

Sunday 22nd March 2026

Christ Church with St Mary's

Service of Holy Communion

Theme: Lent 5

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

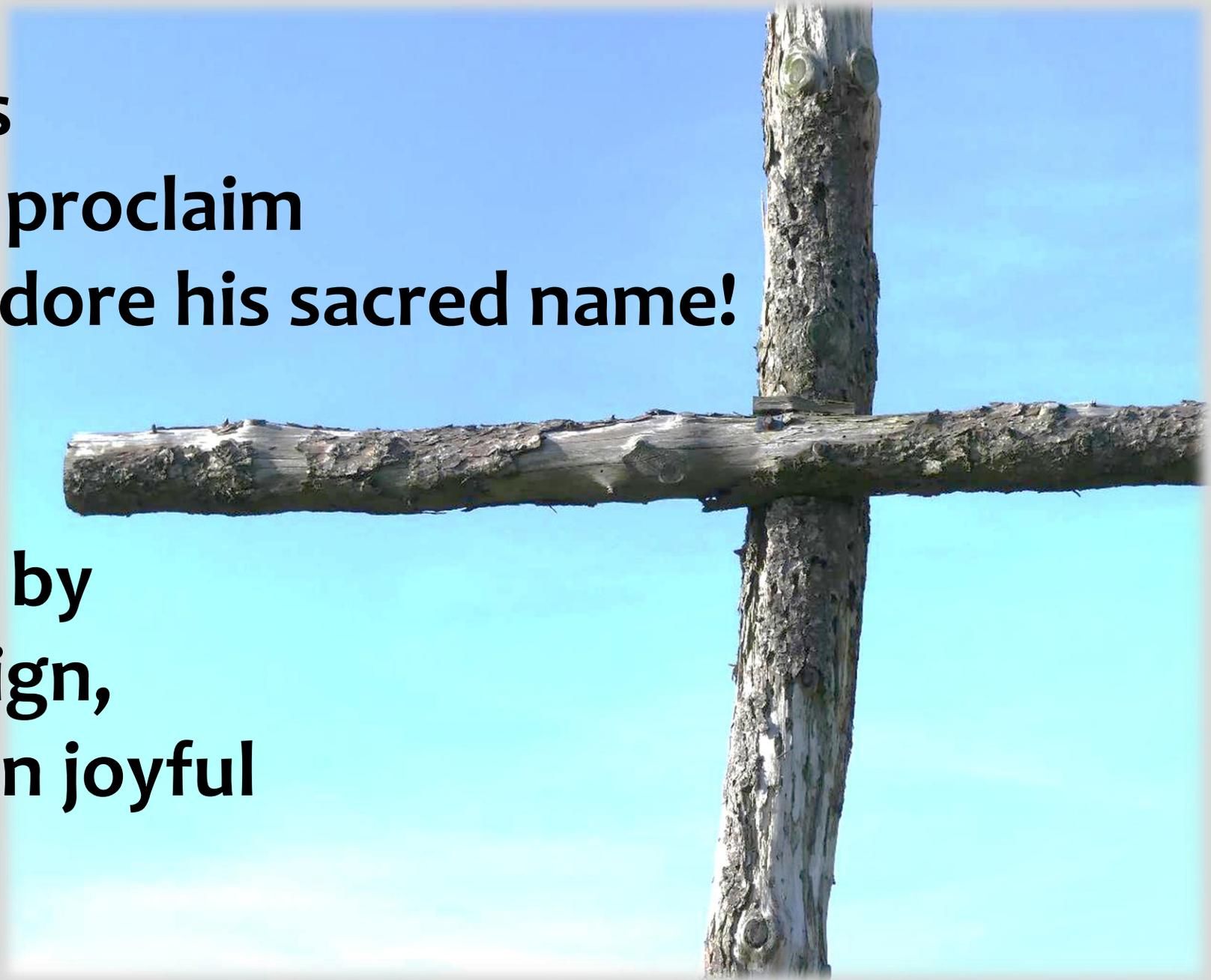
**Lift high the cross
the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name!**

**1 Come Christians follow
where our Saviour trod
o'er death victorious
Christ the Son of God.**



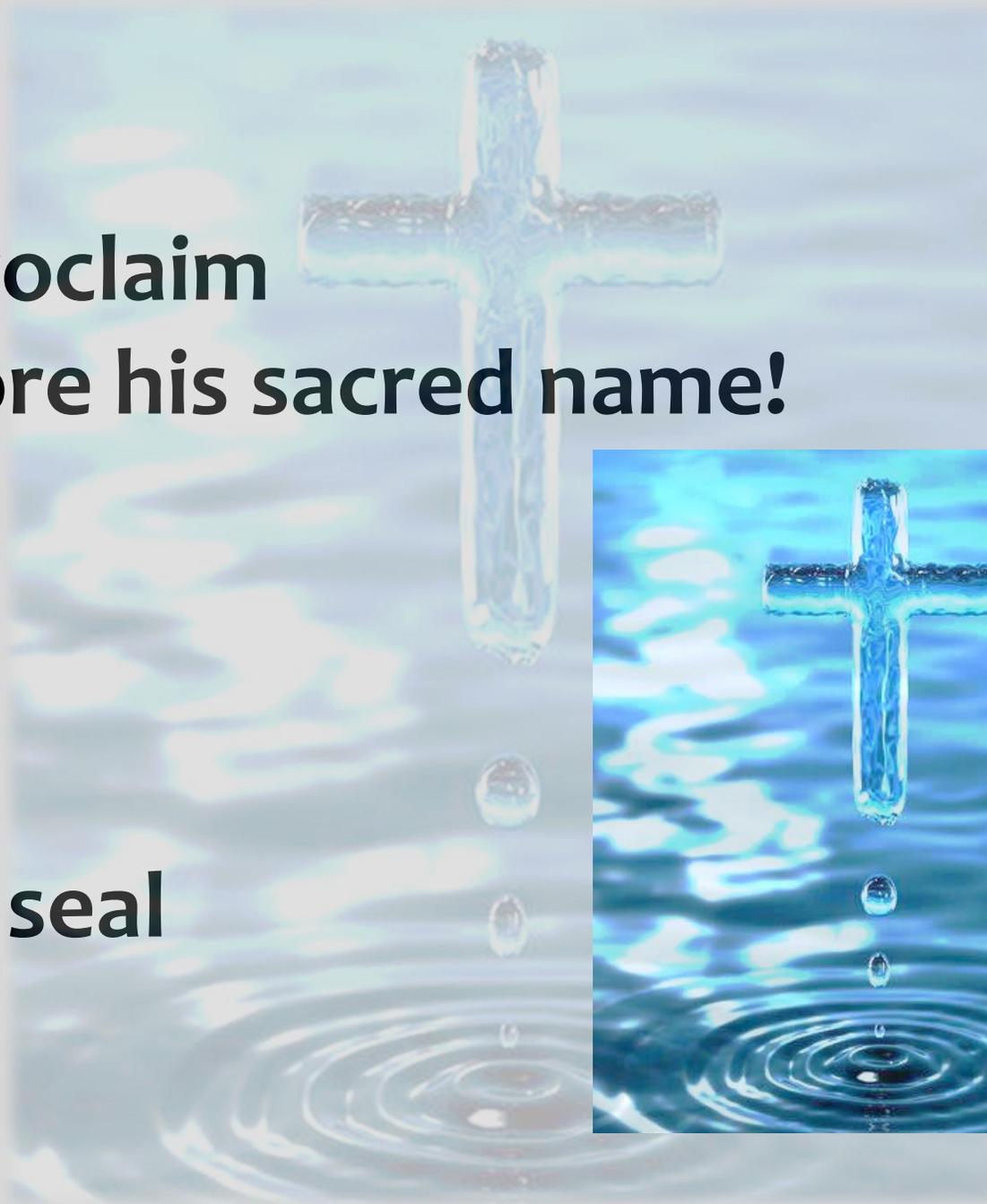
**Lift high the cross
the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name!**

**2 Led on their way by
this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in joyful
praise combine:**



**Lift high the cross
the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name!**

**₃ Each new disciple
of the Crucified
is called to bear the seal
of him who died:**



**Lift high the cross
the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore
his sacred name!**

**4 Saved by the cross
whereon their Lord was slain
now Adam's children
their lost home regain:**



**Lift high the cross
the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore
his sacred name!**

**5 From north and south
from east and west they raise
in growing harmony
their song of praise:**



**Lift high the cross
the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world
adore his sacred name!**

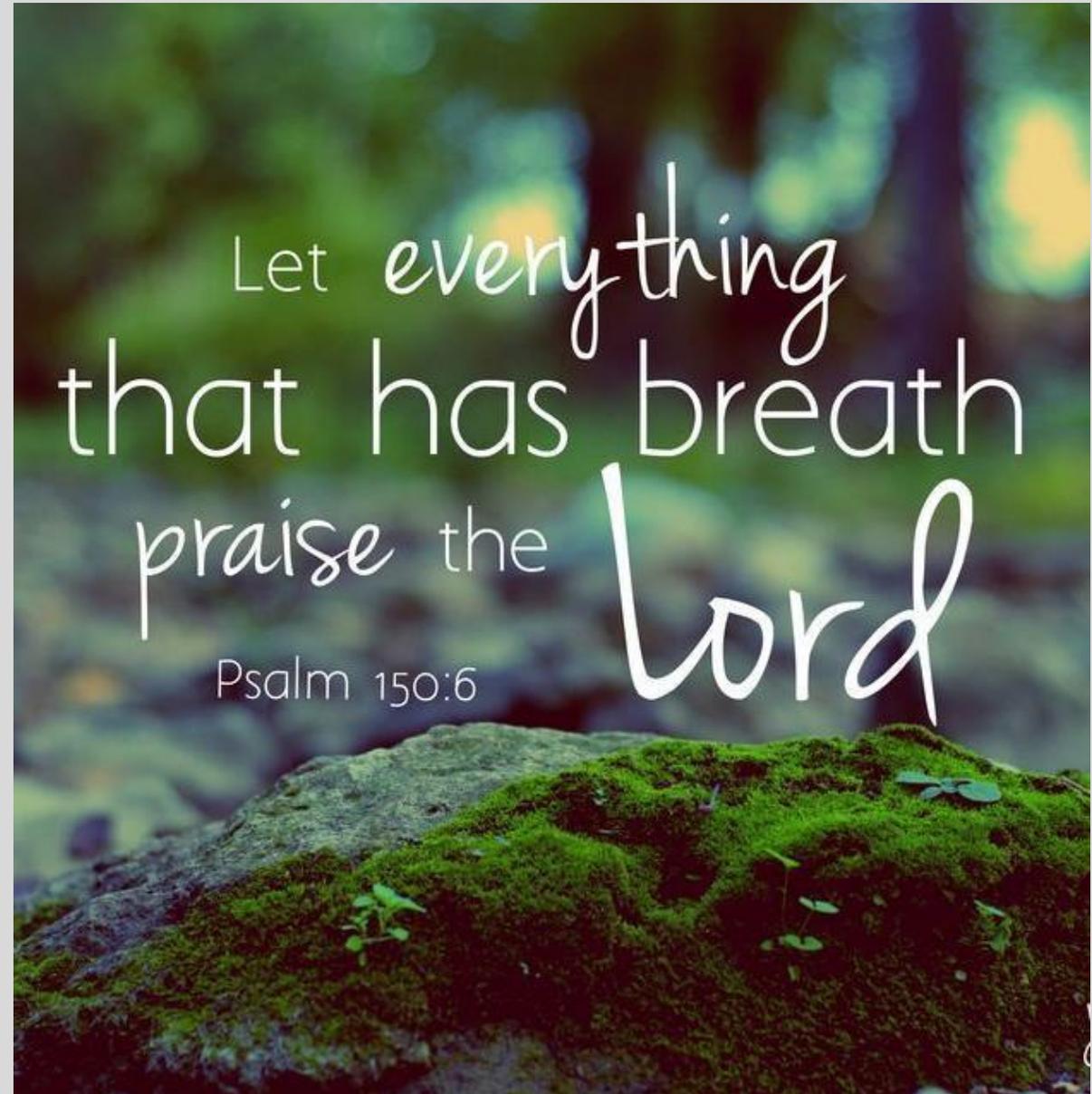
**¹⁰For thy blest Cross
which doth for all atone
creation's praises rise
before thy throne.**



**Lift high the cross
the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world
adore his sacred name!**

**¹¹So let the world
proclaim with one accord
the praise of our
ever-living Lord.**

7/7 George W. Kitchen (1827-1912) and Michael R. Newbolt (1874-1956)





Offertory
and
thank you prayer



Children's Talk – 'Jesus is with us'



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.

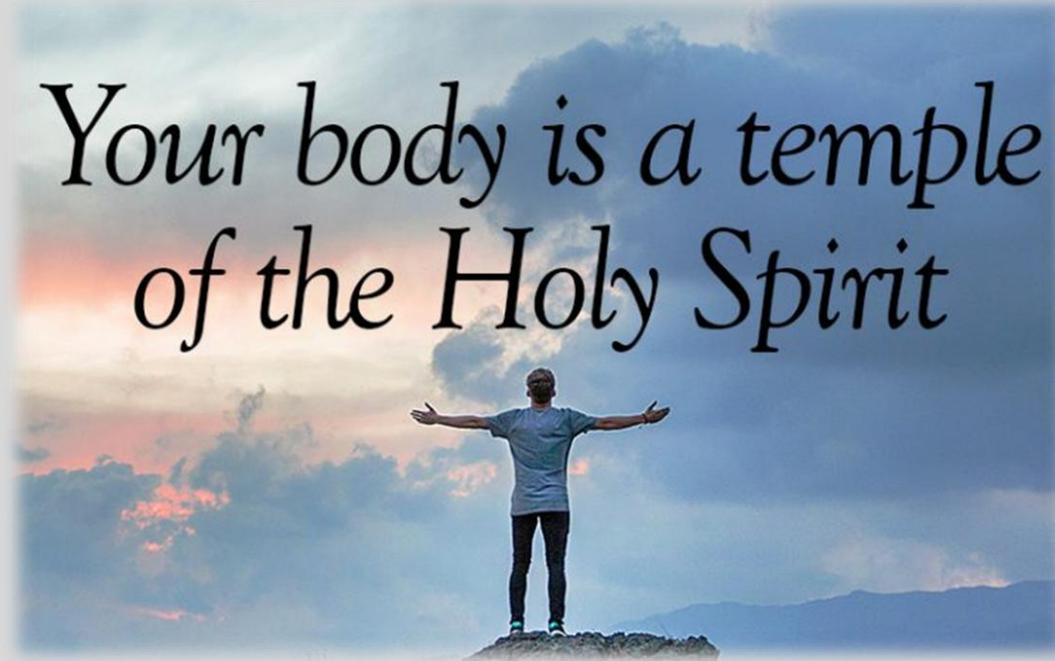
Live peaceably with all:
overcome evil with good.



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.

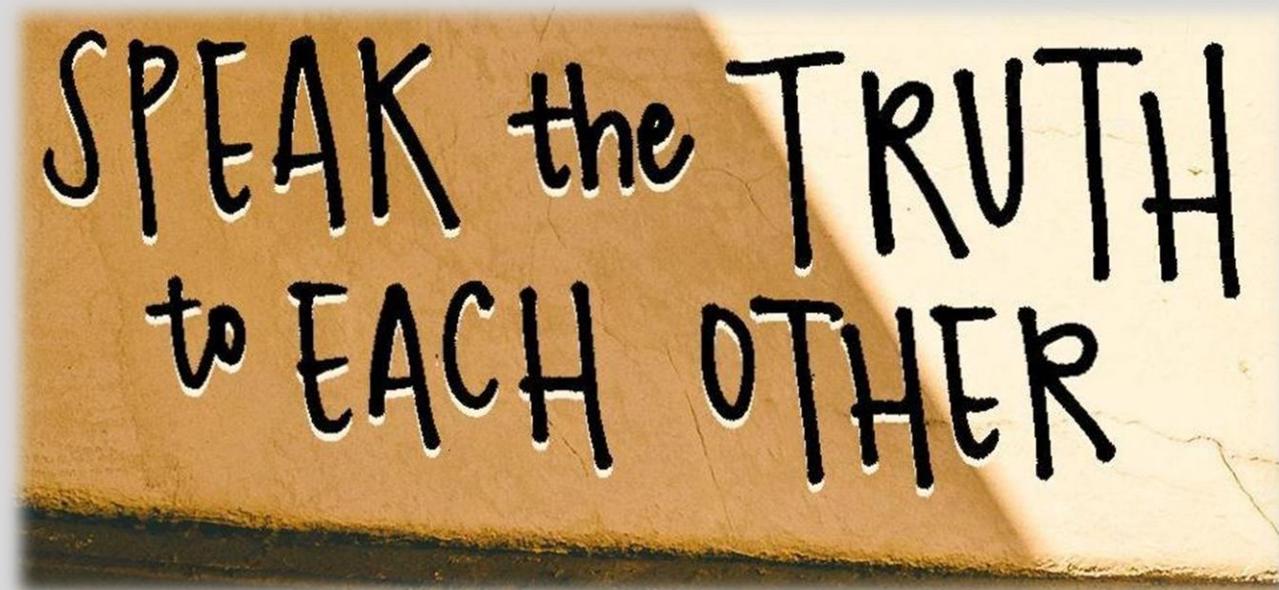
Be honest in all that you do
and care for those in need .

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



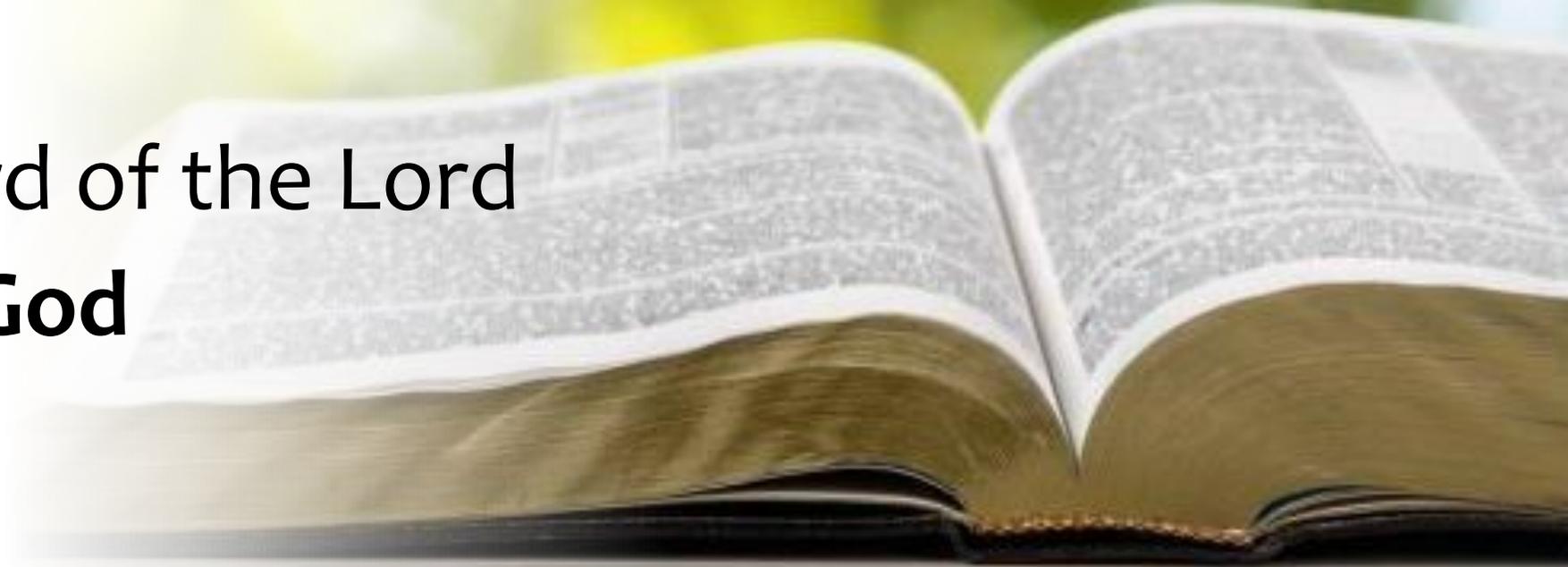
The Collect Prayer for today

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son out of love for the world:
lead us to follow the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

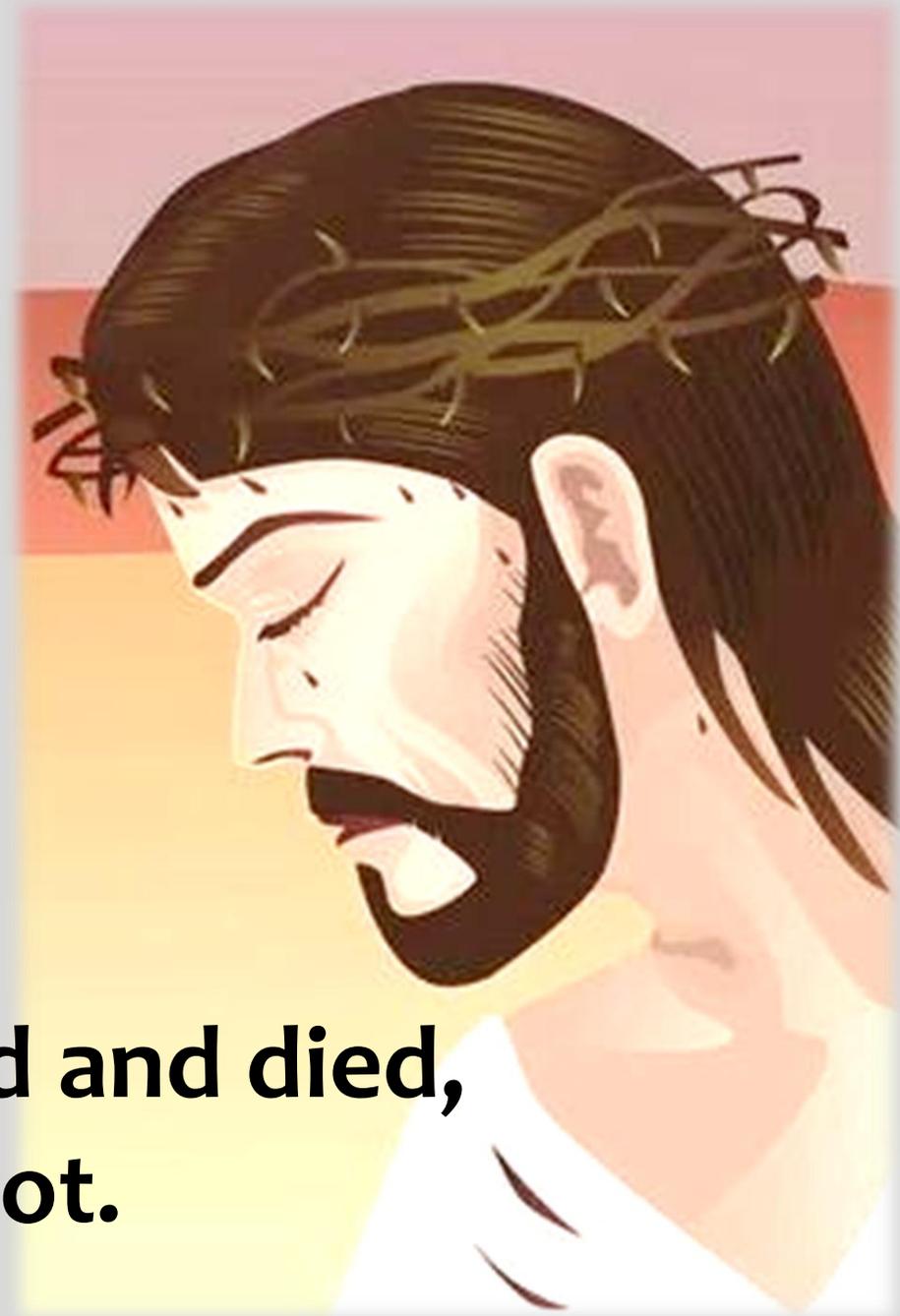
Ezekiel 37: 1 - 14

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God



**1 It is a thing most wonderful
almost too wonderful to be
that God's own Son should
come from heav'n
and die to save a child like me.**

**2 And yet I know that it is true:
he chose a poor and humble lot
and wept and toiled, and mourned and died,
for love of those who loved him not.**



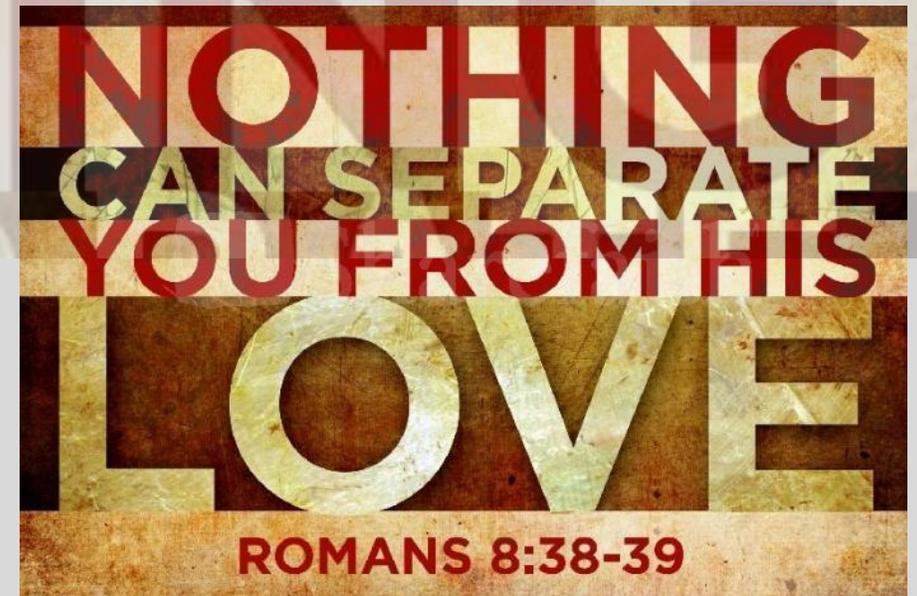
**3 I cannot tell how he could love
a child so weak and full of sin;
his love must be most wonderful
if he could die my love to win.**

**4 I sometimes think about the cross
and shut my eyes, and try to see
the cruel nails, and crown of thorns
and Jesus crucified for me.**



**5 But, even could I see him die,
I could but see a little part
of that great love which, like a fire,
is always burning in his heart.**

**6 It is most wonderful to know
his love for me so free and sure
but tis more wonderful to see
my love for him so faint and poor.**



**7And yet I want to love you, Lord:
O light the flame within my heart
and I will love thee more and more
until I see thee as thou art.**

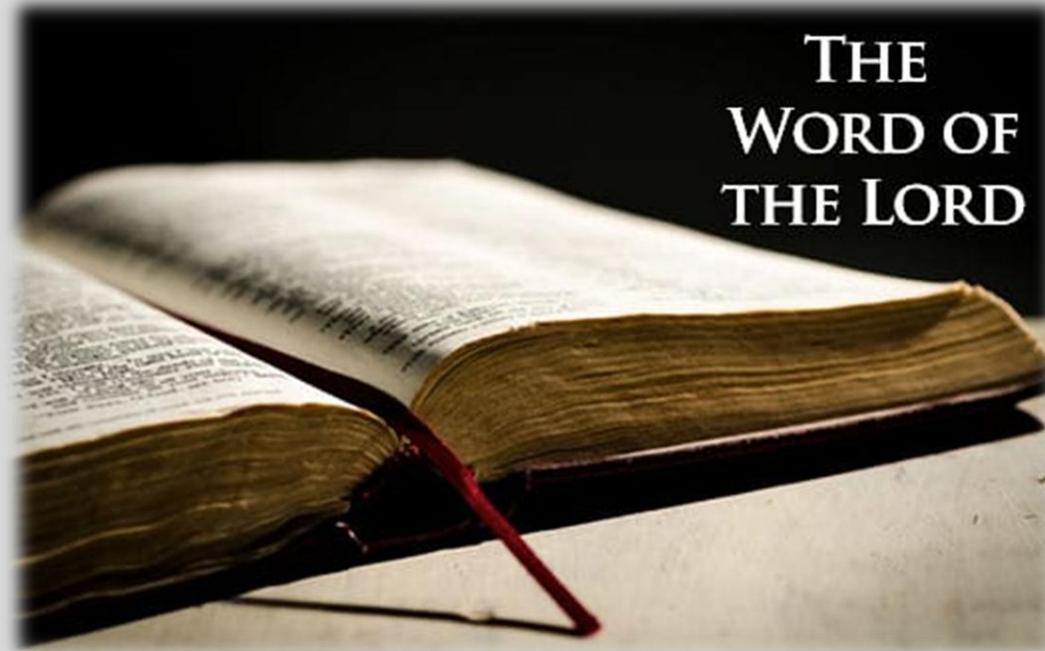


Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Lord is a great God,

O that today you would listen to his voice.

Harden not your hearts.



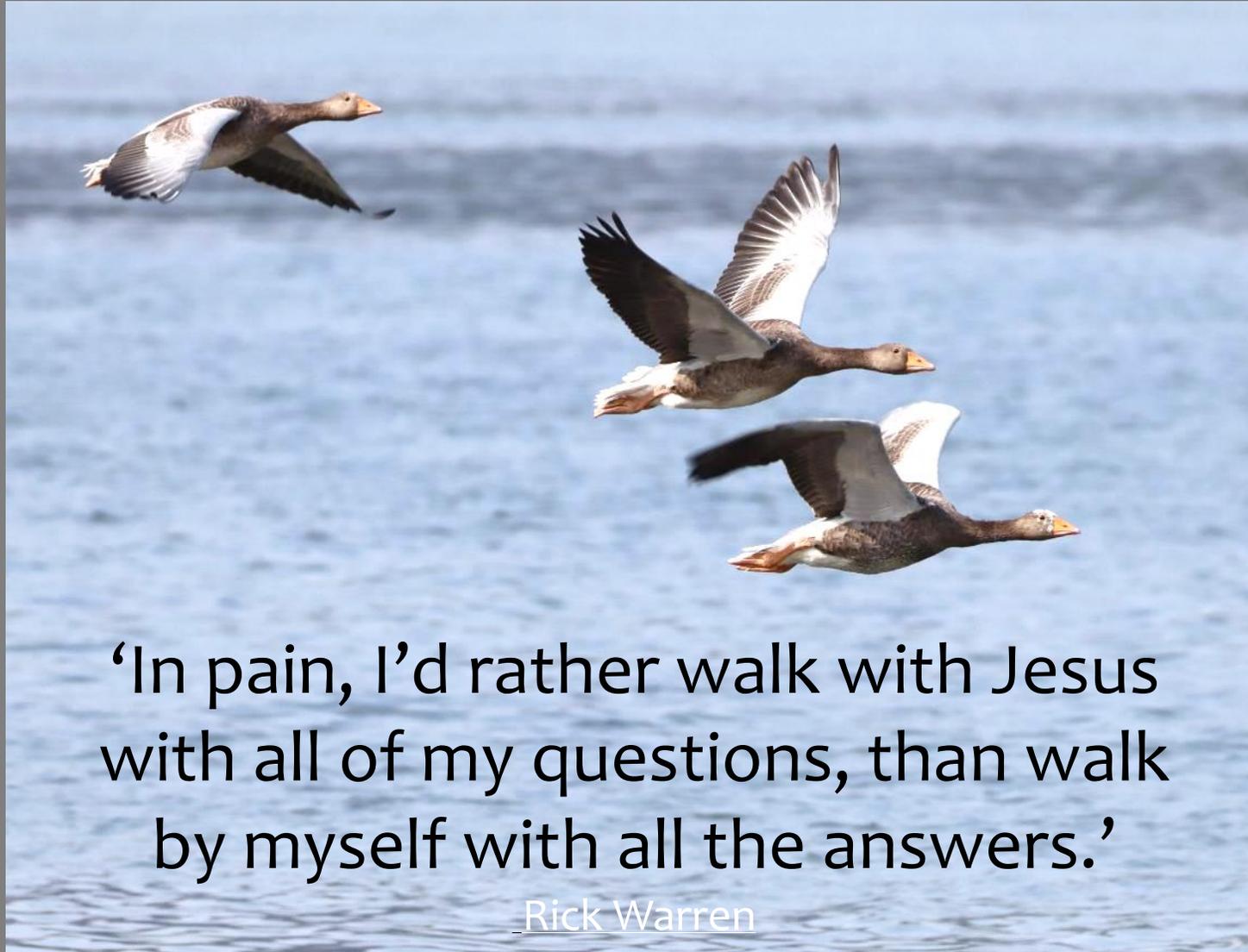
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

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

John 11 : 1 - 45

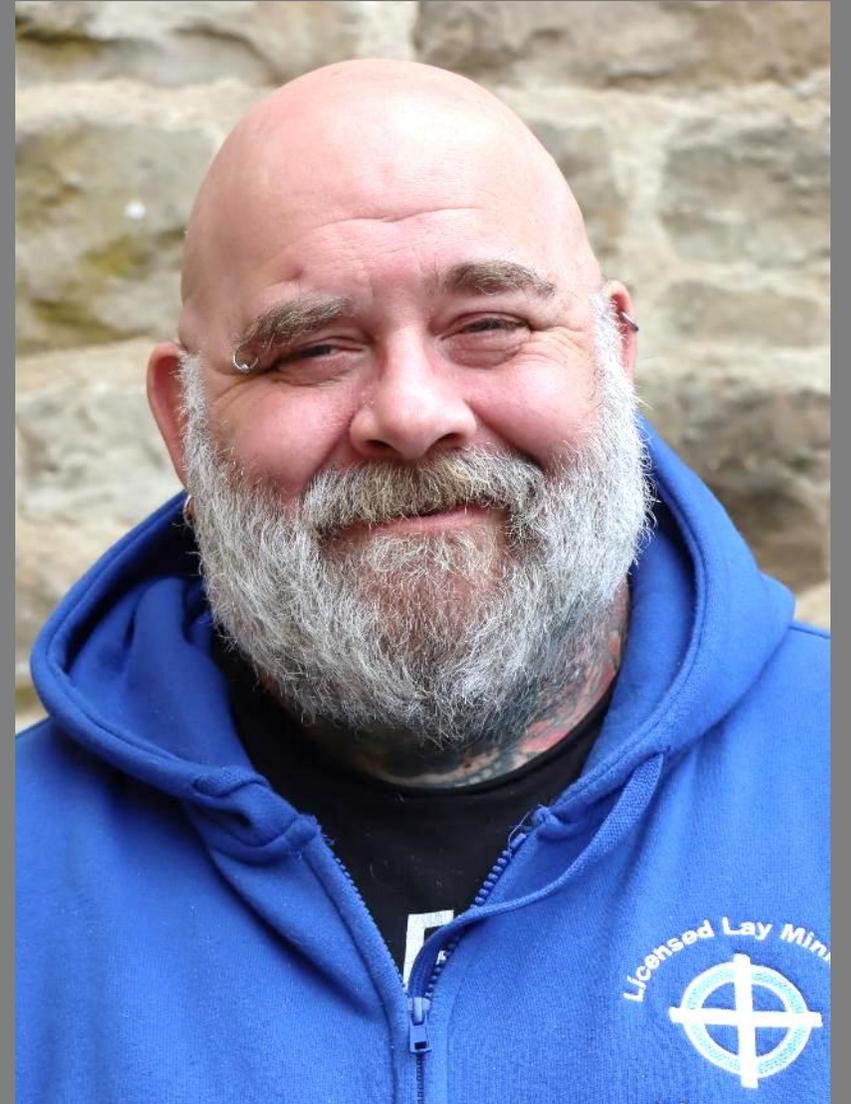
This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ





‘In pain, I’d rather walk with Jesus
with all of my questions, than walk
by myself with all the answers.’

—Rick Warren



Sermon – ‘Walking with pain... and still walking with Jesus’

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**



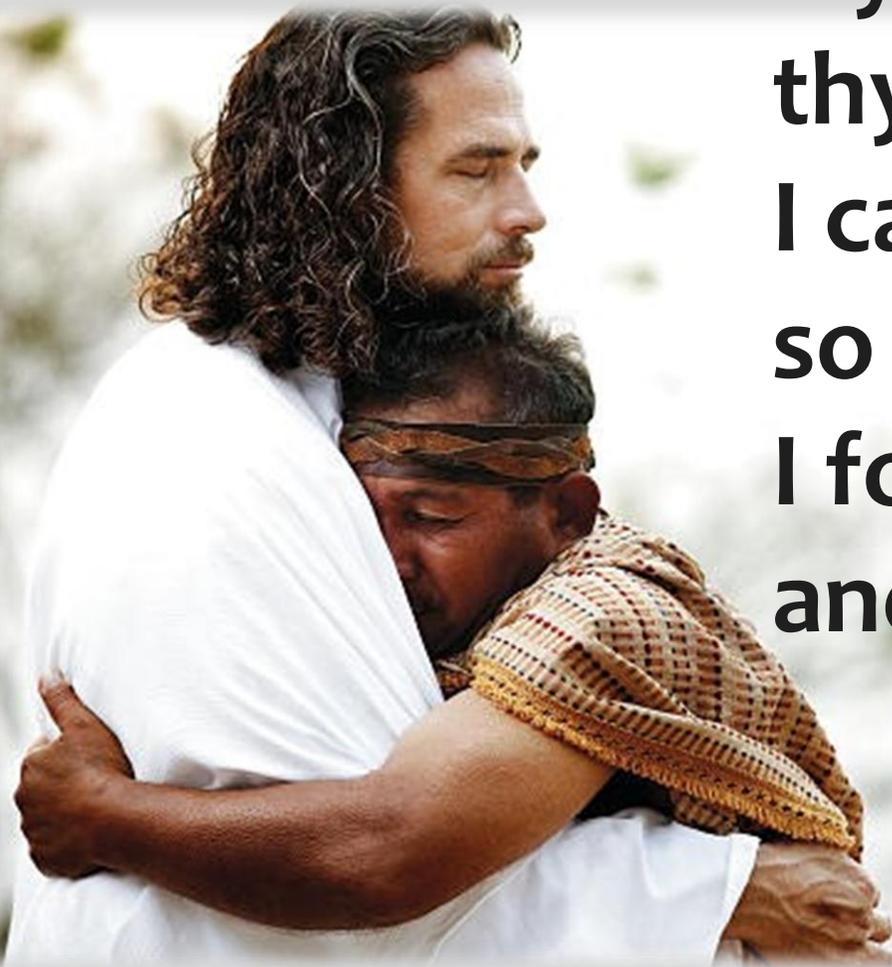
The Peace

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.

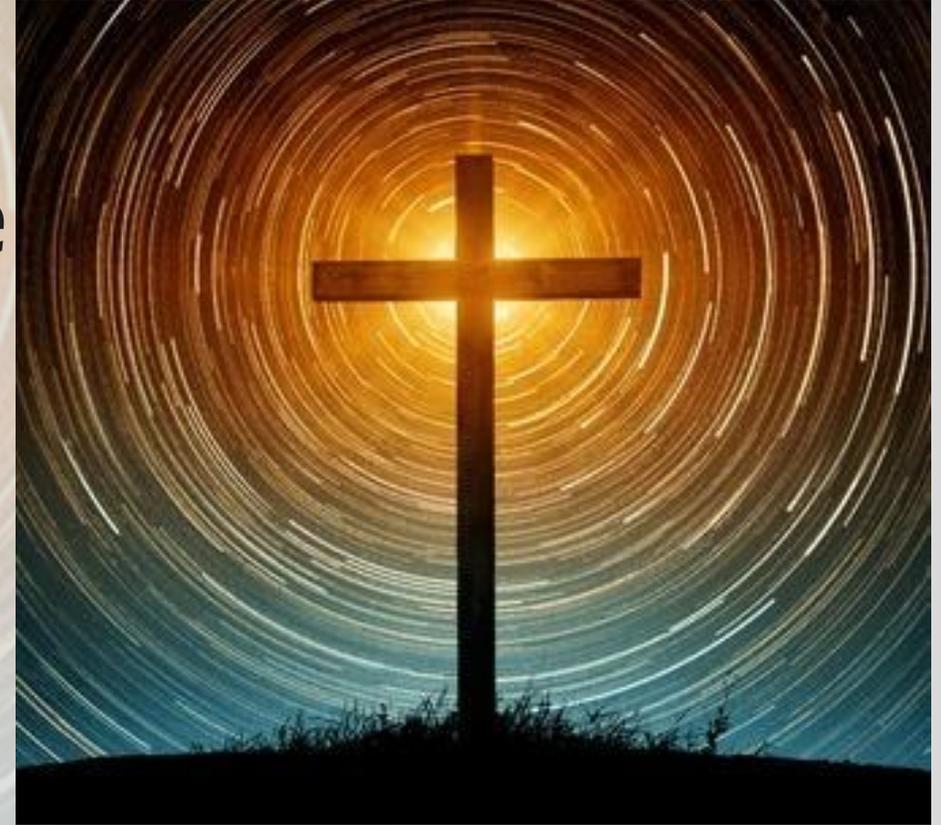
**1 I heard the voice of Jesus say
‘Come unto me and rest
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast.’
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn and sad
I found in him a resting place
and he has made me glad.**



**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.**





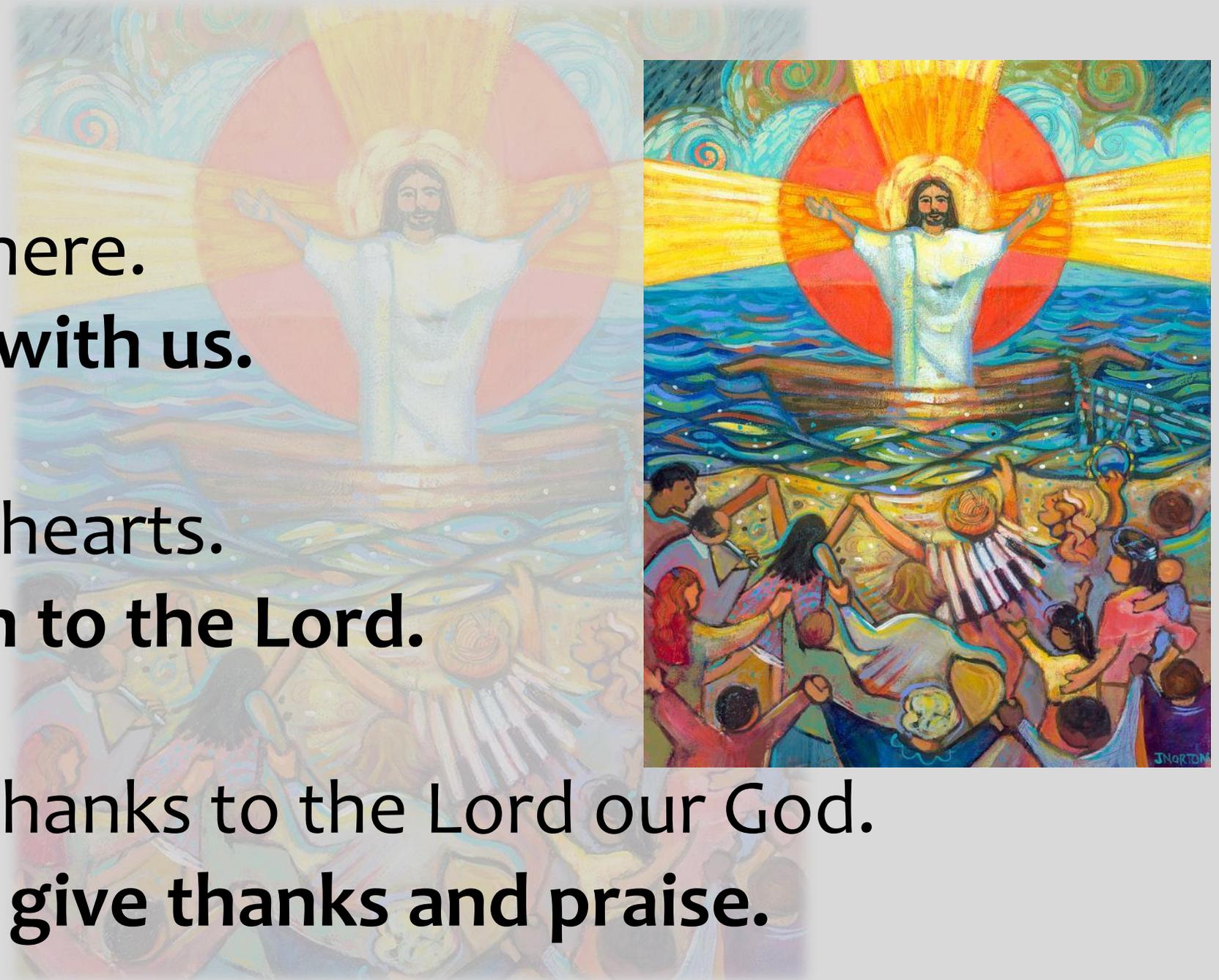
Pour upon the poverty of our love
and the weakness of our praise,
the transforming fire of your presence.

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.

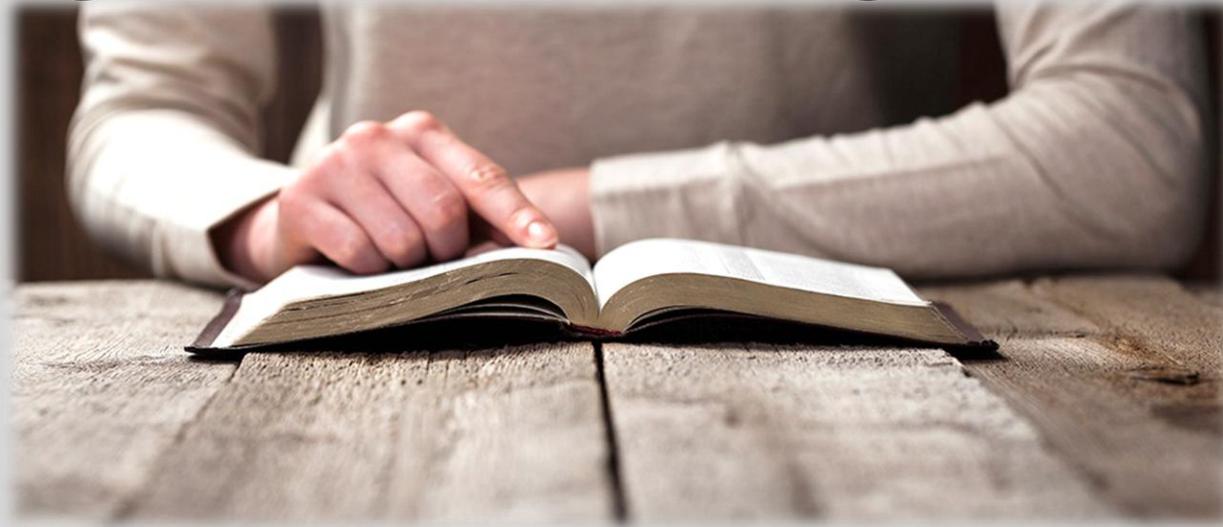


It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
Almighty God and Everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

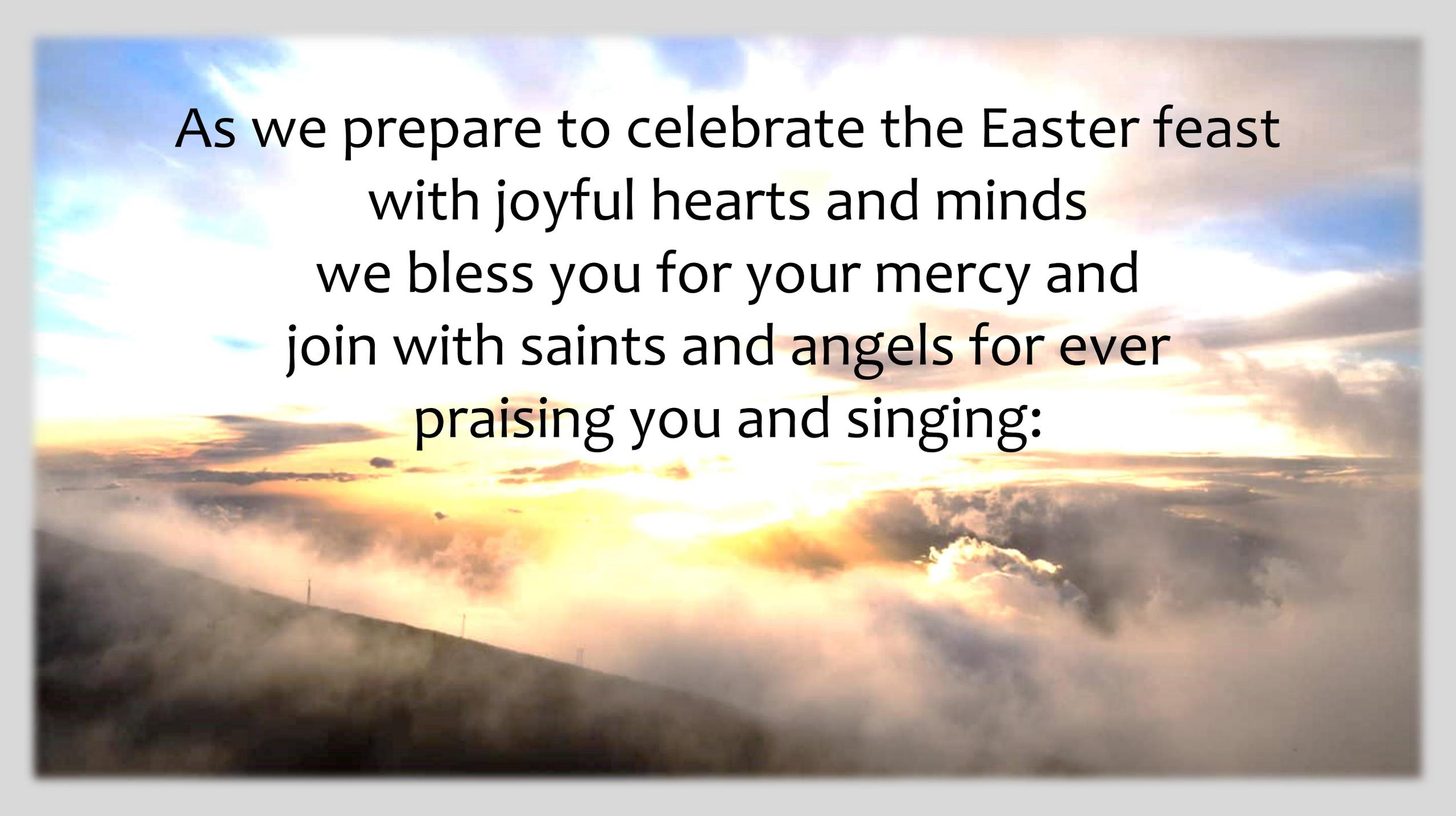


For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of
repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer
and discipline we may grow in grace
and learn to be your people once again.

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.**



A collage of various breads and wheat stalks. In the foreground, there are several loaves of bread, some whole and some sliced, showing a porous interior. Behind them are several stalks of wheat, some tied together in a bundle. The background is a warm, golden-brown color, suggesting a rustic setting. The text is overlaid on a dark, semi-transparent rectangular area on the left side of the image.

Jesus the Bread of Life

Receiving the bread and wine



Anthem

‘Verily, verily
I say unto you’

Thomas Tallis



Jesus the Bread of Life

Receiving the bread and wine

Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us that what we do for the least
of our brothers and sisters we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, 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**

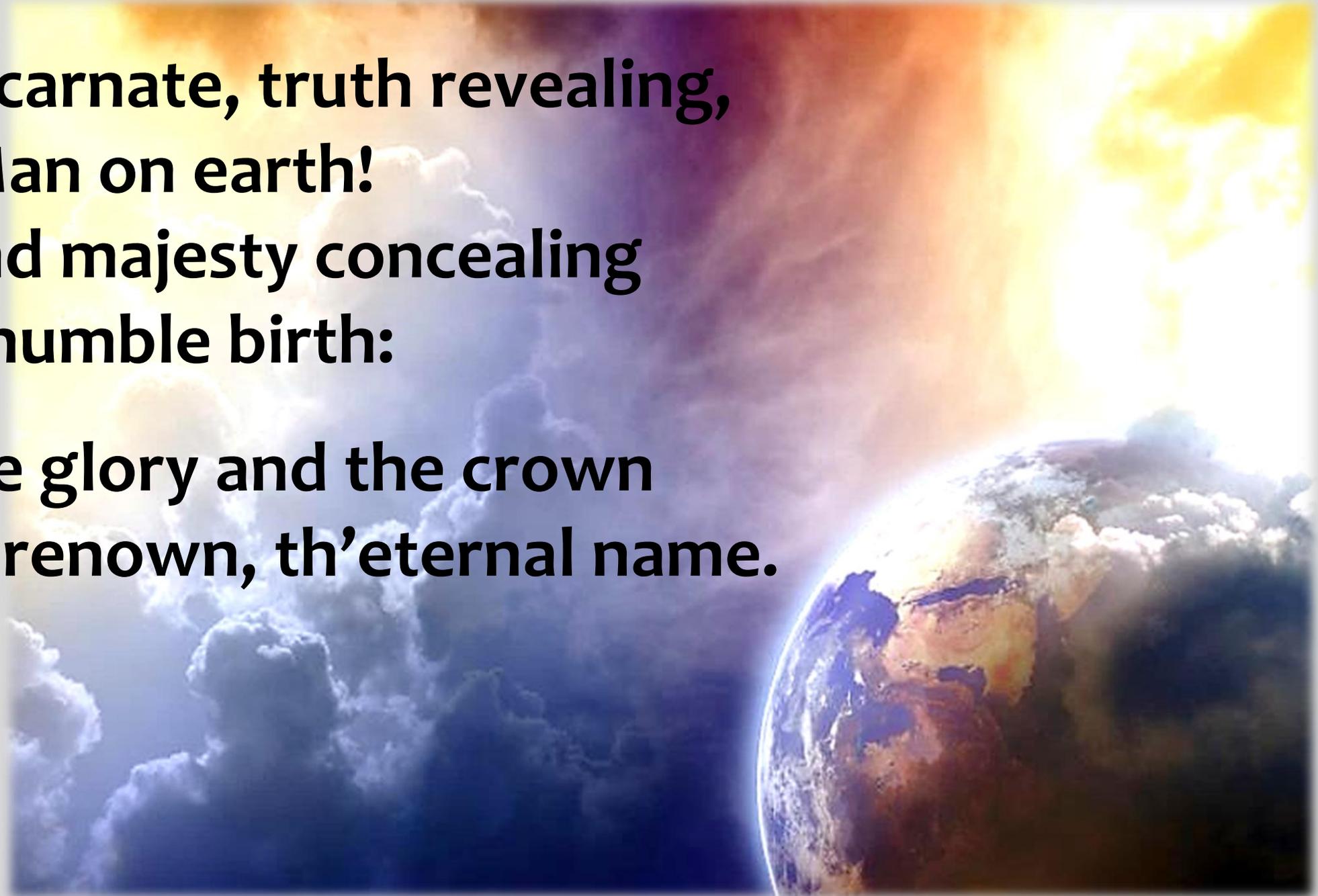
**1 Christ triumphant, ever reigning
Saviour, Master, King!
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining
hear us as we sing:**

**Yours the glory and the crown
the high renown, th'eternal name.**



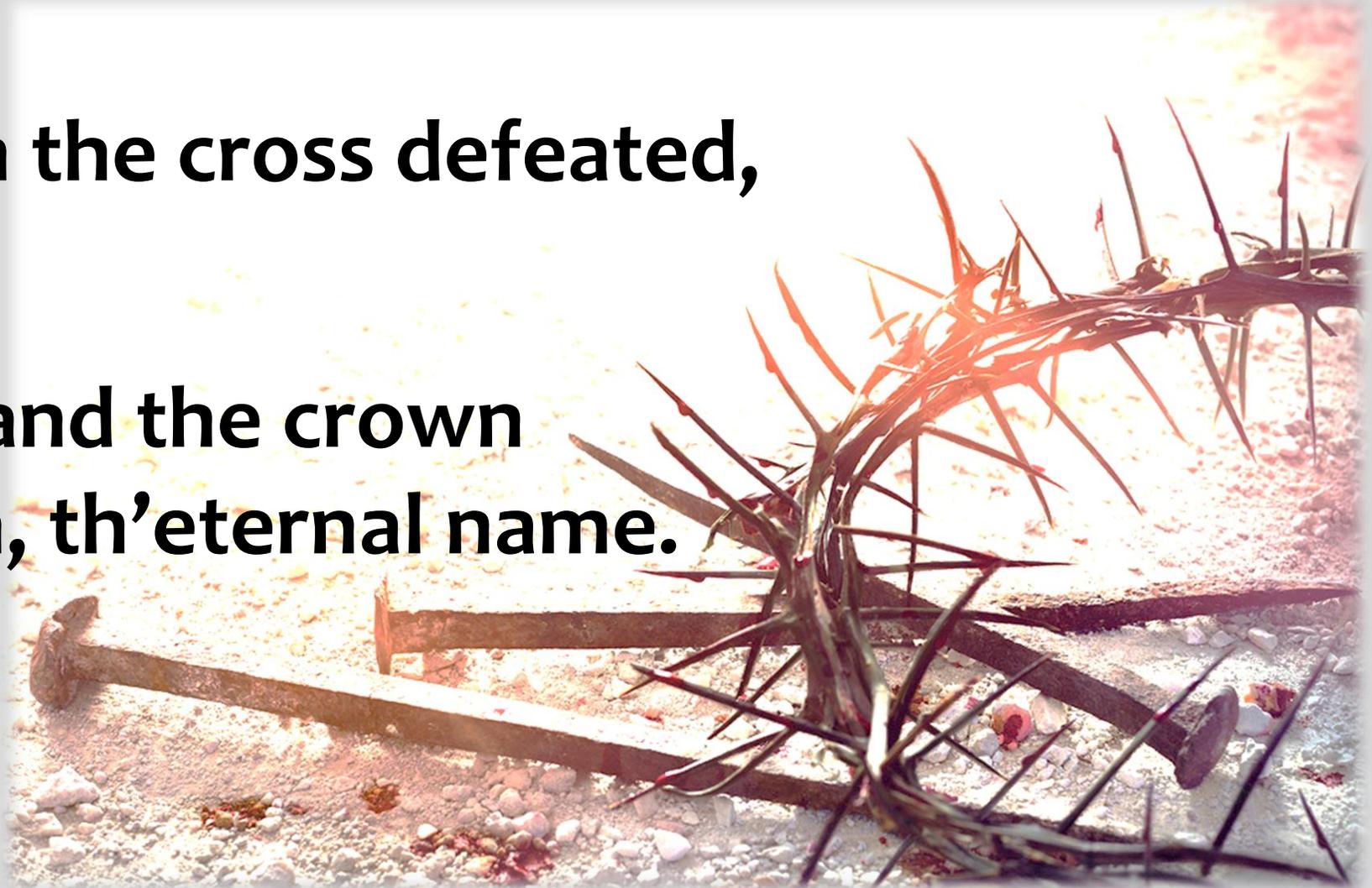
**2 Word incarnate, truth revealing,
Son of Man on earth!
Pow'r and majesty concealing
by your humble birth:**

**Yours the glory and the crown
the high renown, th'eternal name.**

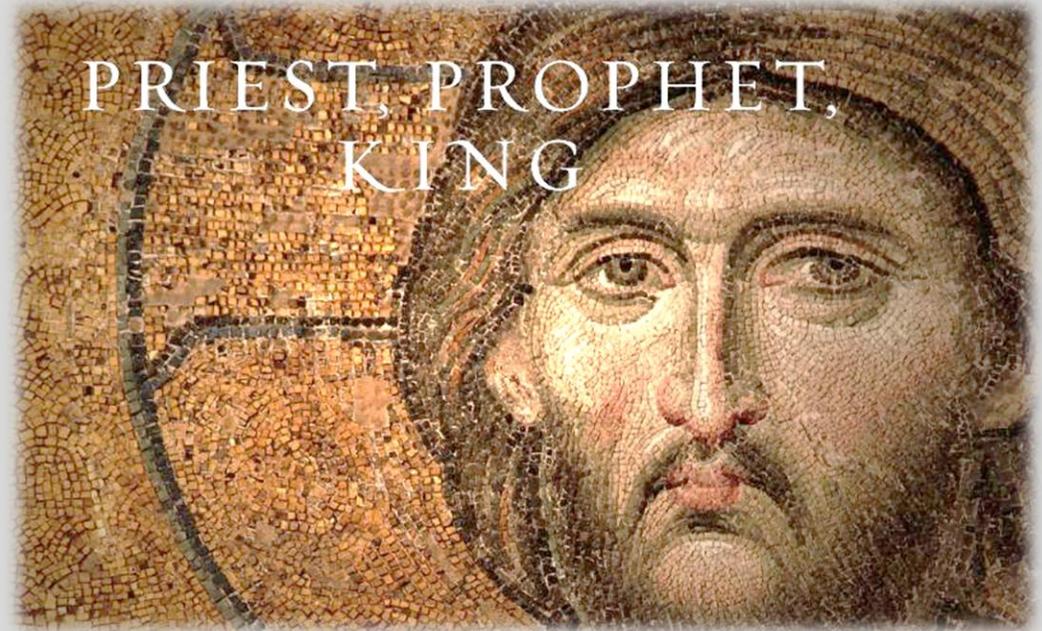


**3 Suff'ring servant, scorned, ill-treated,
victim crucified!
Death is through the cross defeated,
sinners justified:**

**Yours the glory and the crown
the high renown, th'eternal name.**



**4 Priestly King, enthroned for ever
high in heav'n above!
Sin and death and hell shall never
stifle hymns of love:**



**Yours the glory and the crown
the high renown, th'eternal name.**

**5 So, our hearts and voices raising
through the ages long,
ceaselessly upon you gazing
this shall be our song:**



**Yours the glory and the crown
the high renown, th'eternal name.**

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,
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



Organ Voluntary



Christ Church Organ

Chorale prelude 'Herzliebster Jesu' Johannes Brahms