

Sunday 26th July 2026

Christ Church with St Mary's

Service of Holy Communion

Theme: Treasures in Heaven

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





Parish Bible verse
2025 - 2026

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

Romans 13:10

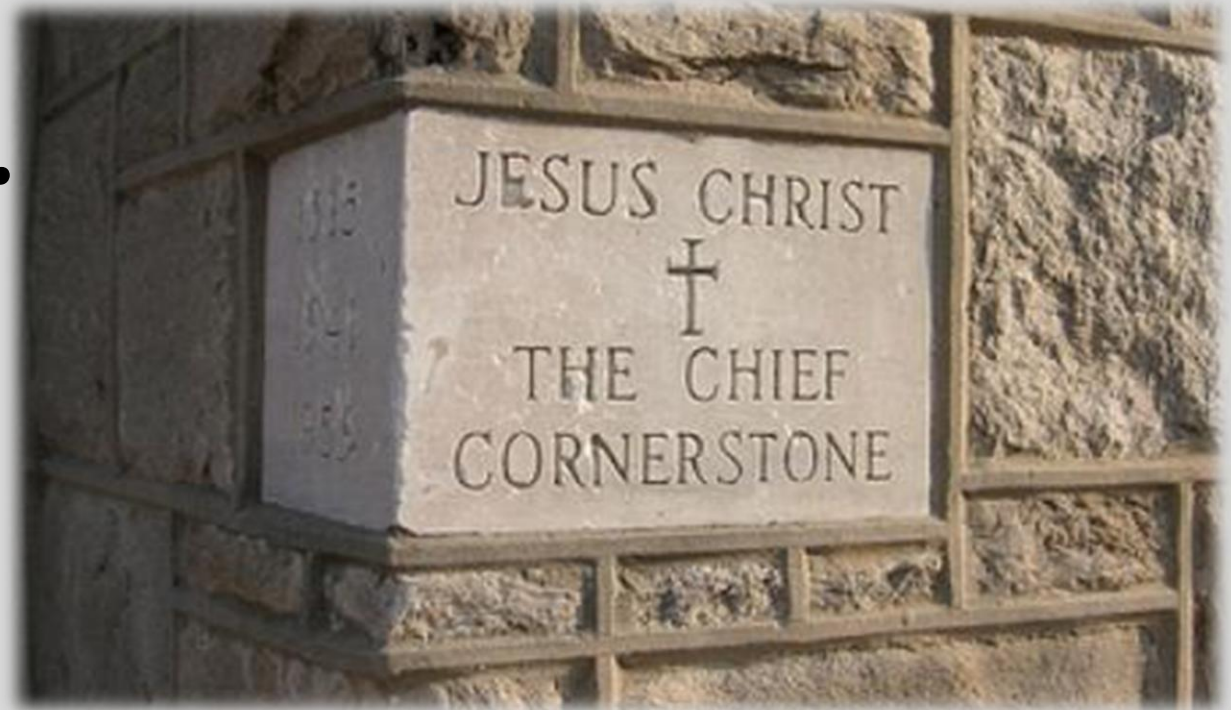
A Prayer for Growth

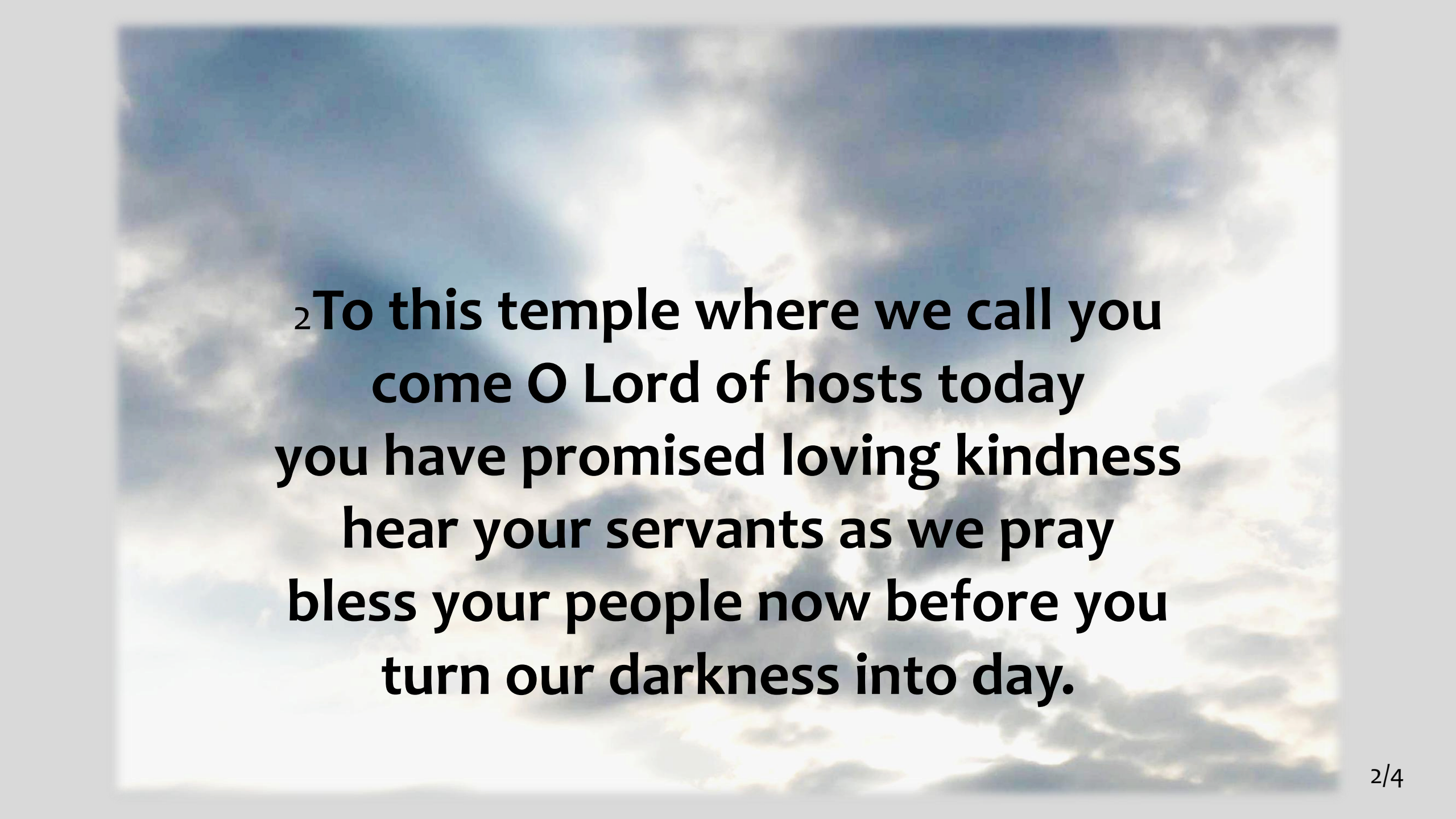
God of mission

**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

**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.**





**₂To 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 – 'Treasure Together'



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.**



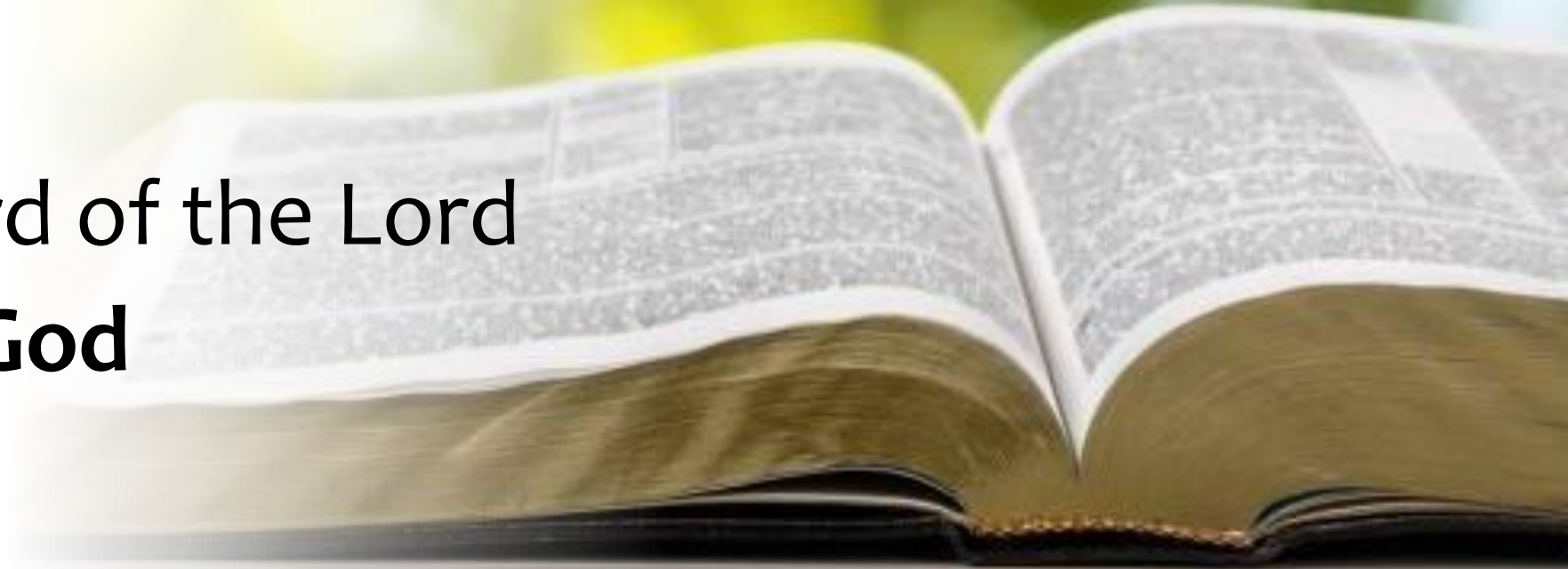
The Collect prayer for today

Lord God,
your Son left the riches of heaven and
became poor for our sake:
when we prosper save us from pride,
when we are needy save us from despair,
that we may trust in you alone
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Romans 8 : 26 - 39

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God



**¹From heav'n you came helpless babe
enter'd our world your glory veiled
not to be served but to serve
and give your life that we might live.**

Chorus

**This is our God the Servant King
he calls us now to follow him
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.**



**2 There in the garden of tears
my heavy load he chose to bear
his heart with sorrow was torn
'Yet not my will but yours' he said.**

Chorus

**This is our God the Servant King
he calls us now to follow him
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.**



**³Come see his hands and his feet
the scars that speak of sacrifice.
Hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.**

Chorus

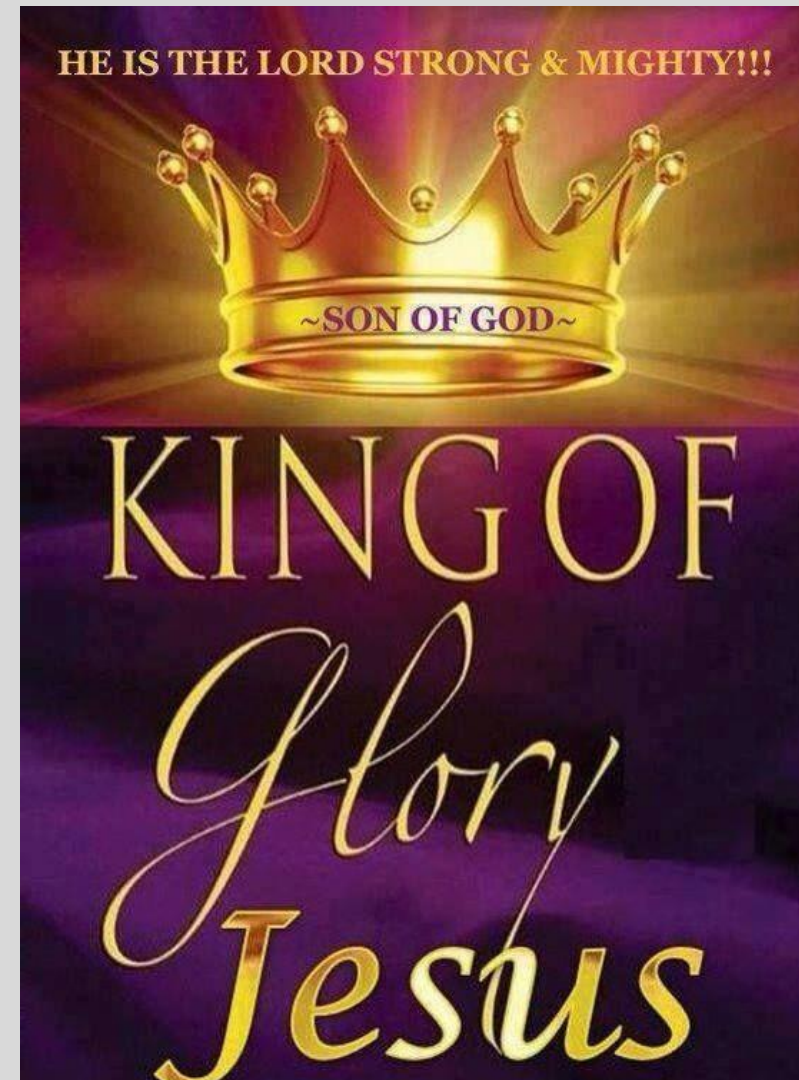
**This is our God the Servant King
he calls us now to follow him
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.**



**4 So let us learn how to serve
and in our lives enthrone him
each other's needs to prefer
for it is Christ we're serving.**

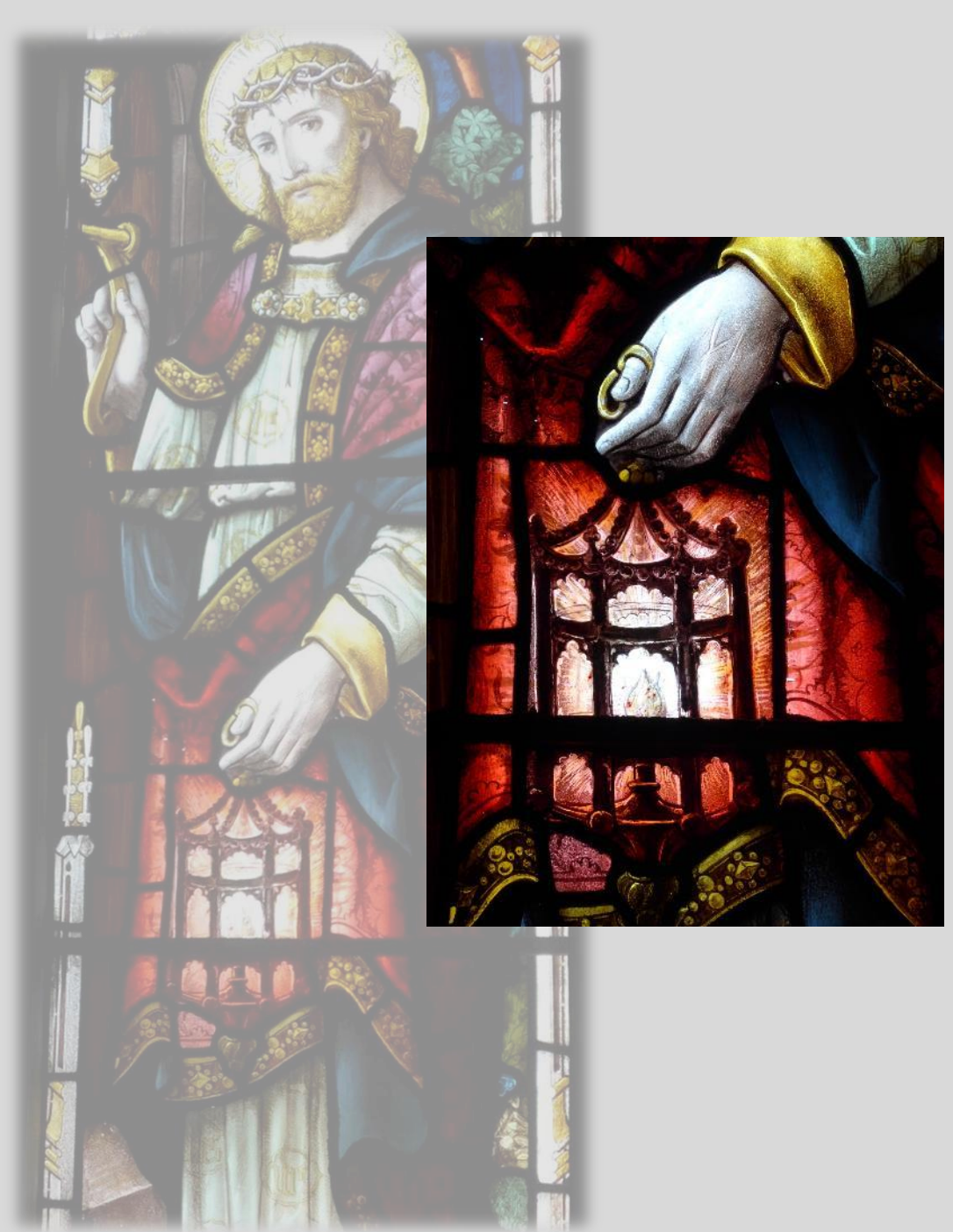
Chorus

**This is our God the Servant King
he calls us now to follow him
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King**



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

Matthew 13 : 31 - 33, 44 - 52

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ



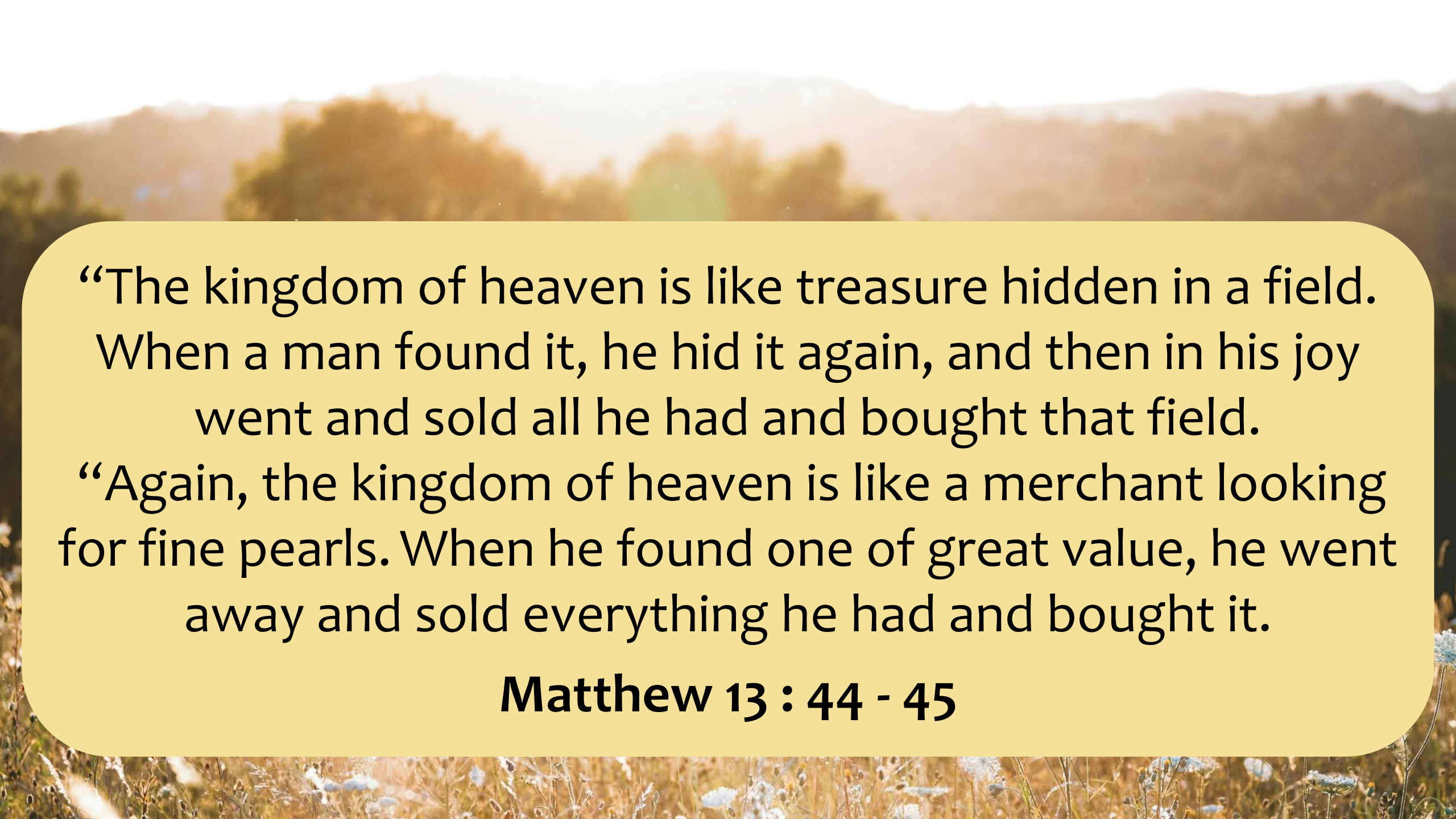


Sermon – ‘Treasures in Heaven’



Treasures in Heaven

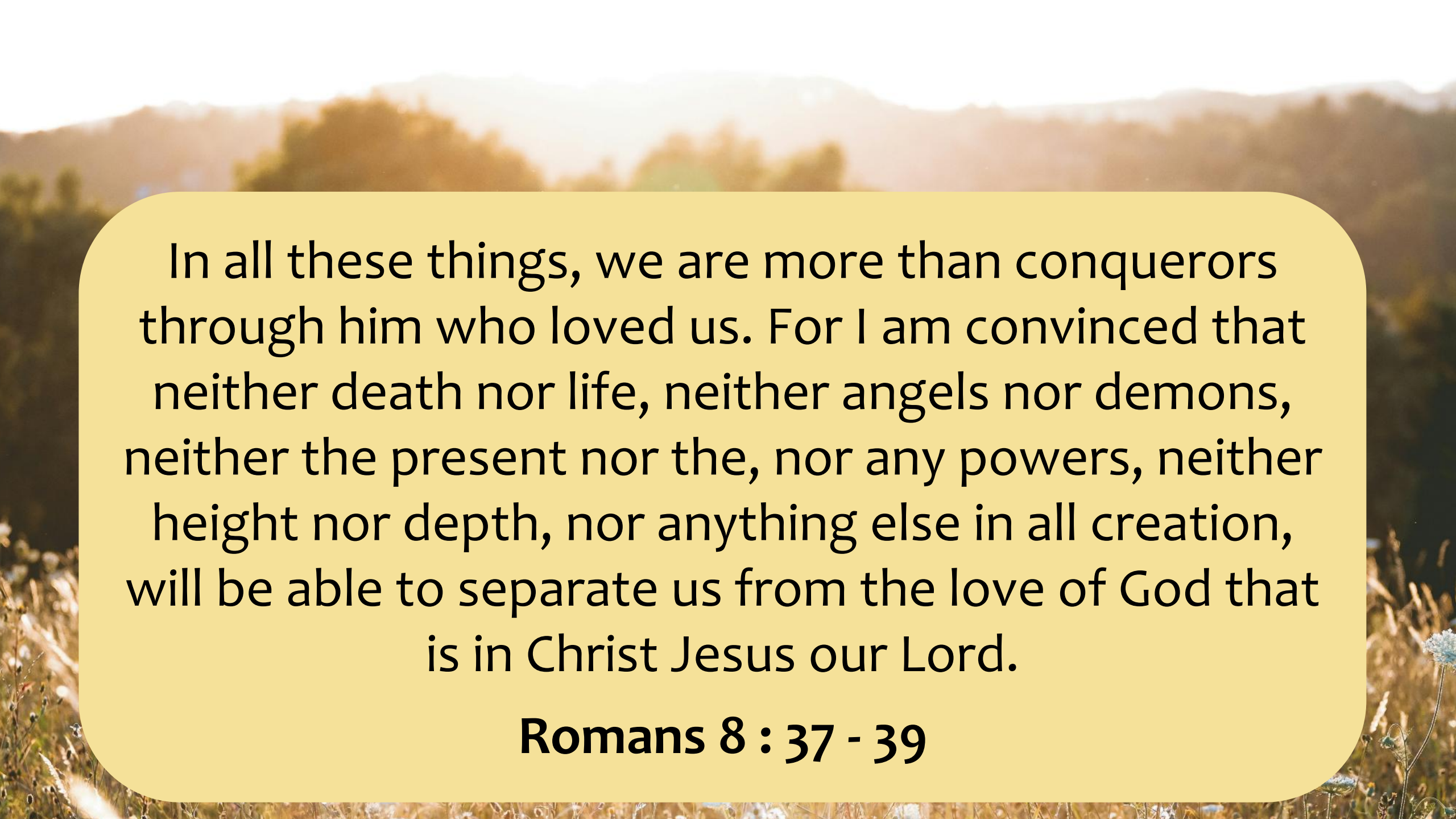




“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Matthew 13 : 44 - 45



In all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8 : 37 - 39



Treasures in Heaven

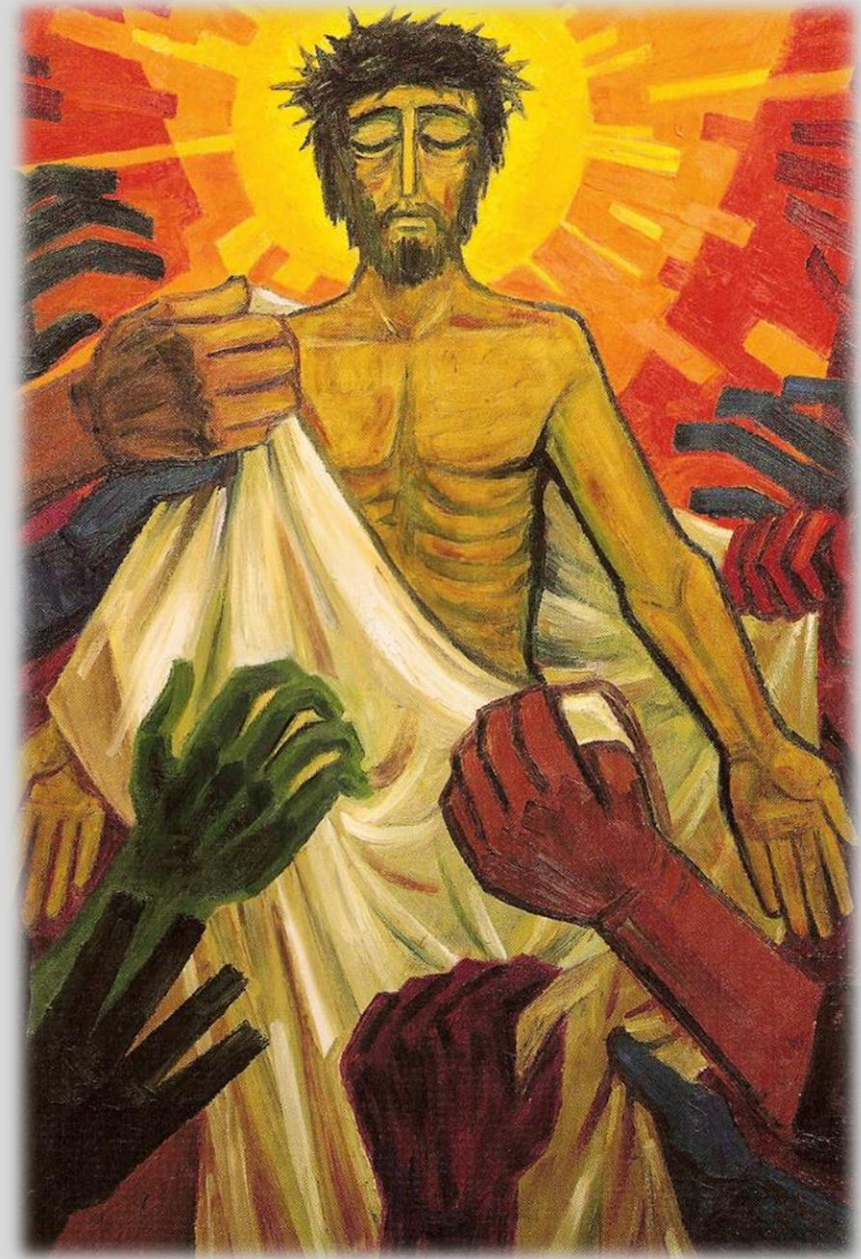
The Creed

**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.**



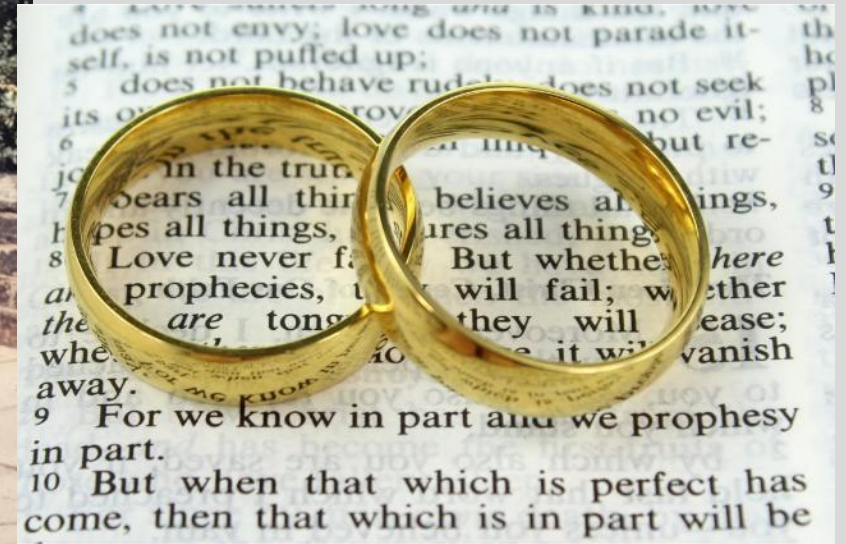
Prayers of Intercession



Final Response

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

The renewal of vows and blessing of Simon and Nicola's marriage and wedding rings



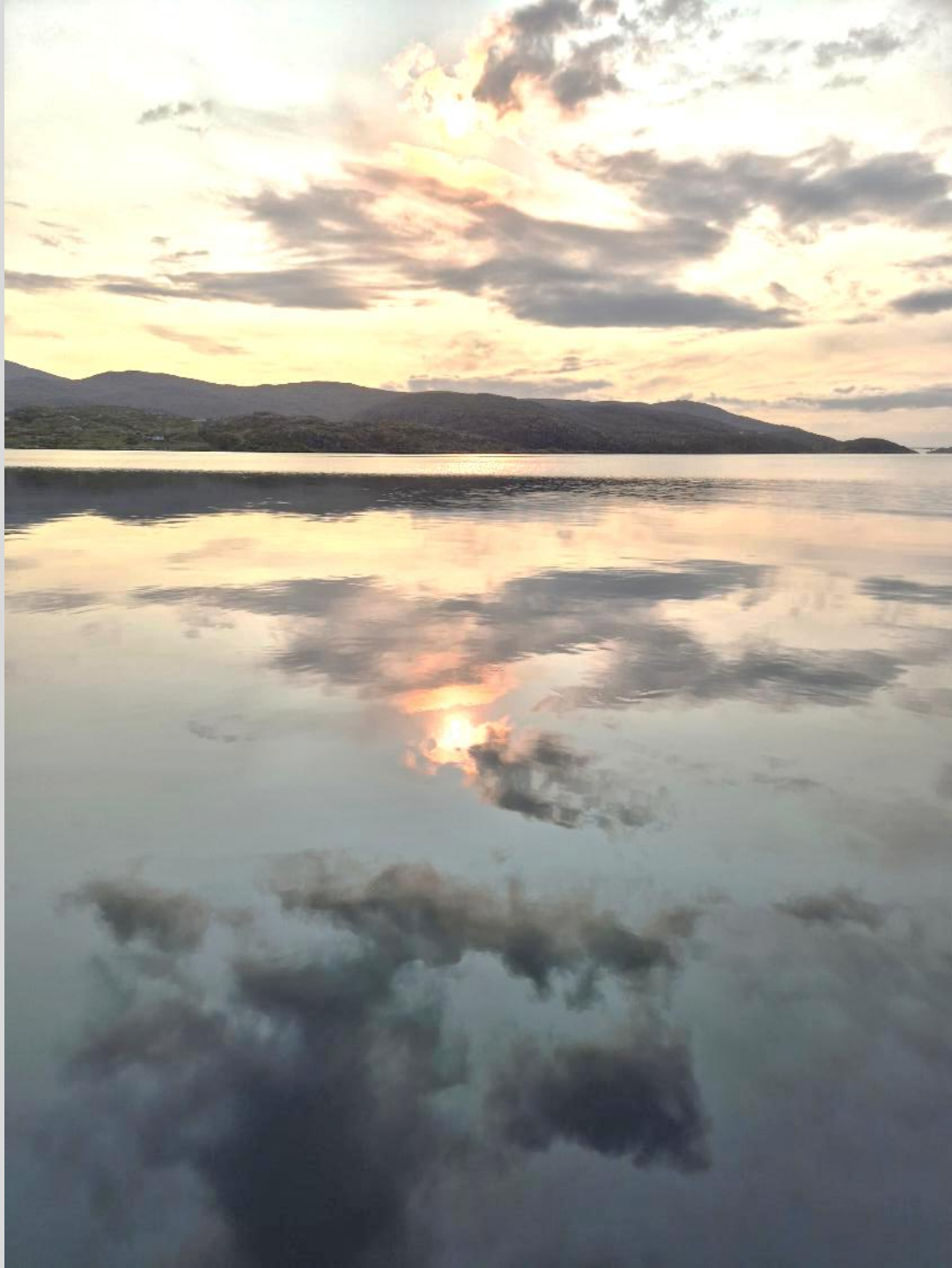


We all share in this occasion

L: Will you, the family and friends of Nicola and Simon, continue to support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come?

All: **We will**





The Peace

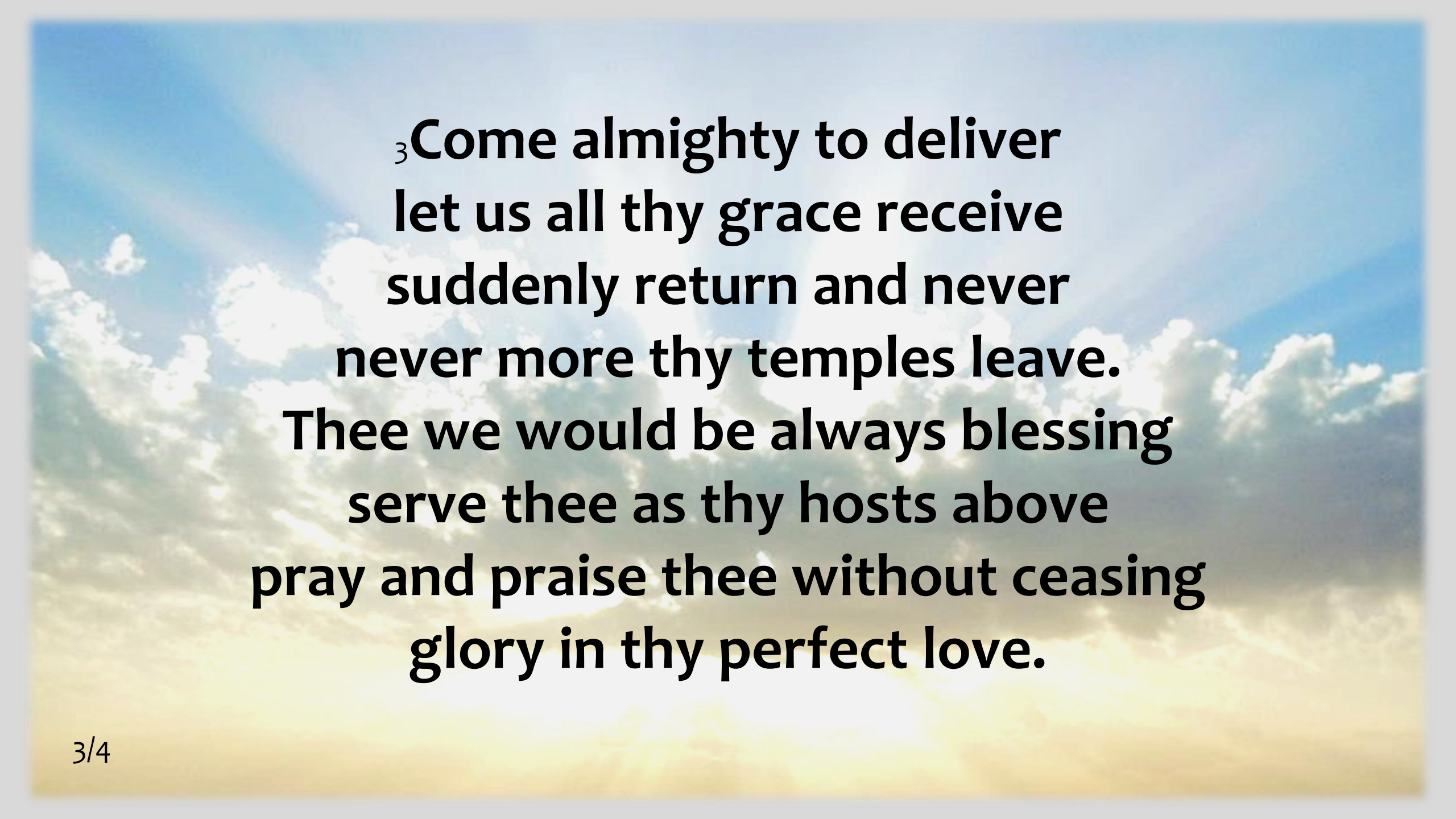
God is love and those who
live in love live in God
and God lives in them.

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

**¹Love divine all loves excelling
joy of heav'n to earth come down
fix in us thy humble dwelling
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu thou art all compassion
pure unbounded love thou art
visit us with thy salvation
enter ev'ry trembling heart.**



**2 Breathe O breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast
let us all in thee inherit
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning
Alpha and Omega be
end of faith as its beginning
set our hearts at liberty.**



**³Come almighty to deliver
let us all thy grace receive
suddenly return and never
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing
serve thee as thy hosts above
pray and praise thee without ceasing
glory in thy perfect love.**

**⁴Finish then thy new creation
pure and spotless let us be
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory
till in heav'n we take our place
till we cast our crowns before thee
lost in wonder love and praise.**



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

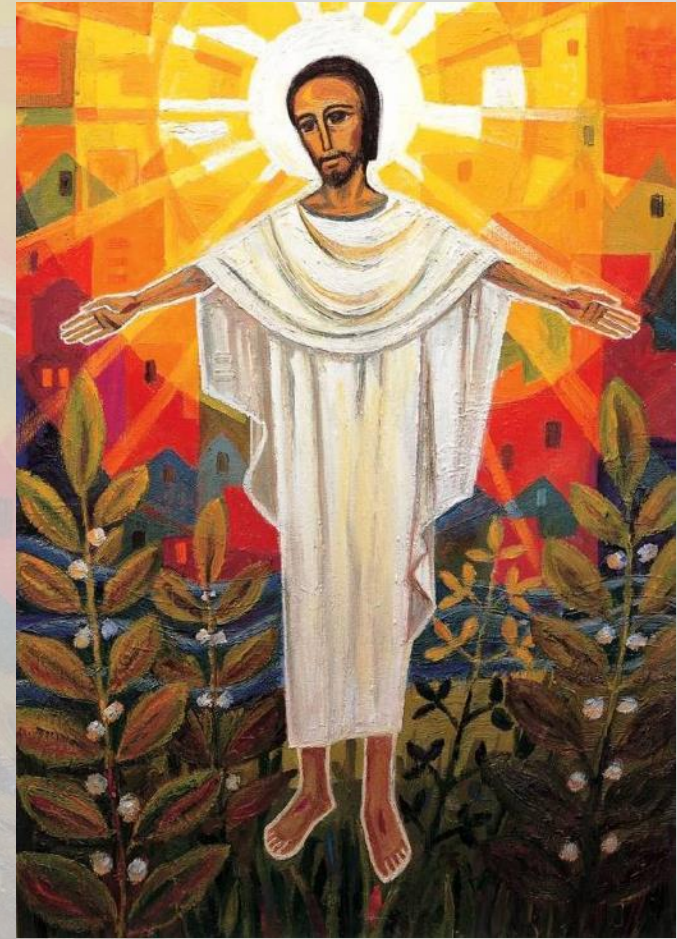
Amen



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.**

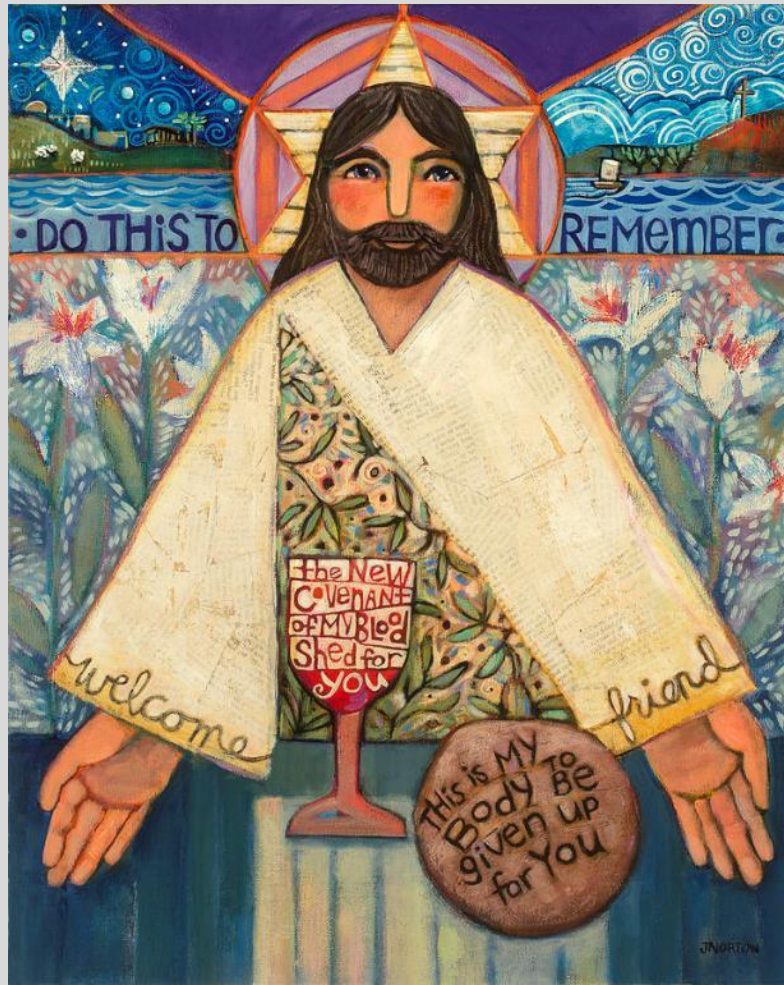
As we proclaim his death
and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.



**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.**

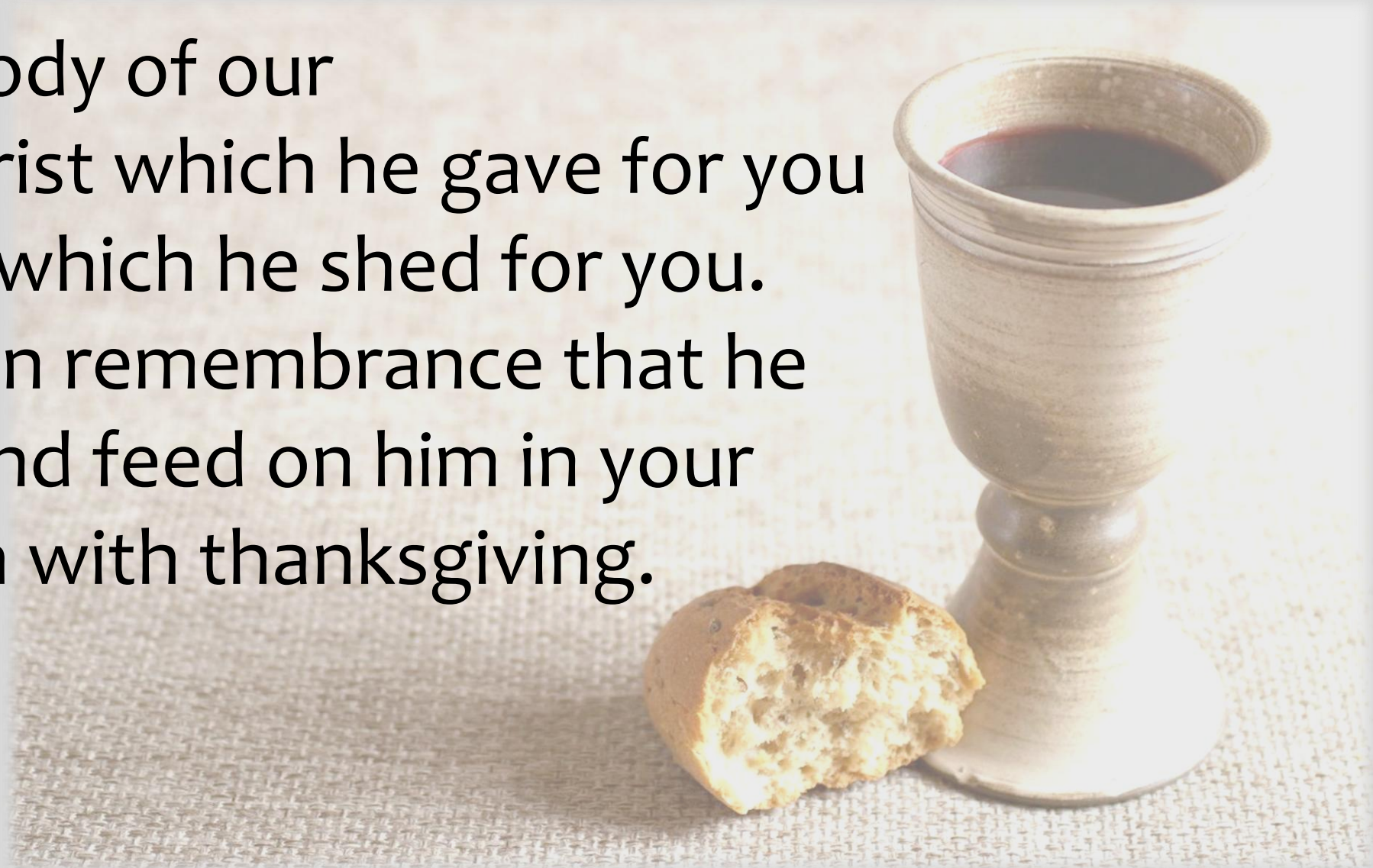
Amen

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.**



A close-up photograph of a large, rustic loaf of bread with a golden-brown, cracked crust. In the background, two more loaves of bread are visible, and a few wheat stalks lie on the wooden surface. The scene is set on a dark, textured wooden table.

Jesus Is the Bread of Life

Receiving the bread and wine



Anthem

‘The Lord bless you
and keep you’

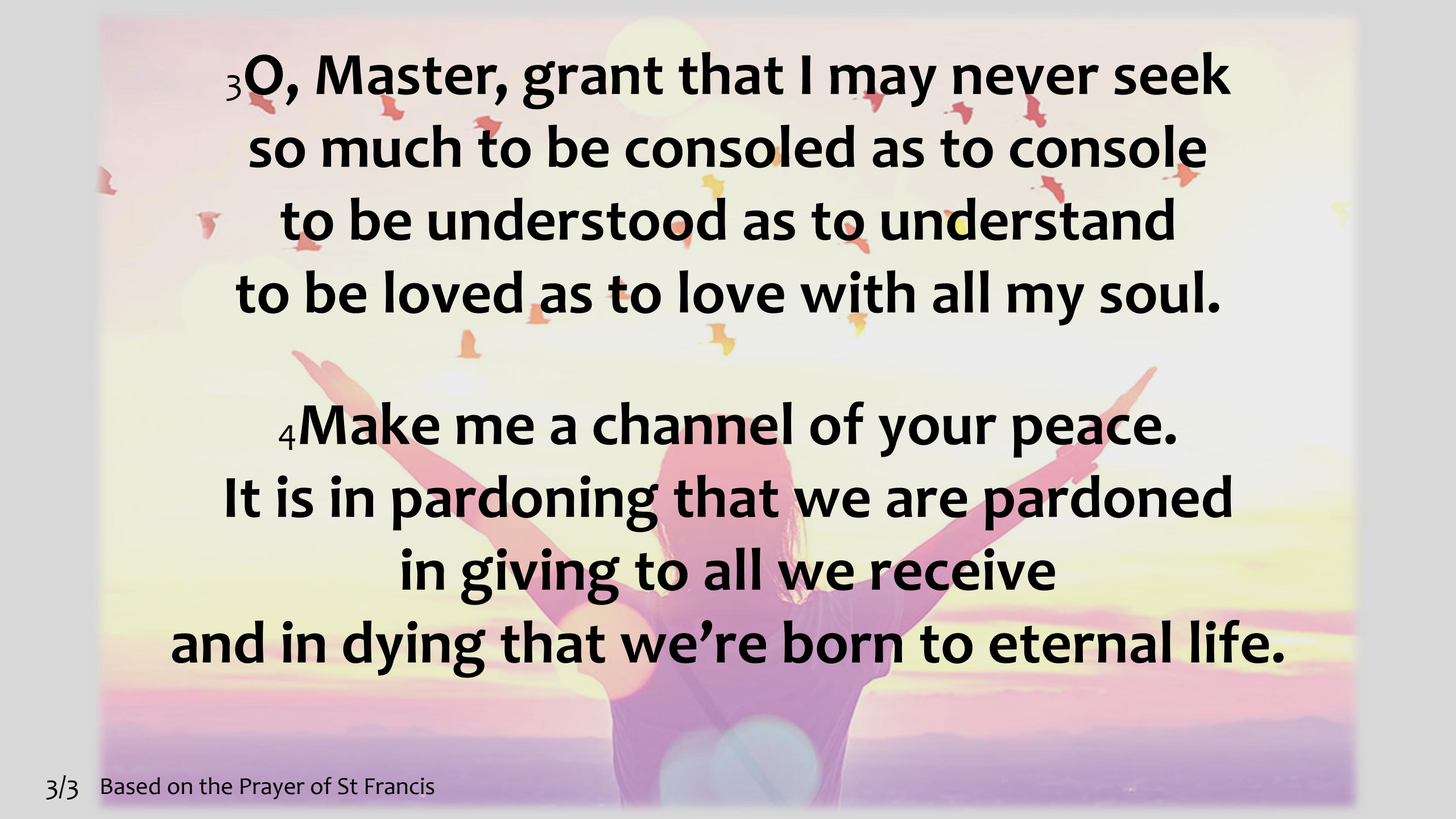
John Rutter

**¹Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord
and where there's doubt true faith in you.**



**2 Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light
and where there's sadness, ever joy.**





**³O, Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console
to be understood as to understand
to be loved as to love with all my soul.**

**⁴Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
in giving to all we receive
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

A close-up photograph of a large, rustic loaf of bread with a golden-brown, cracked crust. The bread is resting on a dark, textured wooden surface. In the background, two more loaves of bread are visible, slightly out of focus. To the right of the main loaf, a few stalks of wheat are scattered. The overall lighting is warm and soft, highlighting the texture of the bread.

Jesus Is the Bread of Life

Receiving the bread and wine

Post Communion Prayer

Strengthen for service Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things
may the ears which have heard your word
be deaf to clamour and dispute

may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit
may the eyes which have seen the token of your love
shine with the light of hope and may the bodies which have been
fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life:
glory to you for ever.

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



God's work. Our hands.



**1 O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end
be thou forever near me
my Master and my friend
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.**



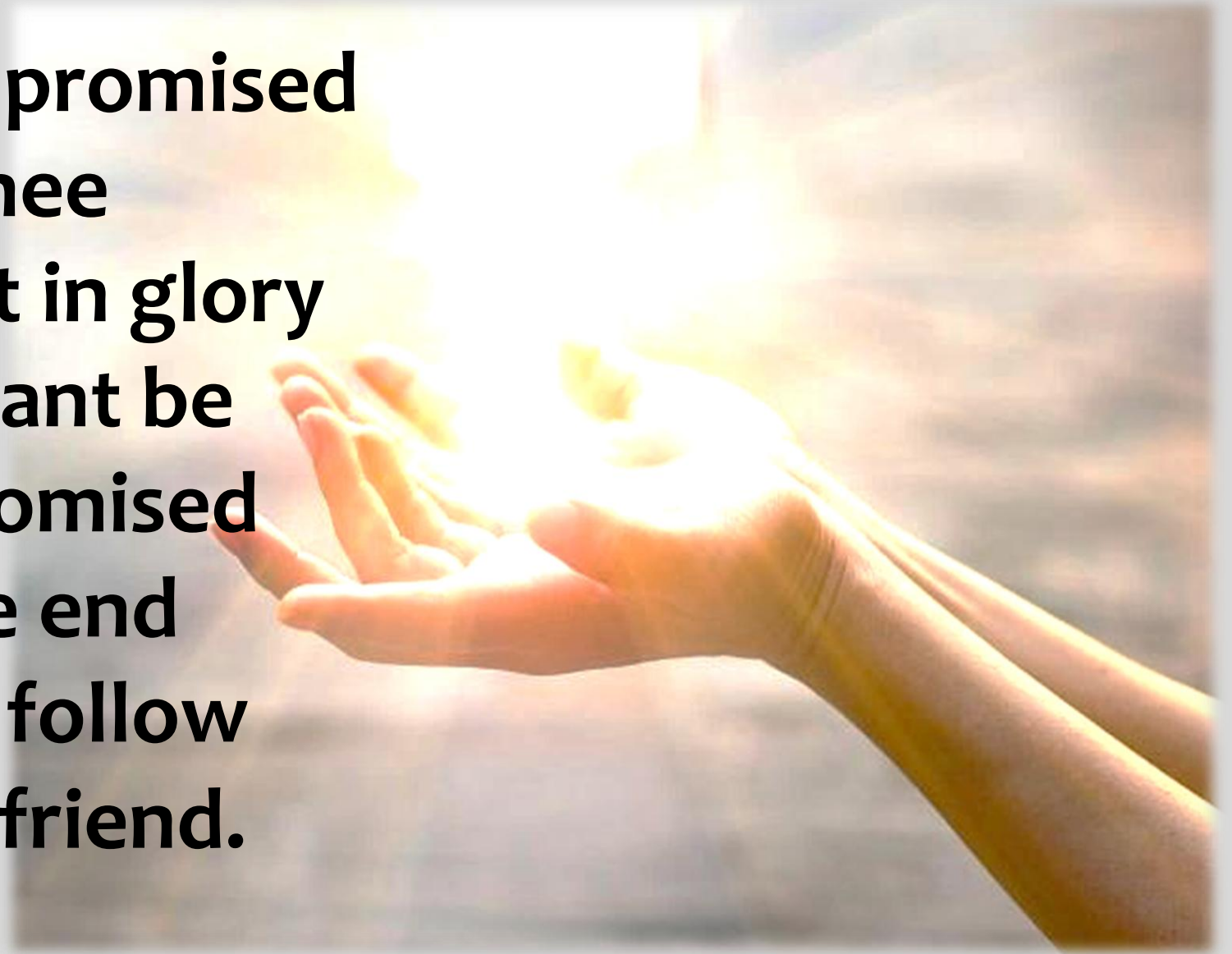
**2O let me feel thee near me
the world is ever near:
I see the sights that dazzle
the tempting sounds I hear
my foes are ever near me
around me and within
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer
and shield my soul from sin.**



**3 O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion
the murmurs of self-will
O speak to reassure me
to hasten or control
O speak, and make me listen
thou guardian of my soul.**



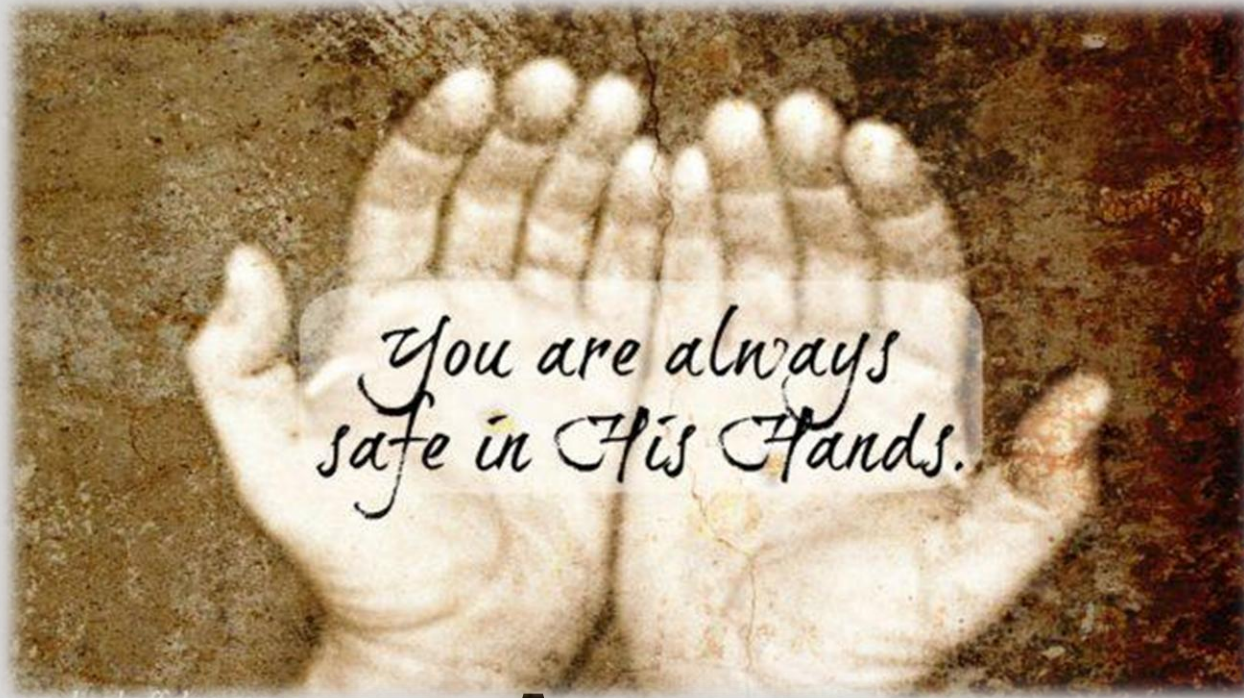
**⁴O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be
and Jesus I have promised
to serve thee to the end
O give me grace to follow
my Master and my friend.**



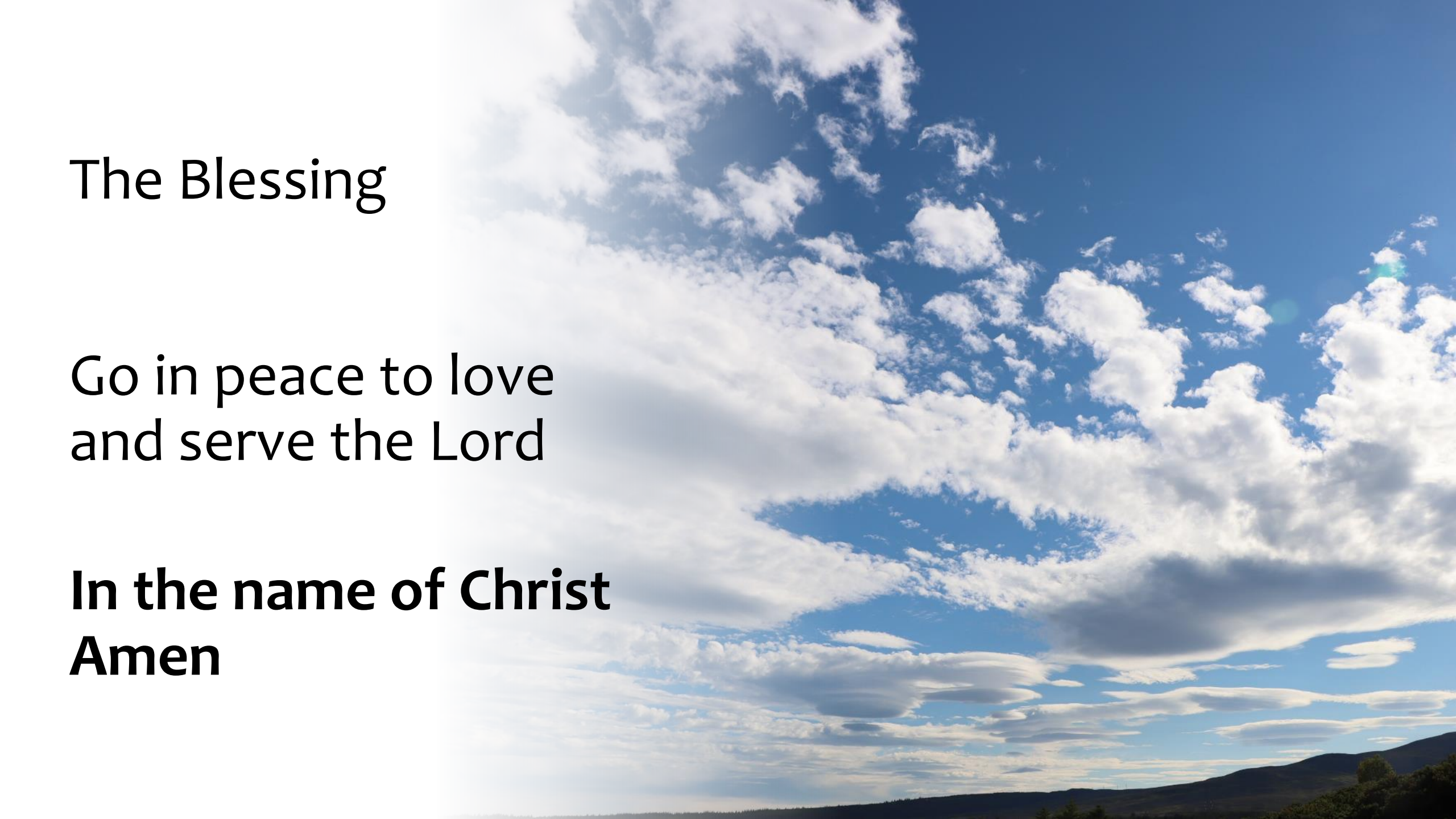
**5 O let me see thy foot-marks
and in them plant mine own
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone
O guide me call me draw me
uphold me to the end
and then in heav'n receive me
my Saviour and my friend.**



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.



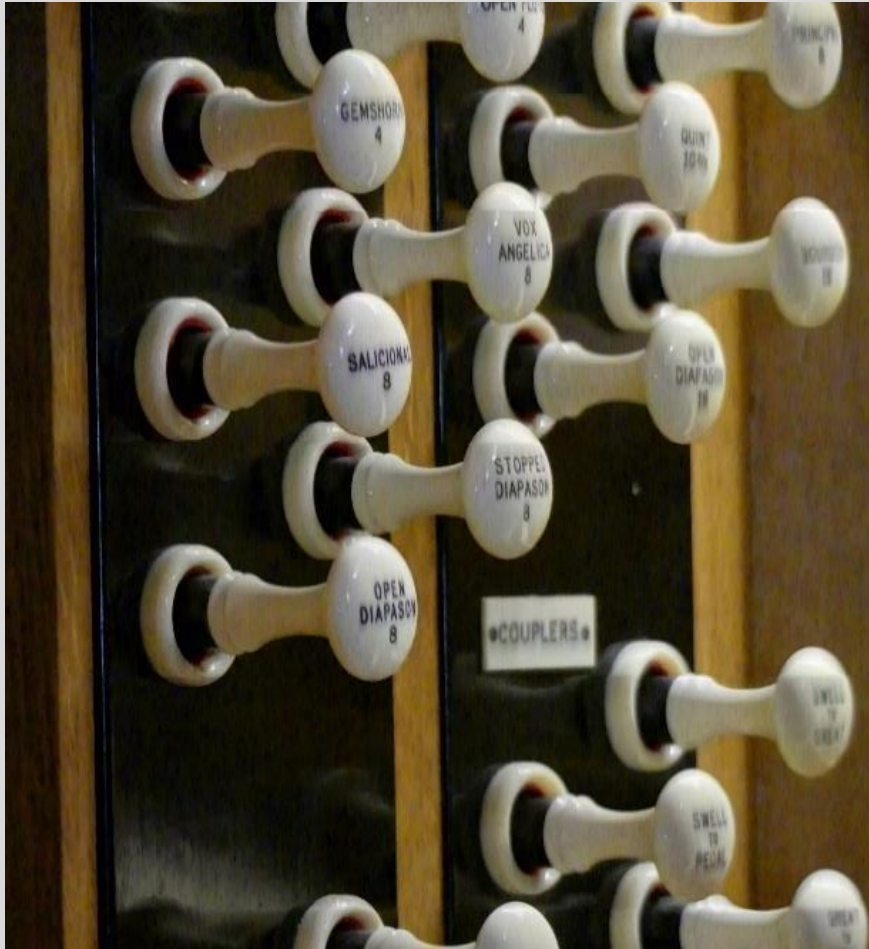
Amen



The Blessing

Go in peace to love
and serve the Lord

**In the name of Christ
Amen**



Christ Church Organ

Organ Voluntary

‘Sortie in E flat’ - Lefébure-Wély

 **40 YEARS**
14,600 DAYS
350,400 HOURS
21,024,000 MINUTES
1,261,440,000 SECONDS



Congratulations Simon and Nicola!