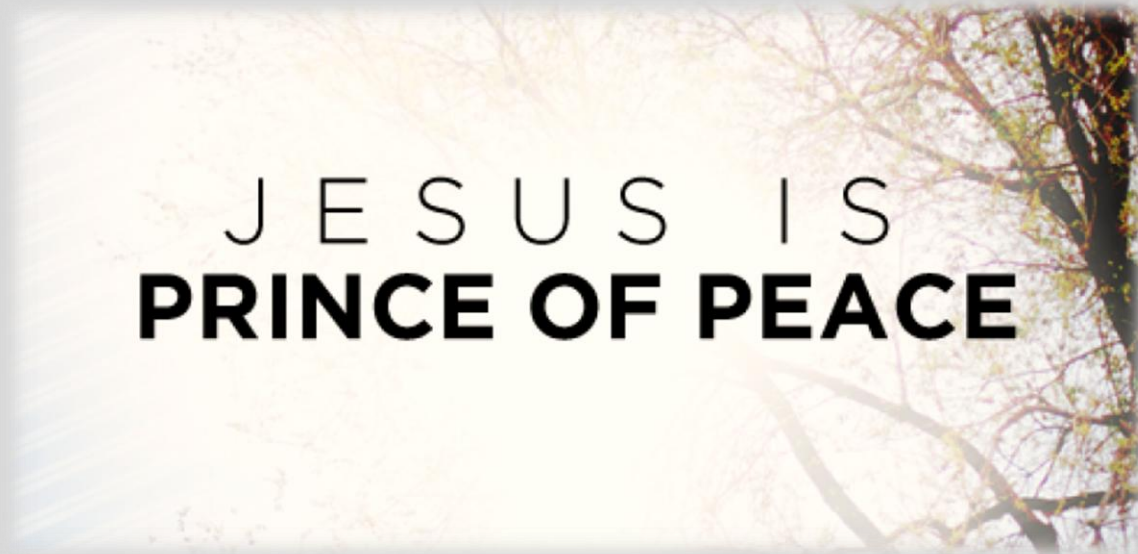


The Peace

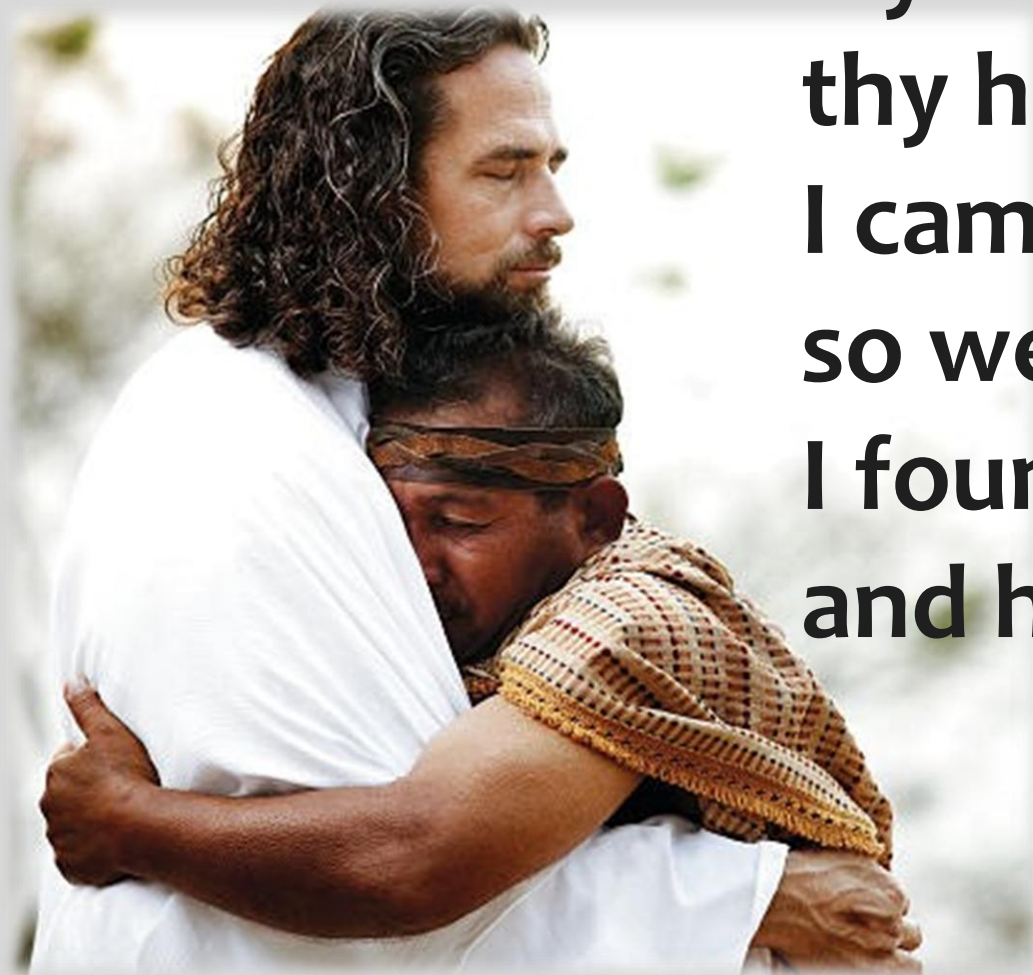
Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government
and of peace there shall be no end.

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



**¹I heard the voice of Jesus say
‘Come unto me and rest
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast.’
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn and sad
I found in him a resting place
and he has made me glad.**



**2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink and live.'
I came to Jesus and I drank
of that life-giving stream
my thirst was quenched, my soul
revived and now I live in him.**



**3 I heard the voice of Jesus say
'I am this dark world's Light'
look unto me, thy morn shall rise
and all thy day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus and I found
in him my star, my sun
and in that light of life I'll walk
till trav'ling days are done.**



Blessed be God, by whose grace creation is renewed, by whose love heaven is opened, by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.



Blessed be God for ever

The Lord is here.

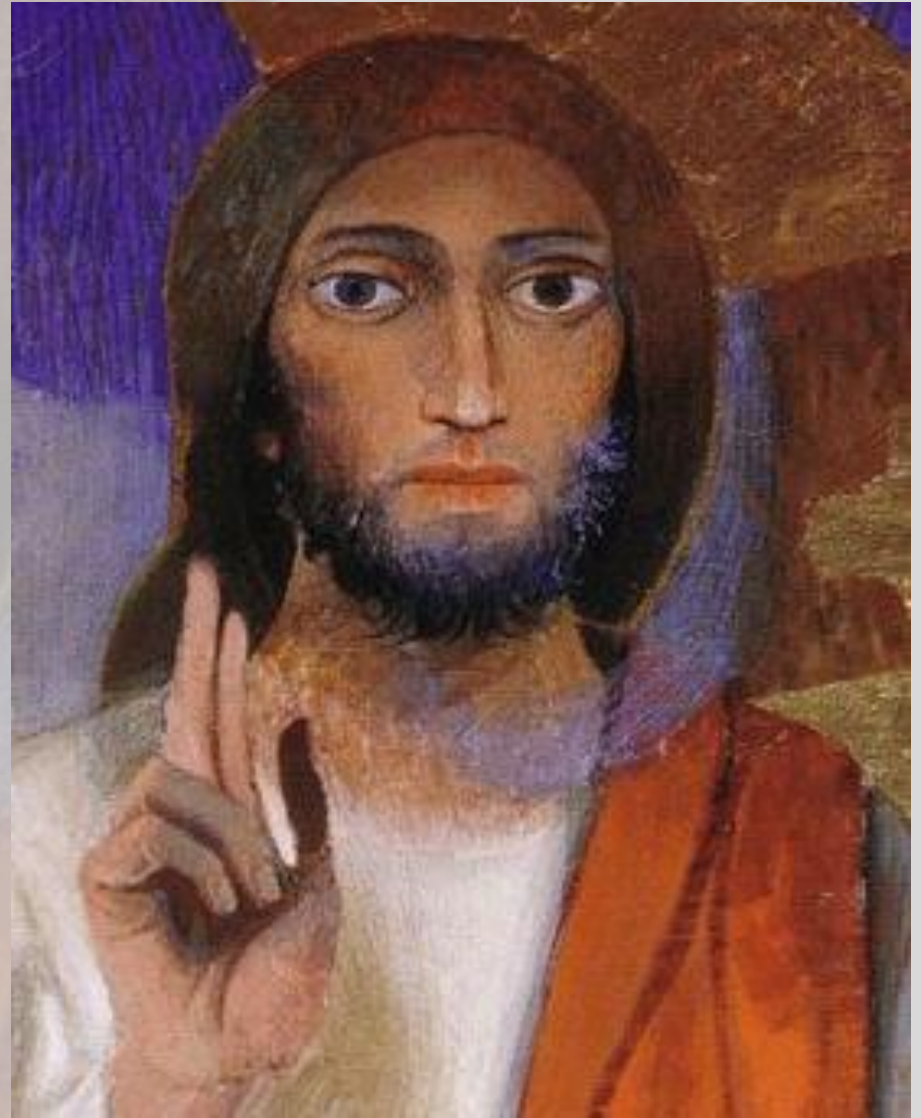
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

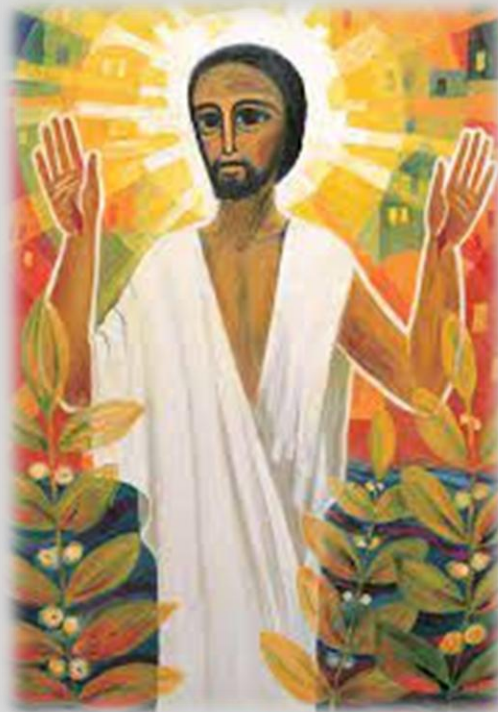
Let us give thanks
to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.



Almighty God, good Father to us all
your face is turned towards your world.
In love you gave us Jesus your Son
to rescue us from sin and death.
Your Word goes out to call us home
to the city where angels sing your praise.
We join with them in heaven's song:



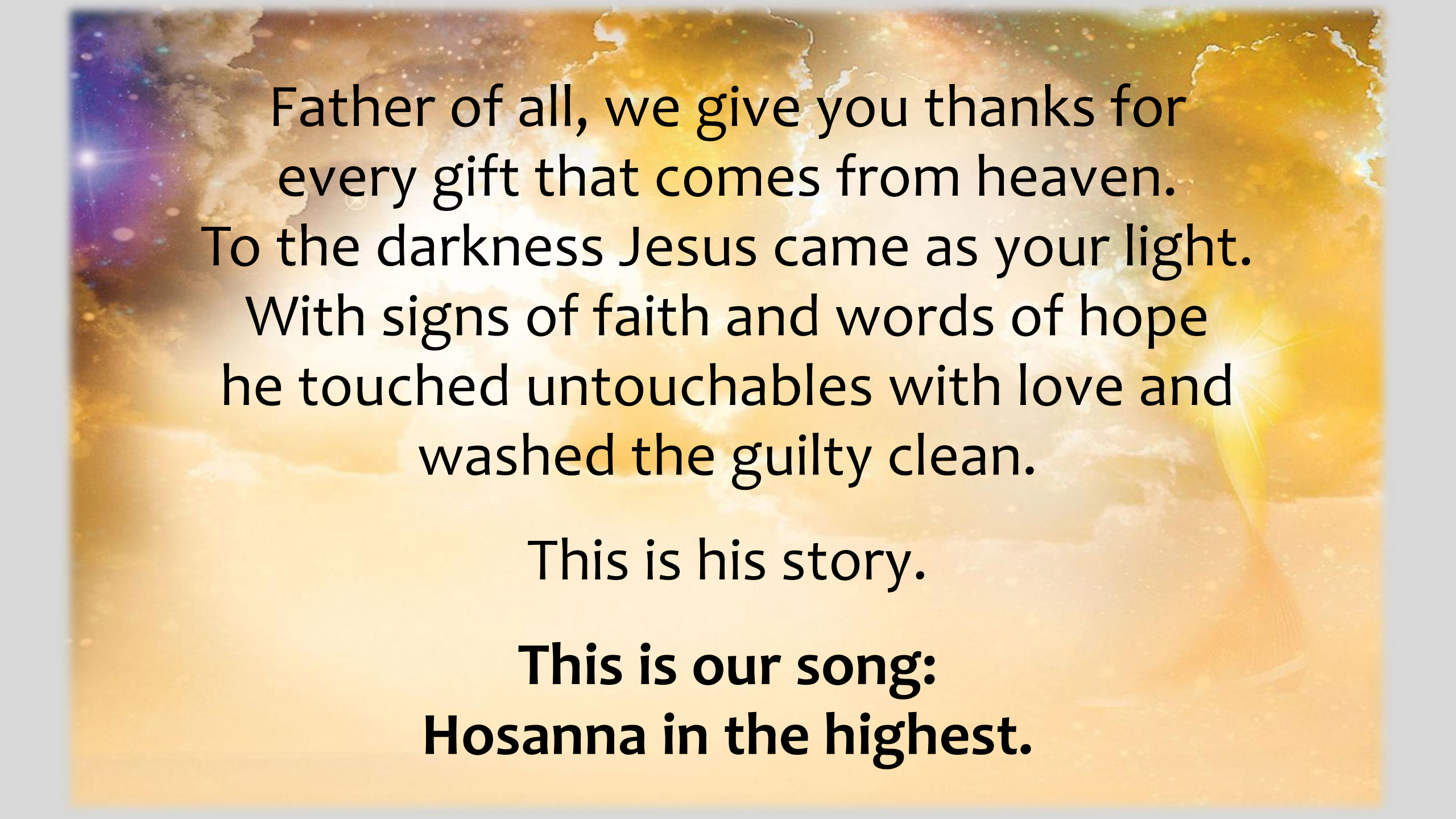


**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of power and might
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.



Father of all, we give you thanks for
every gift that comes from heaven.
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love and
washed the guilty clean.

This is his story.

**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

The crowds came out to see your Son yet at the end they turned on him. On the night he was betrayed he came to table with his friends to celebrate the freedom of your people. This is his story.

**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**



Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food
he took bread, gave thanks,
broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.

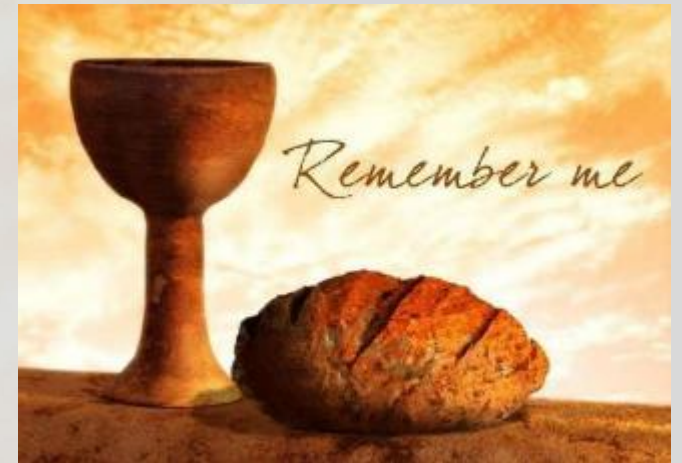


Jesus then gave thanks for the wine
he took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all
for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this in remembrance of me.

This is our story.

**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**



Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross
on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again and is alive
with you to plead for us and all the world.
This is our story.

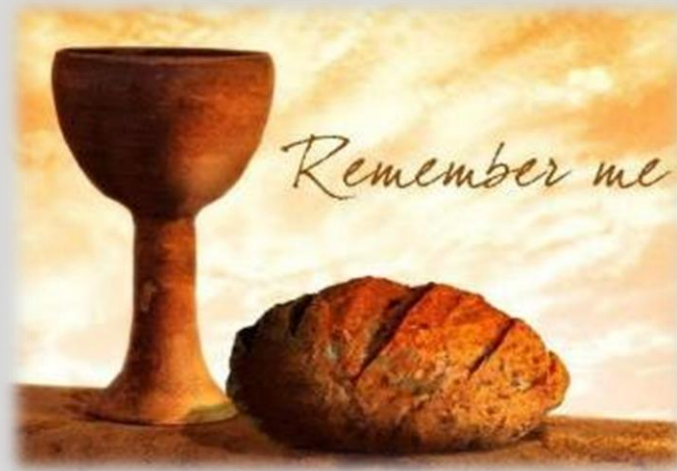


**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.



May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven
where all creation worships you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:



**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

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

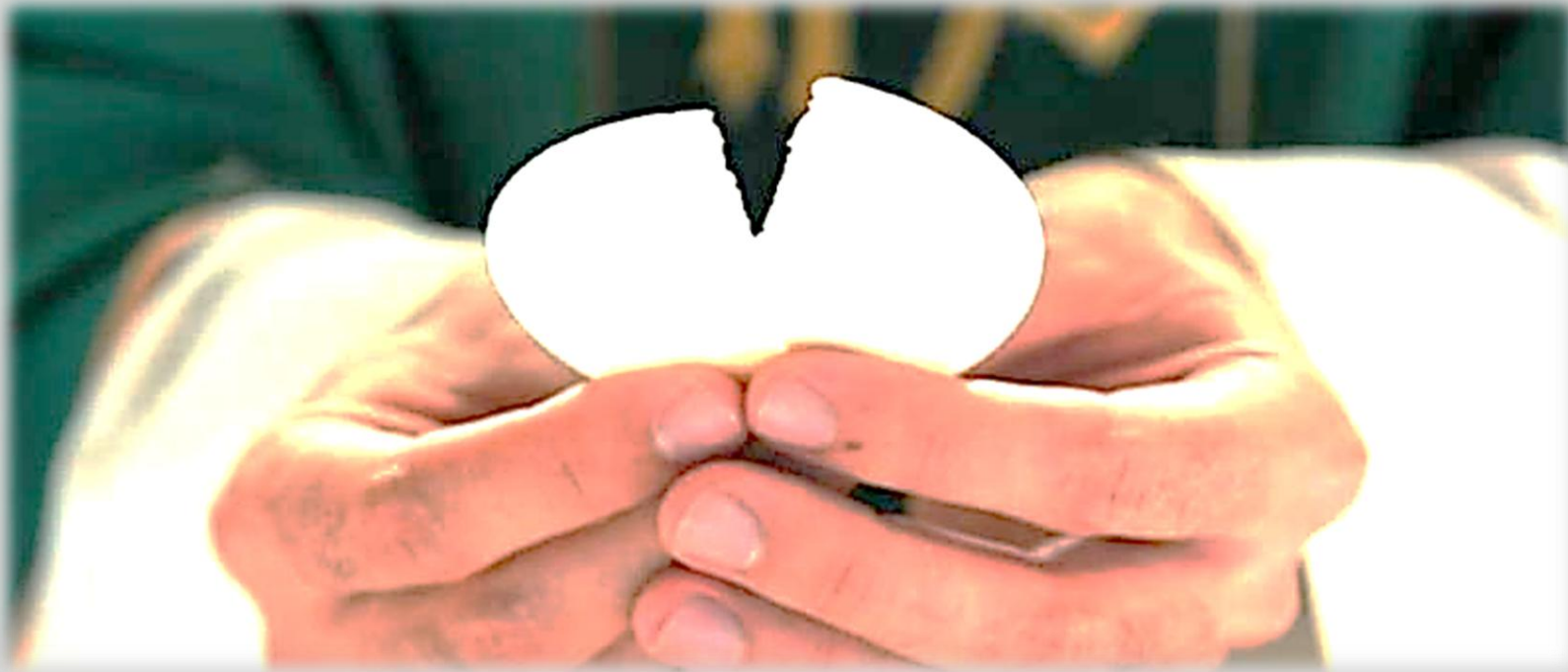
as we forgive those who sin against us.

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.

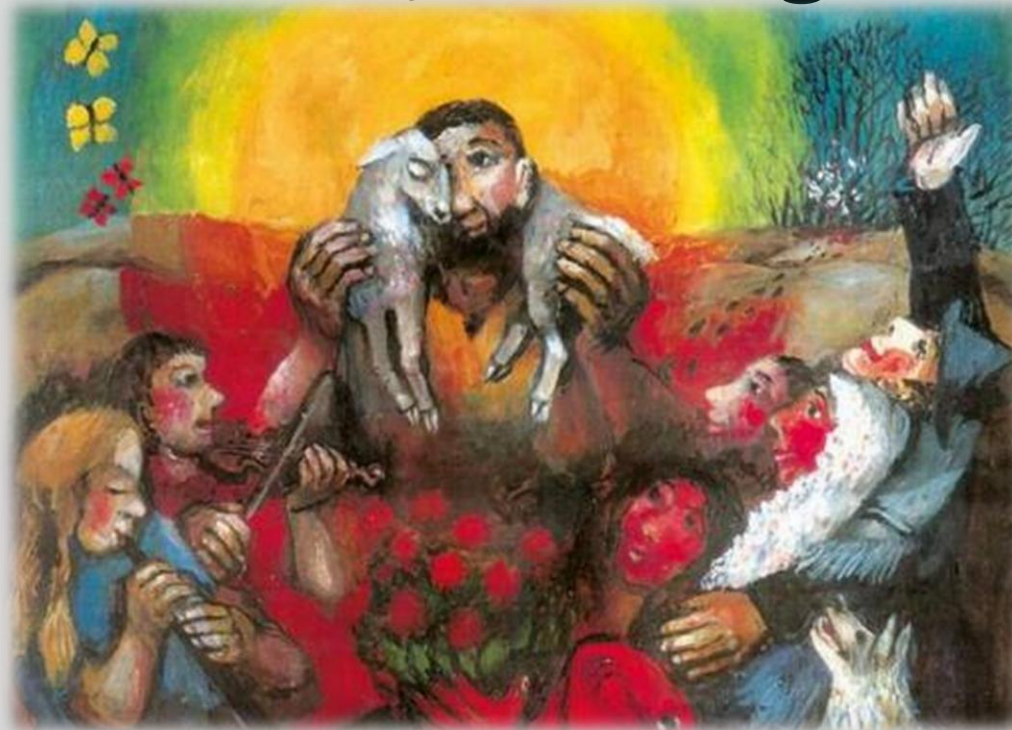


Eat and drink in remembrance that he died
for you and feed on him in your hearts by
faith with thanksgiving.

**Most merciful Lord
your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean our hearts were unprepared
we were not fit even to eat
the crumbs under your table.
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation
and share your bread with sinners.**



**So cleanse and feed us
with the precious body and blood of your Son
that he may live in us and we in him
and that we, with the whole company of Christ
may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen**



Together we sing –

**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.**





I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

Receiving the bread and wine

Anthem

‘Lord, give me faith’

Kathleen Robson





I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

Receiving the bread and wine

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty Father,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
is the light of the world: may your people,
illuminated by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed
to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen

Almighty God
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.

Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.

Amen

What is
going on?

Family News



**God's Work
Our Hands**

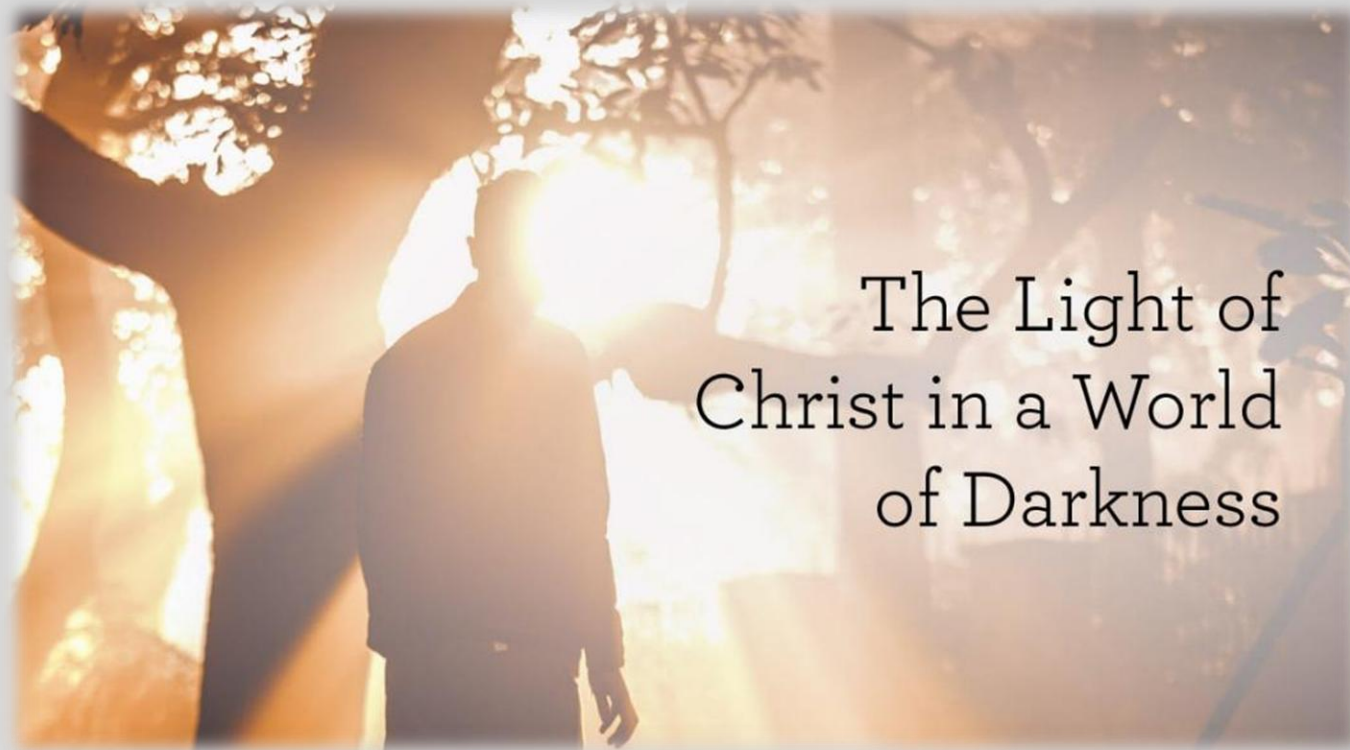
**Go forth and tell!
O Church of God, awake!
God's saving news
to all the nations take
proclaim Christ Jesus,
Saviour, Lord and King,
that all the world
his worthy praise may sing.**



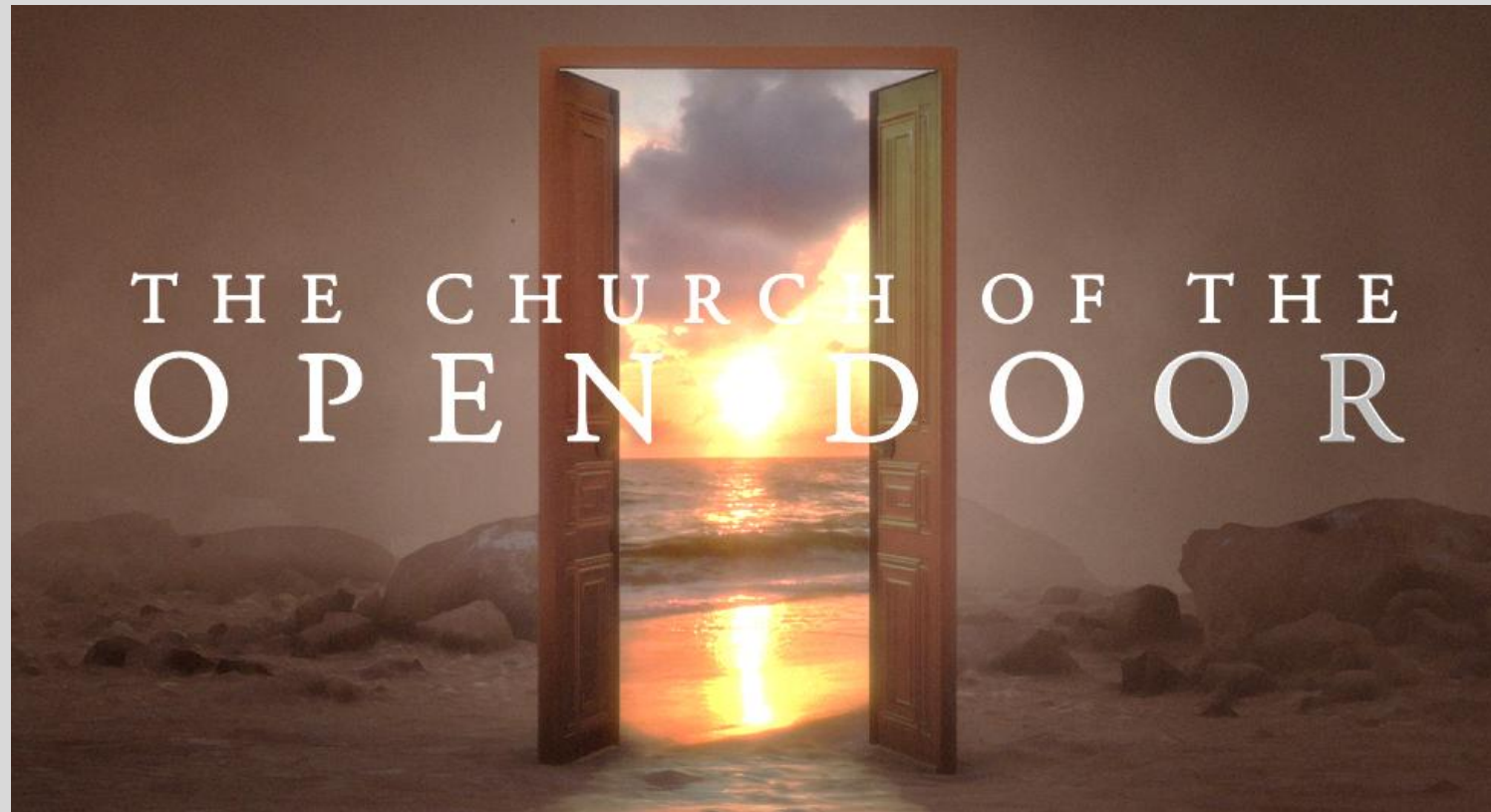
**2Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all
he will in grace respond to all who call:
how shall they call if they have never heard
the gracious invitation of his word?**



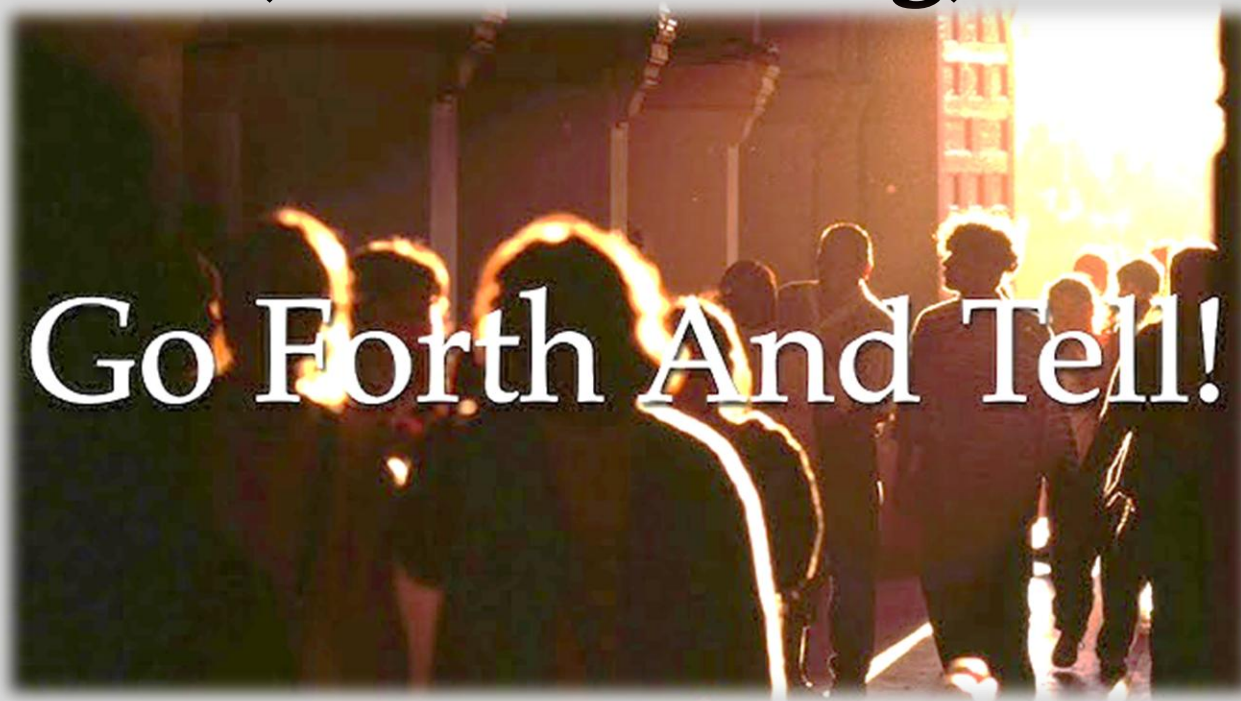
**3 Go forth and tell where still the darkness lies
in wealth or want, the sinner surely dies:
give us, O Lord, concern of heart and mind
a love like yours which cares for humankind.**



**⁴Go forth and tell! the doors are open wide:
share God's good gifts-let no one be denied
live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose,
your ransomed pow'rs for his sole glory use.**



**5 Go forth and tell! O Church of God, arise!
Go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies
go till all nations his great name adore
and serve him, Lord and King, for evermore.**



Christ the Son of God,
perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden
your hearts with the good news of his kingdom:

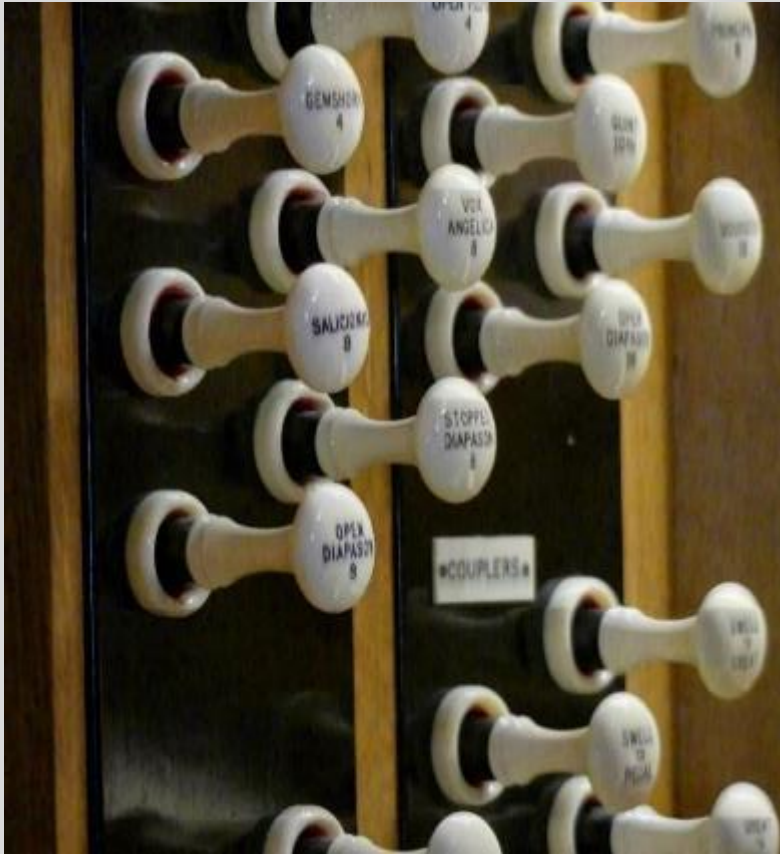


and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen





Christ Church Organ

Organ Voluntary

Wie schon leuchtet der Morgenstern
Dietrich Buxtehude