

Sunday 22nd February 2026

**Christ Church with St Mary's**

**Service of Holy Communion**



**Theme: Lent-temptation + testing**

We say together the 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**

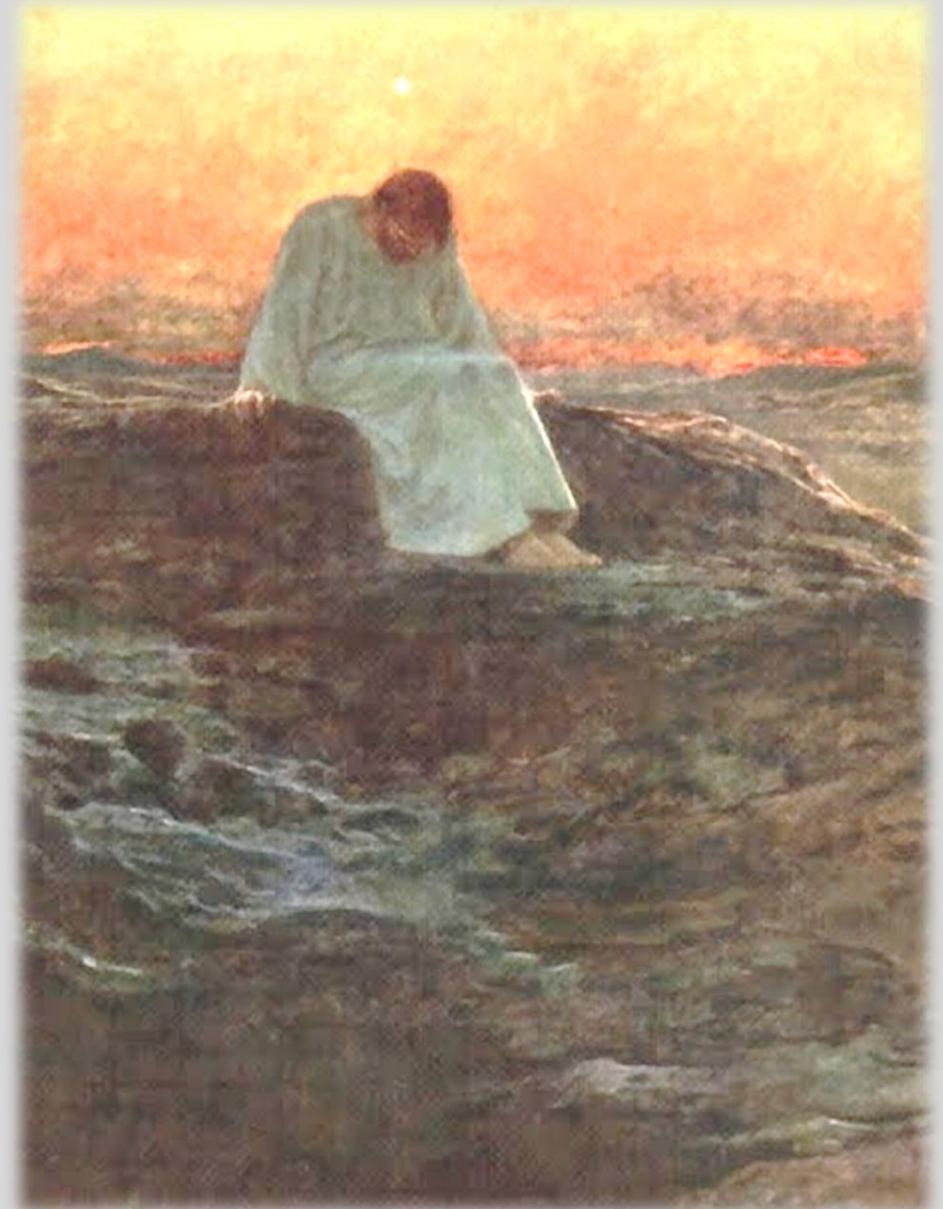
**1Forty days and forty nights  
you were fasting in the wild  
forty days and forty nights  
tempted still, yet unbeguiled.**

**2Sunbeams scorching all the day  
chilly dew-drops nightly shed  
prowling beasts about your way  
stones your pillow, earth your bed.**



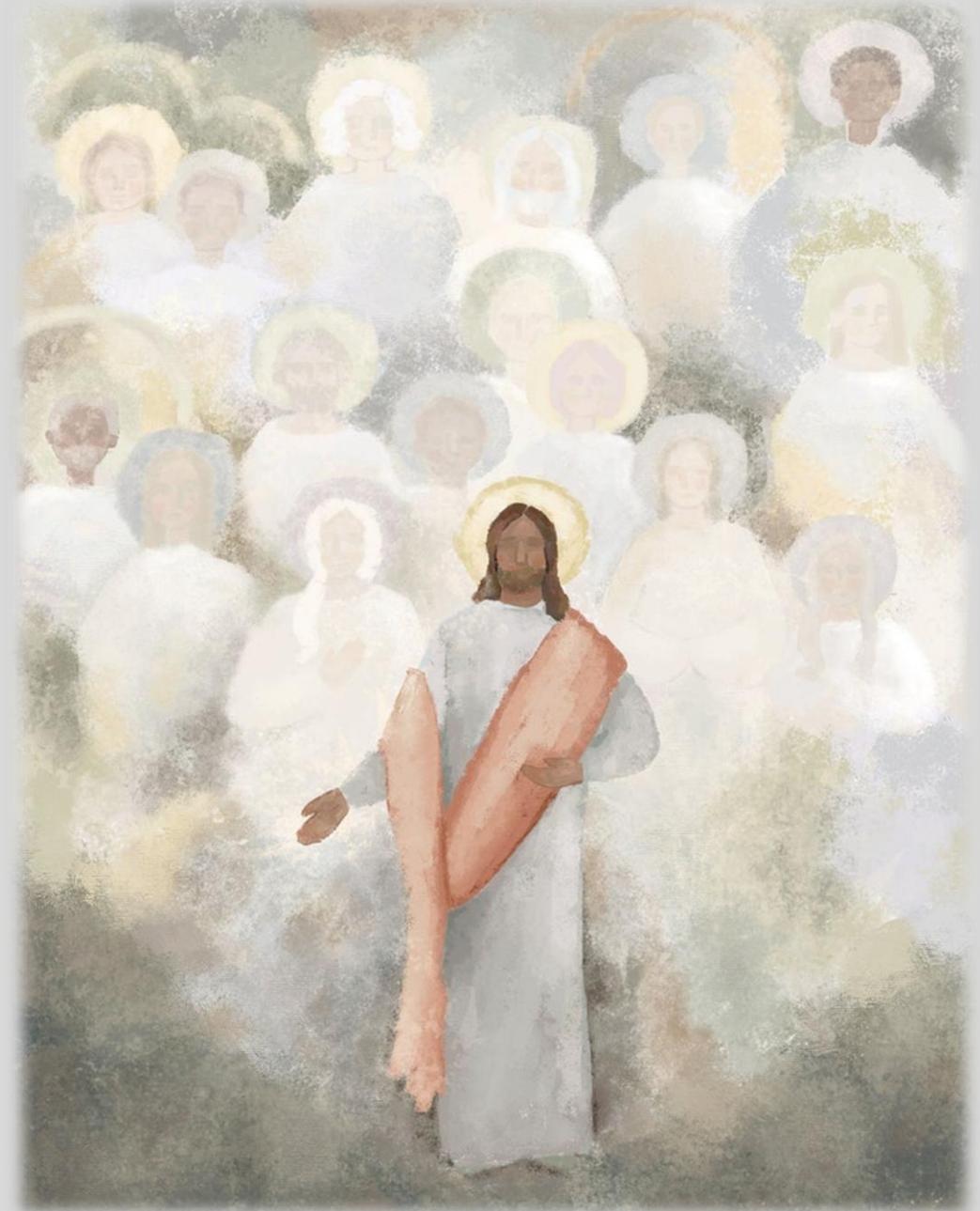
**3 Let us your endurance share  
and from earthly greed abstain  
with you vigilant in prayer  
with you strong to suffer pain.**

**4 Then if evil on us press  
flesh and spirit to assail  
victor in the wilderness  
help us not to swerve or fail.**



**5 So shall peace divine be ours  
holy gladness pure and true  
come to us angelic powers  
such as ministered to you.**

**6 Keep O keep us Saviour dear  
ever constant by your side  
that with you we may appear  
at th'eternal Eastertide.**





Offertory  
and  
thank you prayer



## Children's Talk – 'Snakes and Ladders'



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

Hear these commandments which God has given to his people and examine your hearts.

I am the Lord your God:  
you shall have no other gods but me.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.

**Amen. Lord have mercy**



You shall not make for yourself any idol.

God is spirit and those who worship him  
must worship in spirit and truth.



**Amen. Lord have mercy**

You shall not dishonour  
the name of the Lord your God.

You shall worship him with awe and reverence.



**Amen. Lord have mercy**

Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.

Christ is risen from the dead:  
set your minds on things that are above,  
not on things that are on earth.



**Amen. Lord have mercy**

Honour your father and mother.

Live as servants of God:

let us work for the good of all,  
especially members of the household of faith.

Members of the  
Household of God



**Amen. Lord have mercy**

You shall not commit murder.

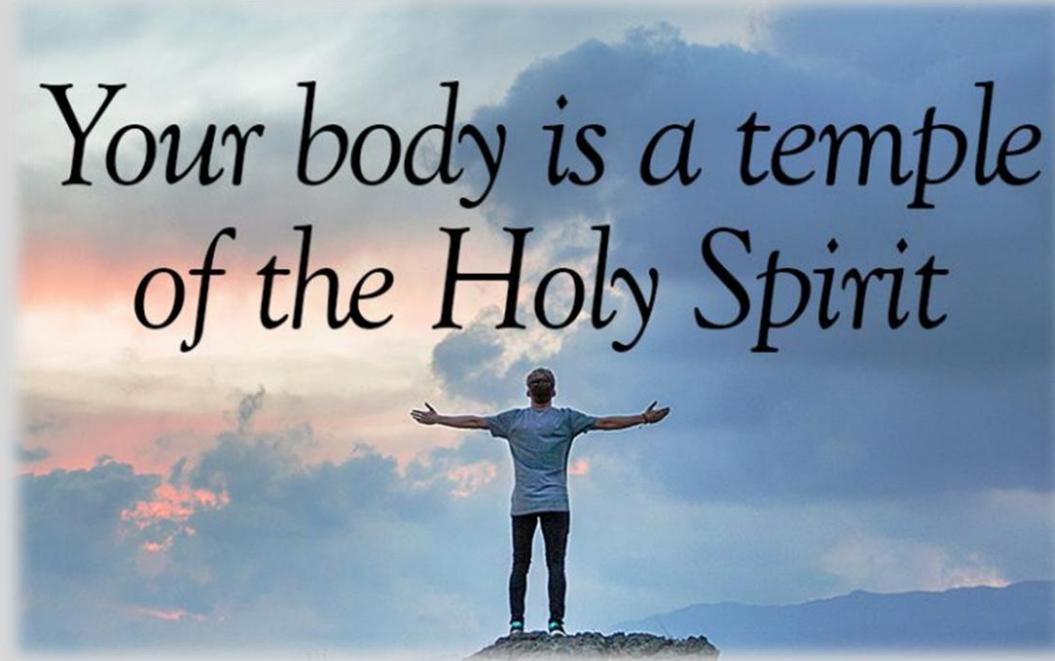
Live peaceably with all:  
overcome evil with good.



**Amen. Lord have mercy**

You shall not commit adultery.

Know that your body  
is a temple of the Holy Spirit.



**Amen. Lord have mercy**

You shall not steal.

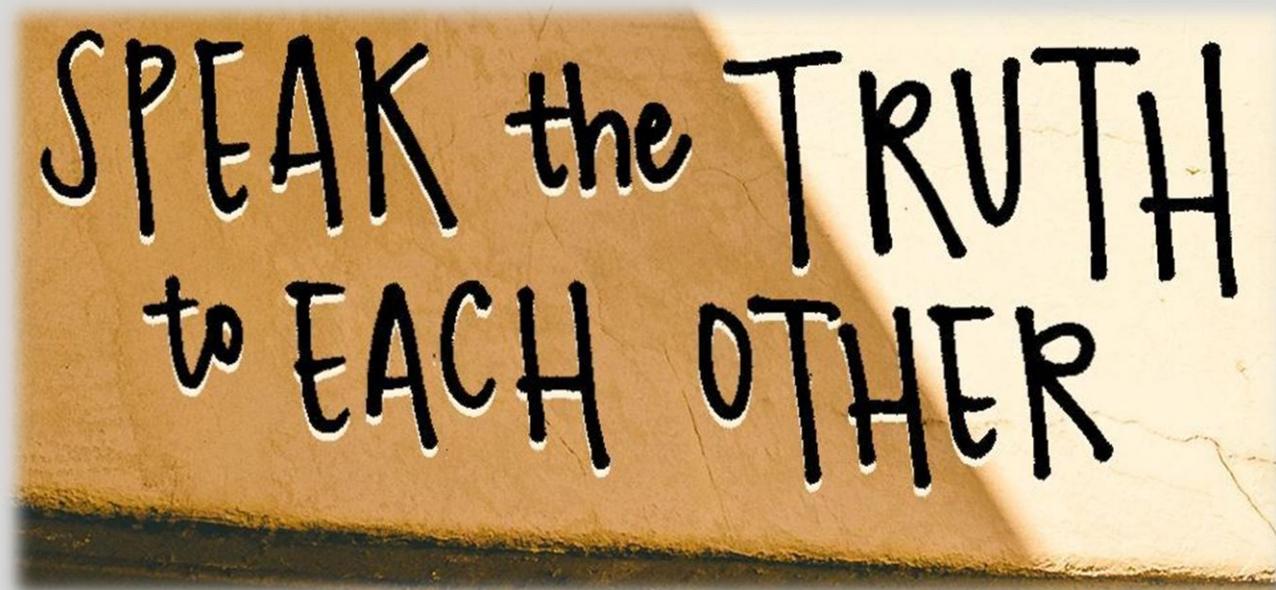
Be honest in all that you do  
and care for those in need .

**honest.**

**Amen. Lord have mercy**

You shall not be a false witness.

Let everyone speak the truth.



**Amen. Lord have mercy**

You shall not covet anything  
which belongs to your neighbour.

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus  
'It is more blessed to give than to receive'  
Love your neighbour as yourself,  
for love is fulfilling the law.

**Amen. Lord have mercy**

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit:  
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.  
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion  
and acknowledge our transgressions  
in penitence and faith.



**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.**

**Lord, have mercy.** x2

**Christ, have mercy.** x2

**Lord, have mercy.** x2

May Almighty God,  
who sent his Son into  
the world to save sinners  
bring you his pardon  
and peace, now and forever.

**Amen**



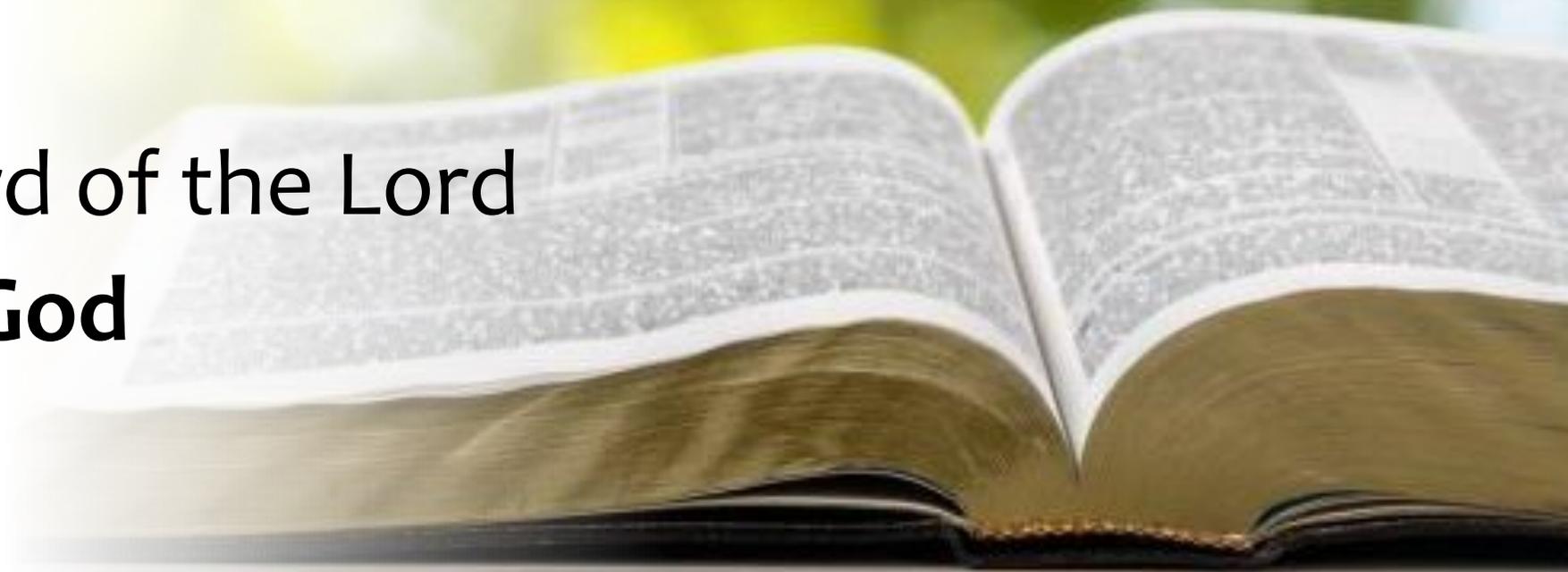
## The Collect Prayer for today

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert:  
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

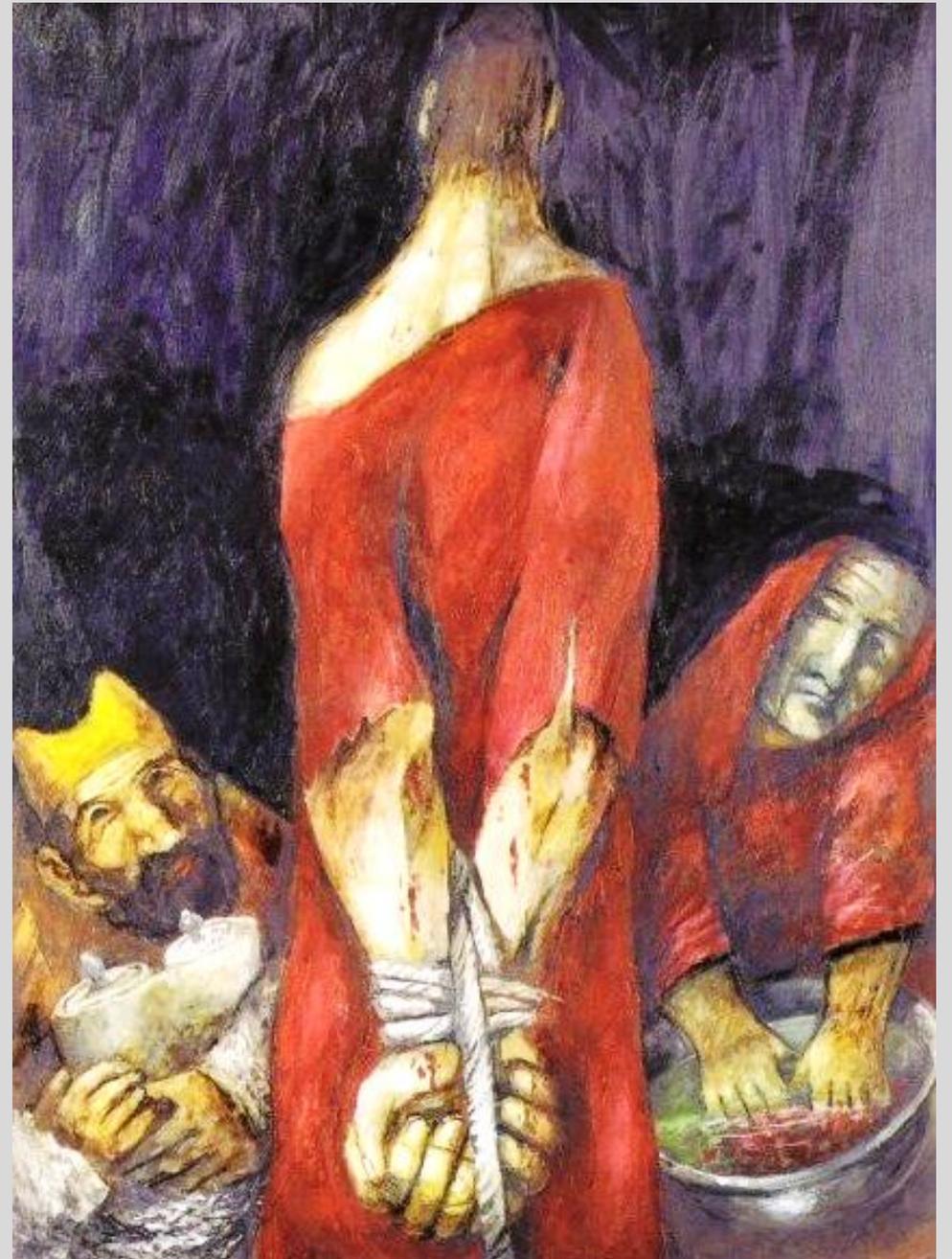
Genesis 2: 15-17  
3: 1-7

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



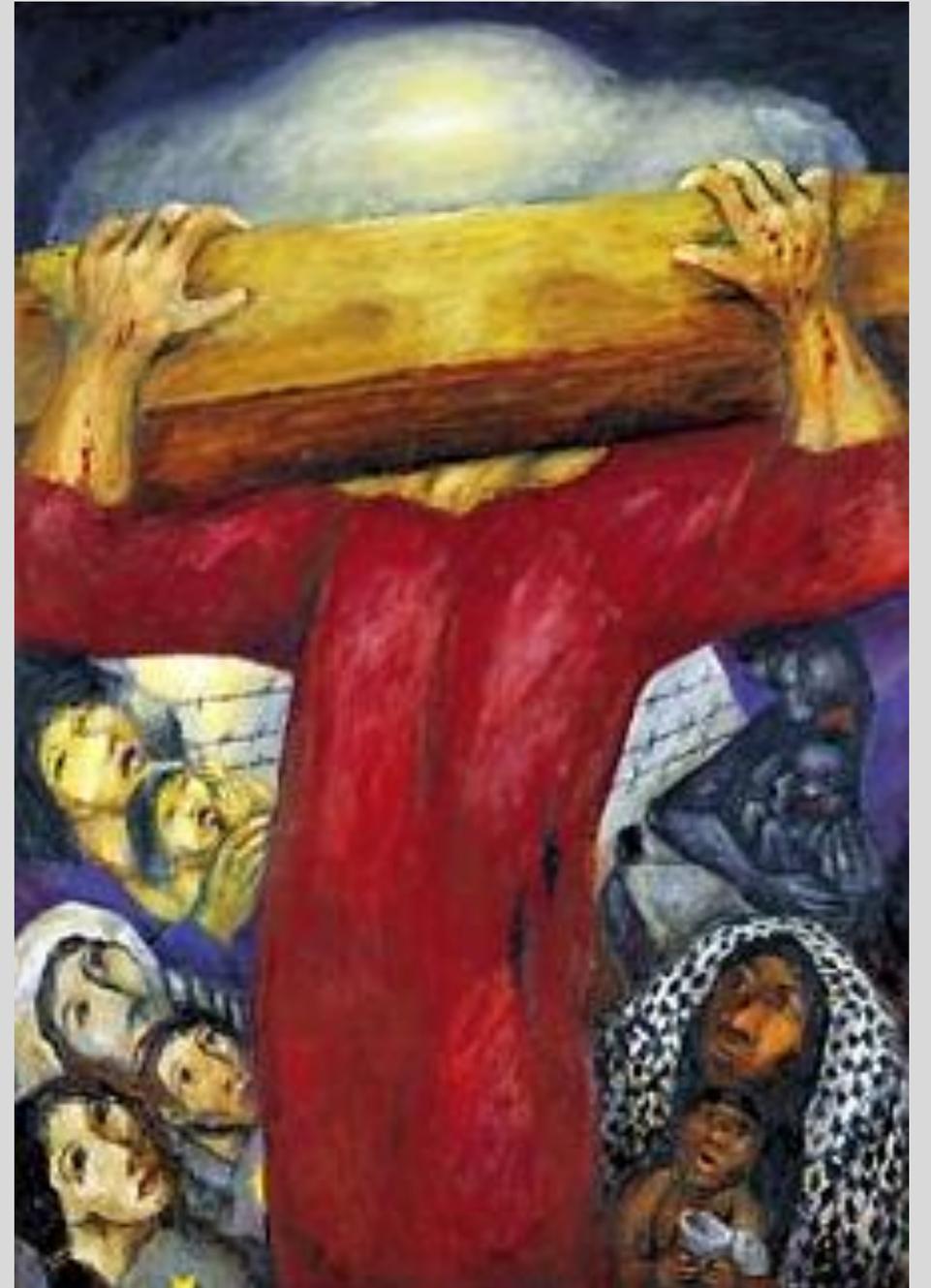
**1 Glory be to Jesus  
who, in bitter pains  
poured for me the lifeblood  
from his sacred veins.**

**2 Grace and life eternal  
in that blood I find  
blest be his compassion  
infinitely kind.**



**3** Blest, through endless ages  
be the precious stream  
which, from endless torment  
did the world redeem.

**4** There the fainting spirit  
drinks of life her fill  
there, as in a fountain  
laves herself at will.



**5 Abel's blood for vengeance  
pleaded to the skies,  
but the blood of Jesus  
for our pardon cries.**

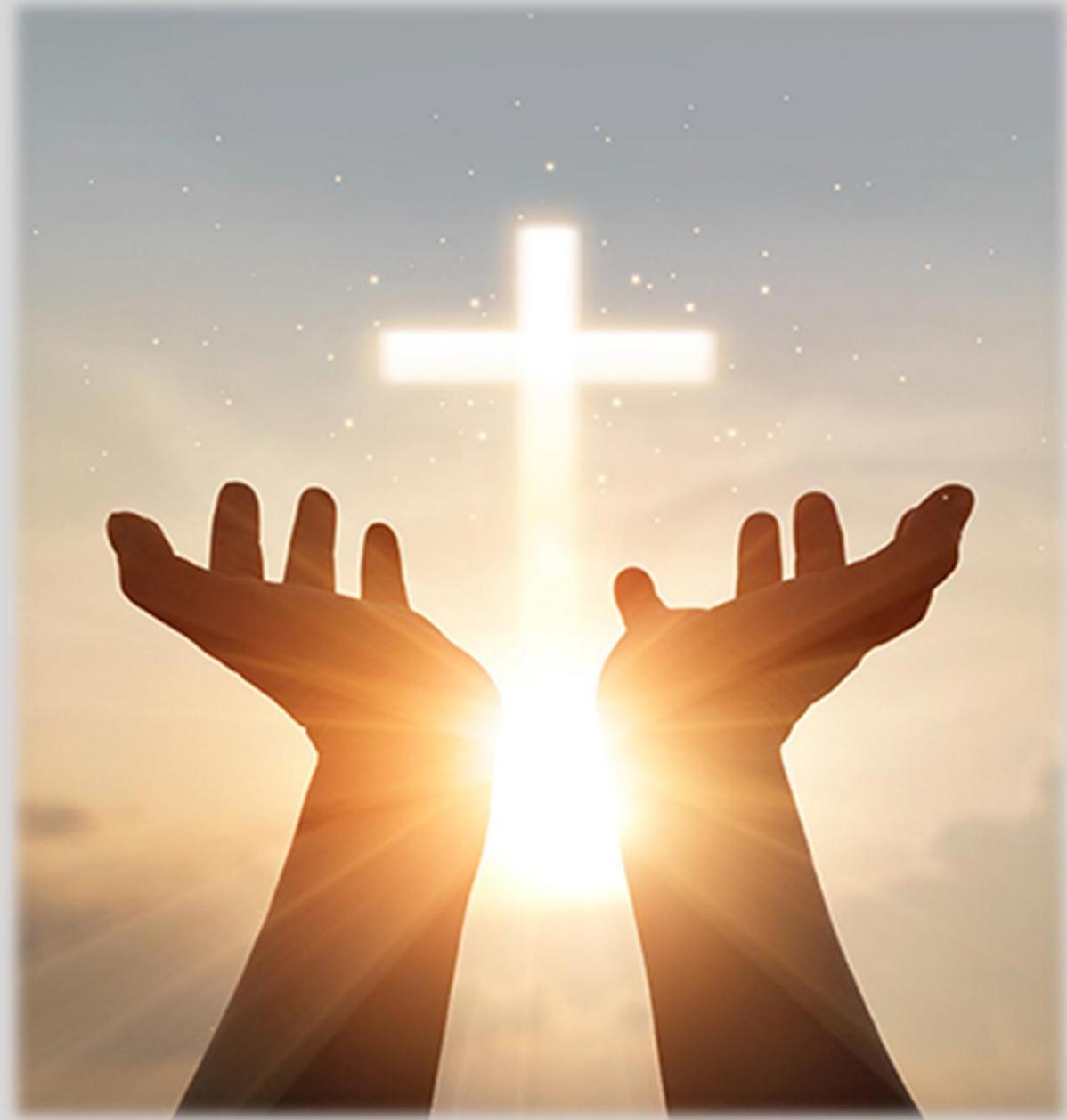
**6 Oft as it is sprinkled  
on our guilty hearts  
Satan in confusion  
terror struck departs.**



**7 Oft as earth exulting  
wafts its praise on high  
angel hosts rejoicing  
make their glad reply.**

**8 Lift then, all your voices  
swell the mighty flood  
louder still and louder  
praise the precious blood.**

4/4 18<sup>th</sup> century trans. Edward Caswall (1814-1878)

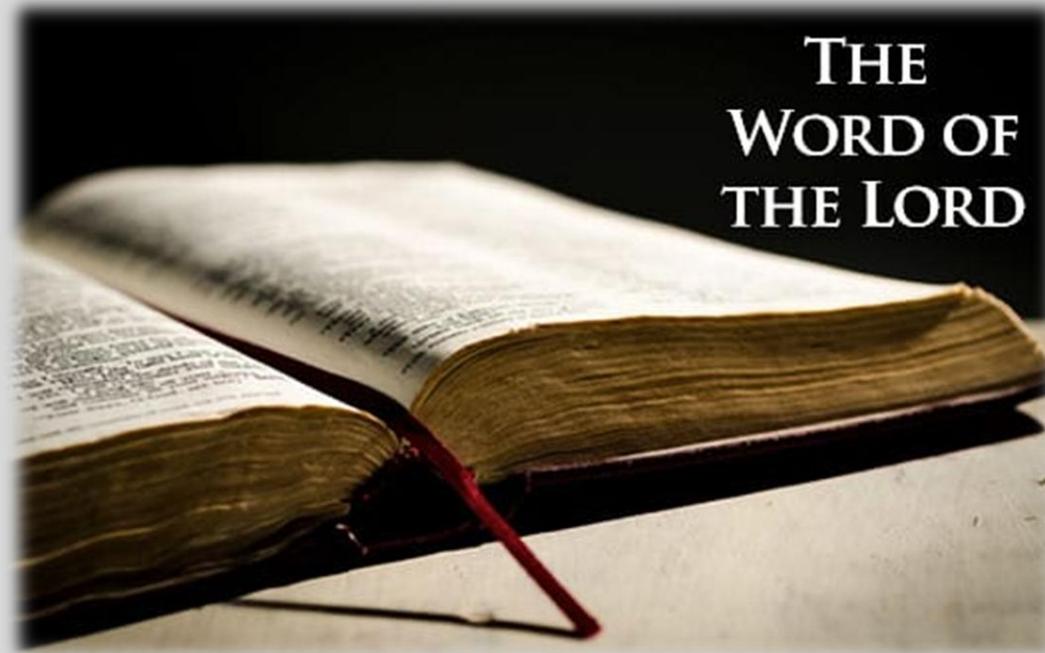


Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Lord is a great God,

O that today you would listen to his voice.

Harden not your hearts.



**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

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

Matthew 4 : 1 - 11

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





Sermon – ‘Temptation, testing and choices’

# The Creed

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God  
**Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God  
but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and  
was obedient to death, even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore, God has raised him on high  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen**

# Prayers of Intercession

Final Response

Merciful Father-

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



# The Peace

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace. The peace of the Lord be always with you



**and also with you.**

**1 O for a closer walk with God  
a calm and heav'nly frame  
a light to shine upon the road  
that leads me to the Lamb.**

**2 What peaceful hours I once enjoyed  
how sweet their mem'ry still  
but they have left an aching void  
the world can never fill.**



**3 The dearest idol I have known  
whate'er that idol be  
help me to tear it from thy throne  
and worship only thee.**

**4 So shall my walk be close with God  
calm and serene my frame  
so purer light shall mark the road  
that leads me to the Lamb.**





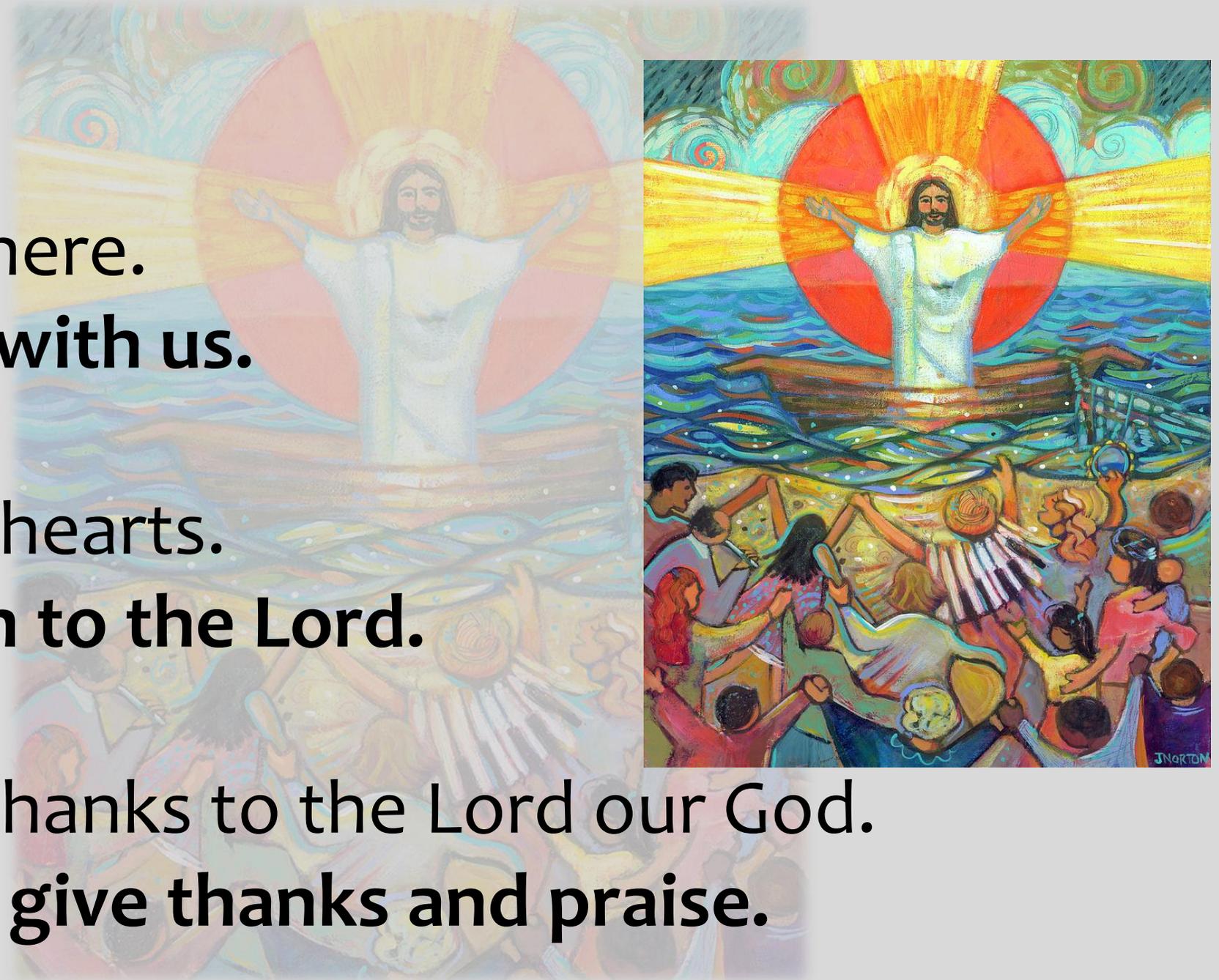
Pour upon the poverty of our love  
and the weakness of our praise,  
the transforming fire of your presence.

**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 indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
Almighty God and Everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.

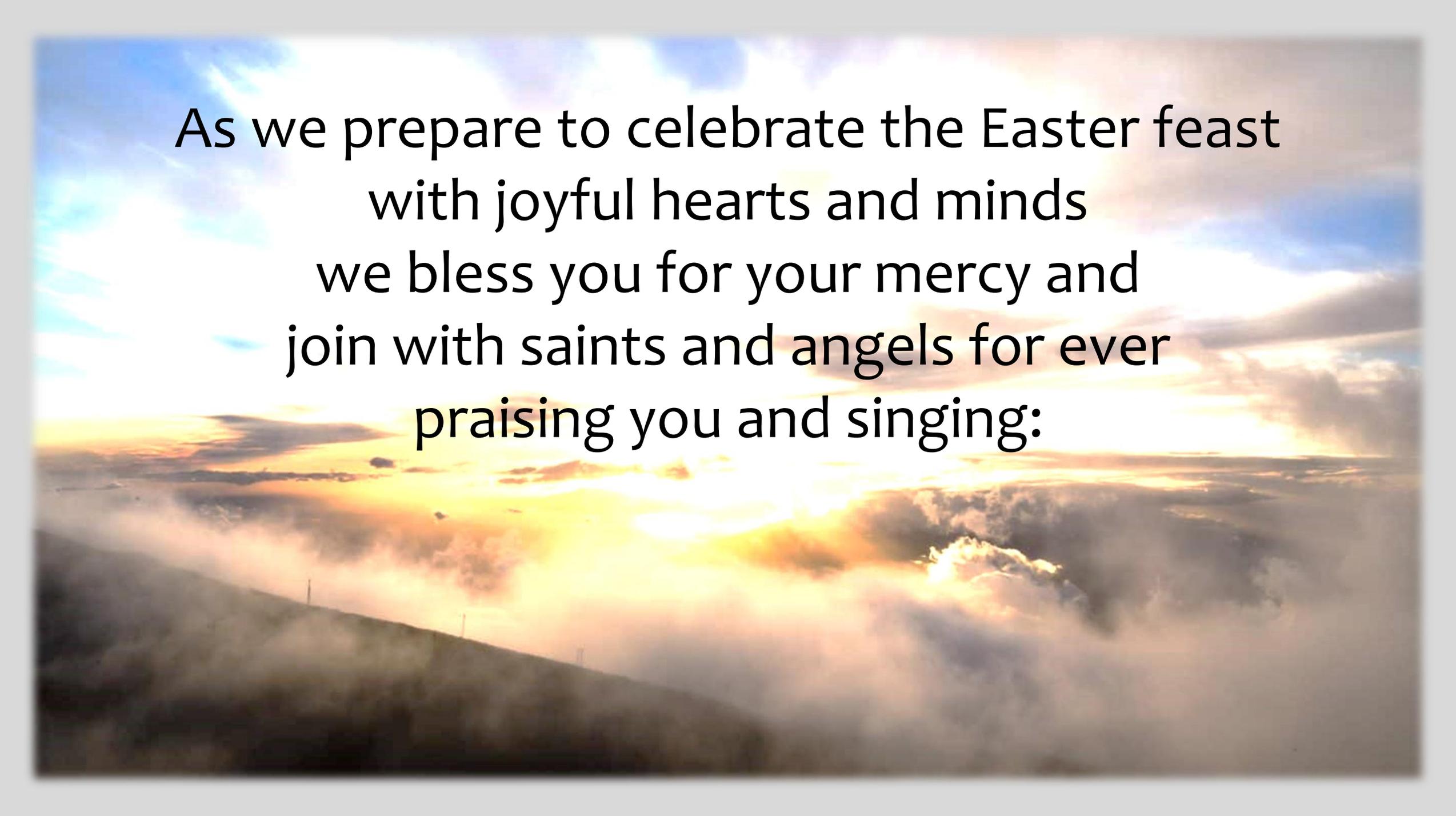


For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of  
repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer  
and discipline we may grow in grace  
and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service  
you bring us back to your generous heart.



Through study of your holy word  
you open our eyes to your presence in the world  
and free our hands to welcome others into the  
radiant splendour of your love.

A dramatic landscape at sunrise or sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright sunburst that breaks through a thick layer of white and grey clouds. The sky above is a mix of blue and white. In the foreground, a dark, silhouetted hillside slopes down from the left. The overall mood is serene and hopeful.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast  
with joyful hearts and minds  
we bless you for your mercy and  
join with saints and angels for ever  
praising you and singing:

**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.**





Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us  
the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ:

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks,  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:



Take eat; this is my body which is given for you  
do this in remembrance of me

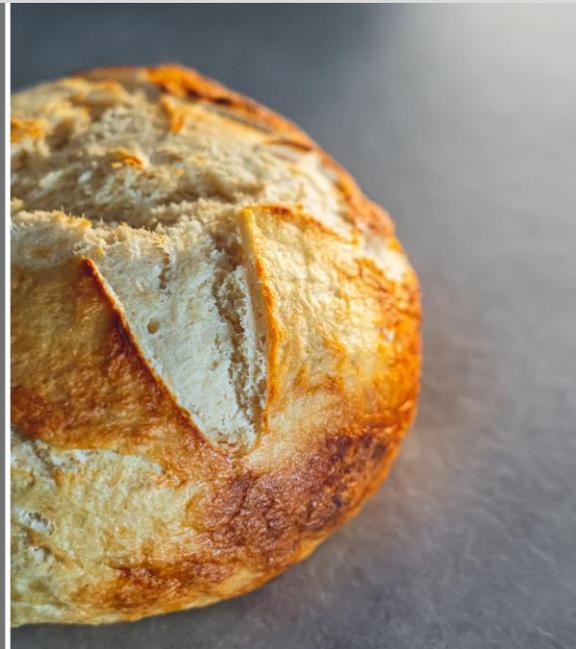
In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: drink this all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.



Christ is the bread of life:

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death,  
Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.**

I Am the  
Bread of  
Life





And so Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the  
whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection  
and glorious ascension  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise  
and thanksgiving, we bring before you  
this bread and this cup and we thank you for  
counting us worthy to stand  
in your presence and serve you.



Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into  
one in your kingdom all who share this one bread  
and one cup, so that we, in the company of  
all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom and with whom and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
all honour and glory be yours  
Almighty Father, 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**

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who  
takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are  
called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to  
receive you but only say the  
word and I shall be healed.**





**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 from 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**

We sing together –

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

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

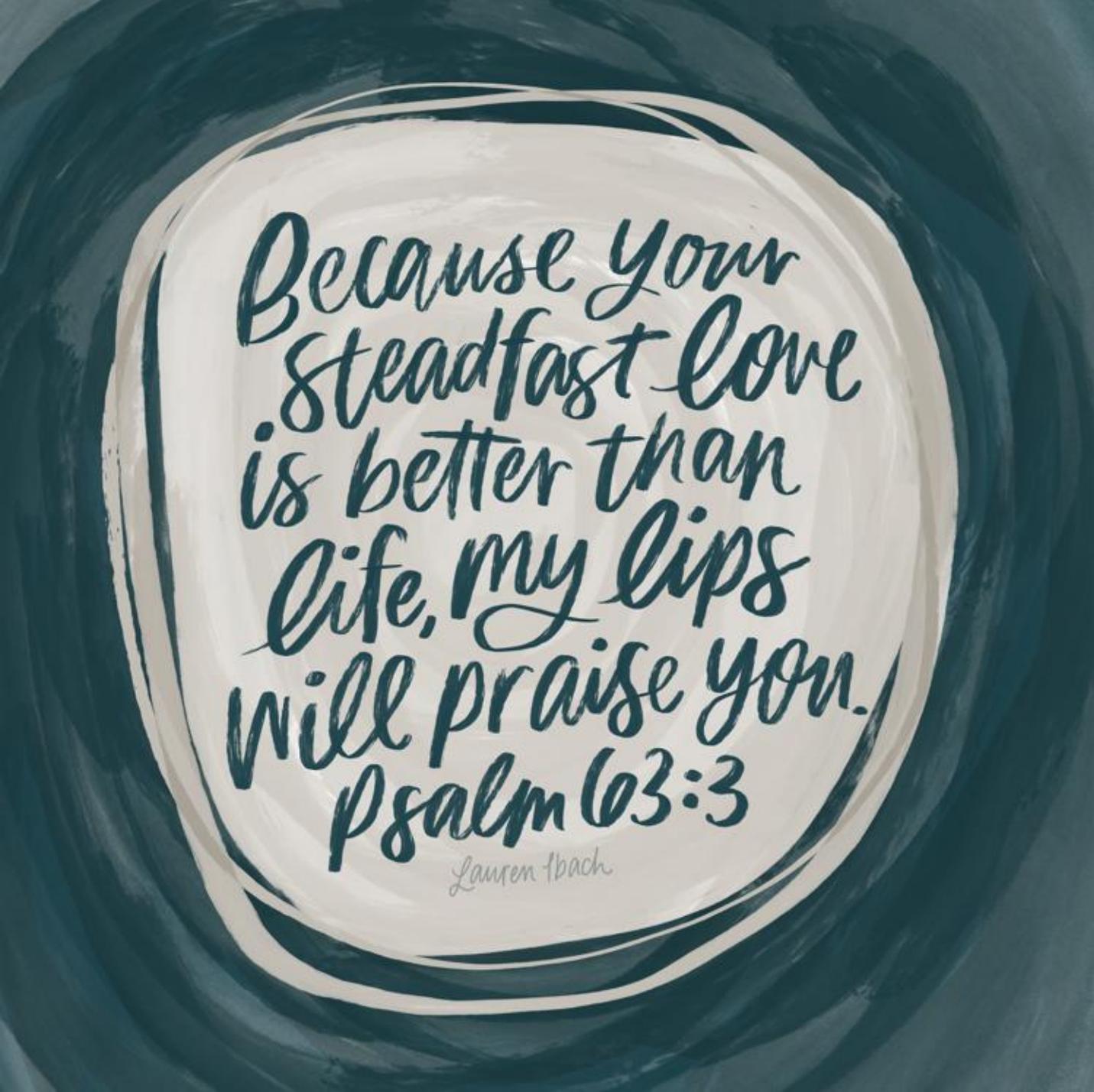
**Jesus, Redeemer of the world  
give us your peace.**





# Jesus the Bread of Life

Receiving the bread and wine



Because your  
steadfast love  
is better than  
life, my lips  
will praise you.  
psalm 63:3  
*Lauren Abach*

Anthem

‘Your love is  
finer than life’

Marty Haugen



# Jesus the Bread of Life

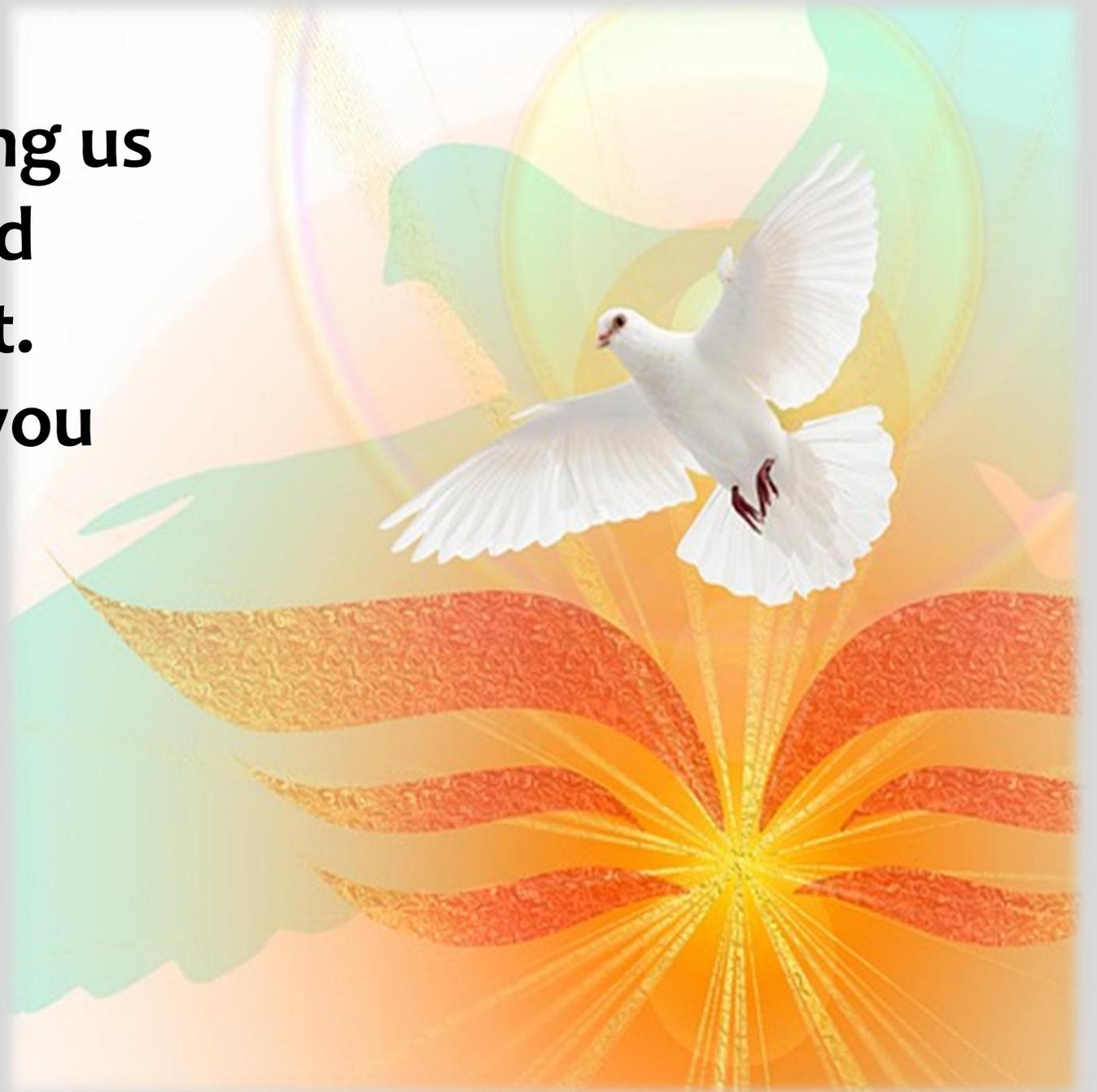
Receiving the bread and wine

## Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, you have renewed us with  
the living bread from heaven;  
by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope,  
and strengthen our love:  
teach us always to hunger for him who is  
the true and living bread and enable us to live  
by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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**

**1 Jesus, lover of my soul  
let me to thy bosom fly  
while the gath'ring waters roll  
while the tempest still is high  
hide me, O my Saviour, hide,  
till the storm of life is past  
safe into the haven guide  
O receive my soul at last.**



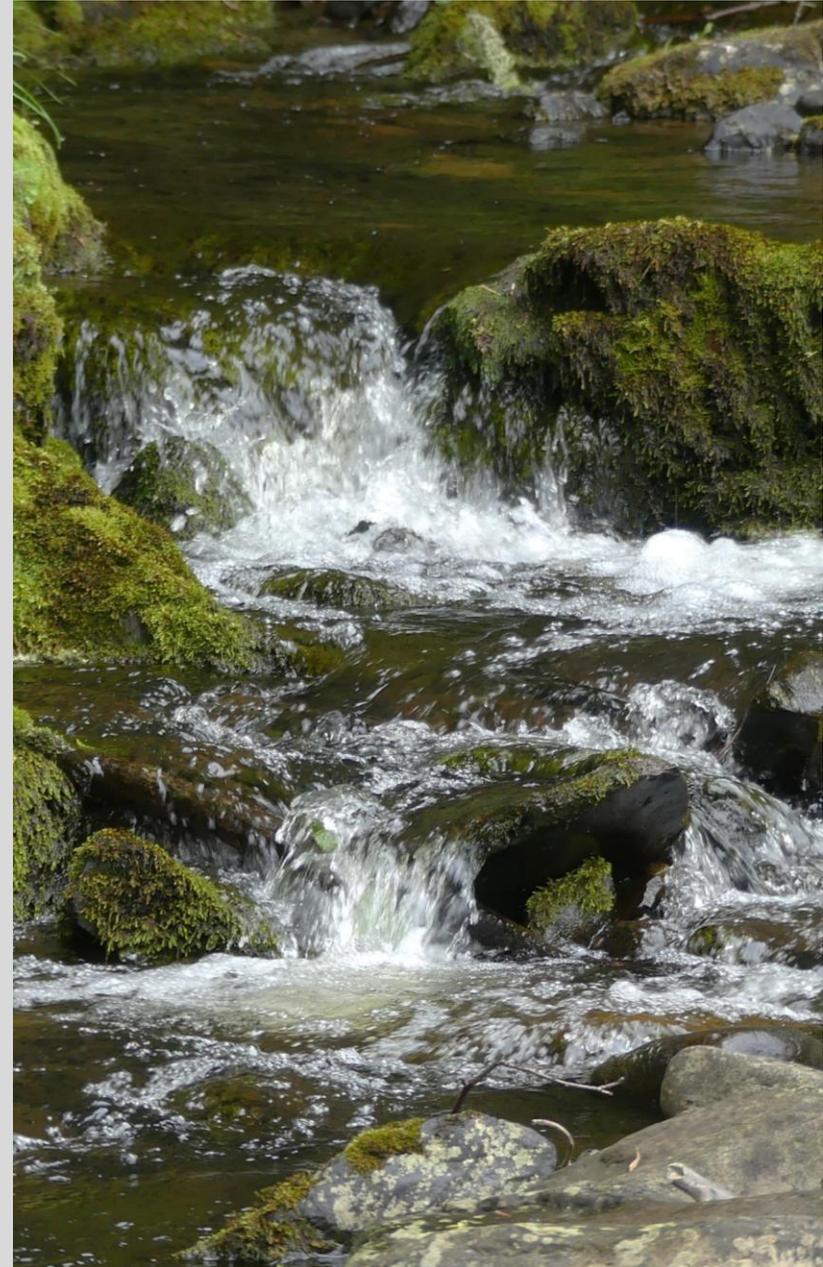
**2 Other refuge have I none  
hangs my helpless soul on thee  
leave, ah, leave me not alone  
still support and comfort me.  
All my trust on thee is stayed  
all my help from thee I bring  
cover my defenceless head  
with the shadow of thy wing.**

2/3



**3 Plenteous grace with thee is found  
grace to cover ev'ry sin  
let the healing streams abound  
make and keep me pure within.  
Thou of life the fountain art  
freely let me take of thee  
spring thou up within my heart  
rise to all eternity.**

3/3 Charles Wesley (1707-1788)



Christ give you the grace to grow  
in holiness to deny yourselves,  
take up your cross and follow him  
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

‘Fugue in B Minor BWB 544’

J S Bach