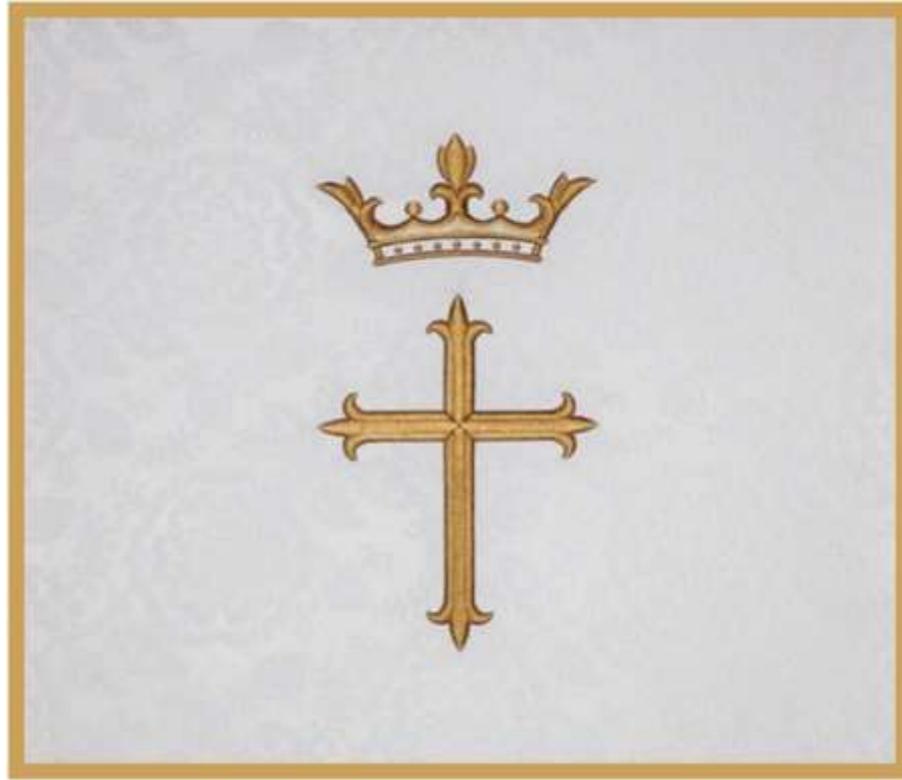


A close-up photograph of a waterfall cascading over dark, mossy rocks. The water is white and frothy as it falls, creating a sense of movement and freshness. The background is a dense wall of wet, green moss and small plants, adding texture and color to the scene.

*Welcome to  
Worship at  
Zion Lutheran Church*

*Sunday, January 1, 2023 9:00 am*

*Photo by Dick Lockhart*



# + GATHERING +

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

A close-up photograph of a waterfall cascading over dark, moss-covered rocks. The water is in motion, creating a soft, blurred effect. The rocks are wet and glistening, with patches of green moss and some fallen leaves scattered across the surface. In the upper right quadrant, the word "Welcome" is written in a black, italicized serif font, enclosed within a white rectangular box with a thin black border.

*Welcome*

# Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

ELW #288

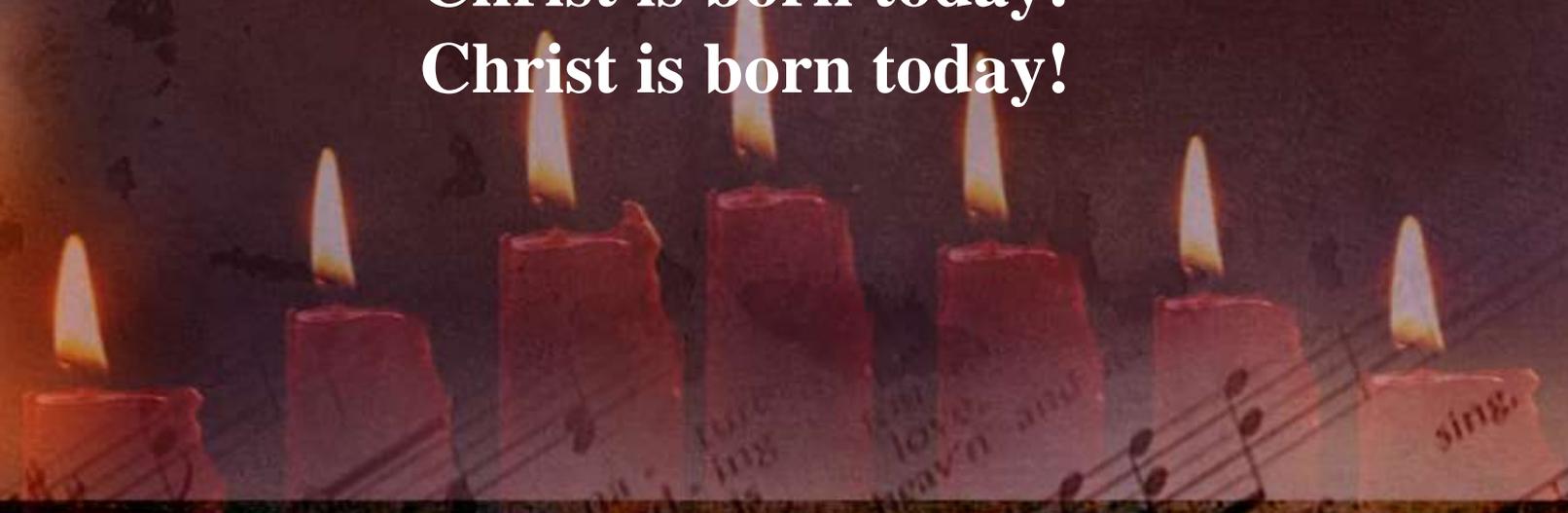
Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866. Music: German carol, 14<sup>th</sup> cent., arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795-1856. Public Domain.

1. **Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;**



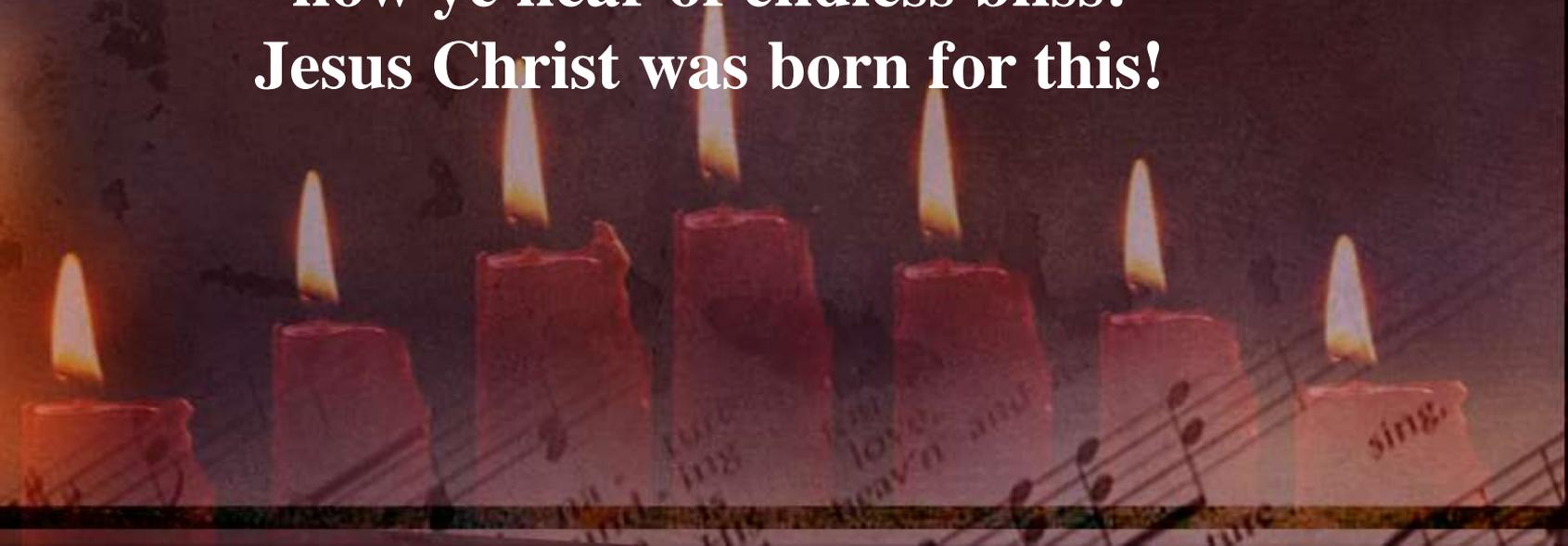
**ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.**

**Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!**



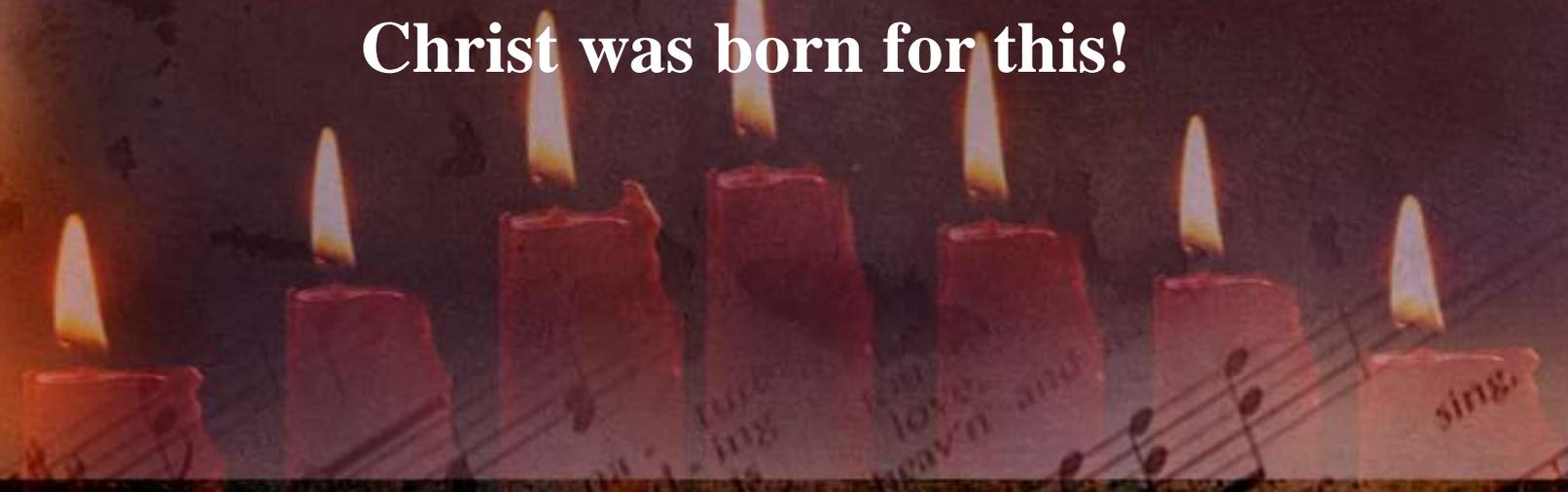
2.

**Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!**



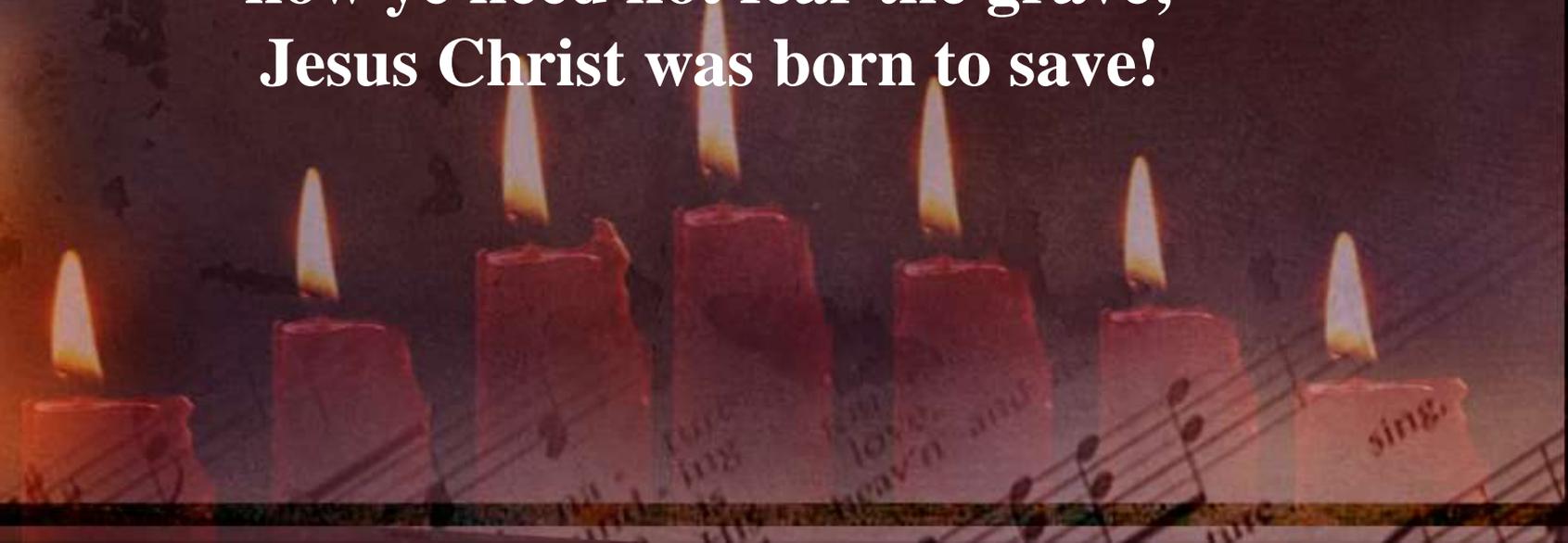
**He has opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest forevermore.**

**Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!**



3.

**Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave;  
Jesus Christ was born to save!**



**Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!**



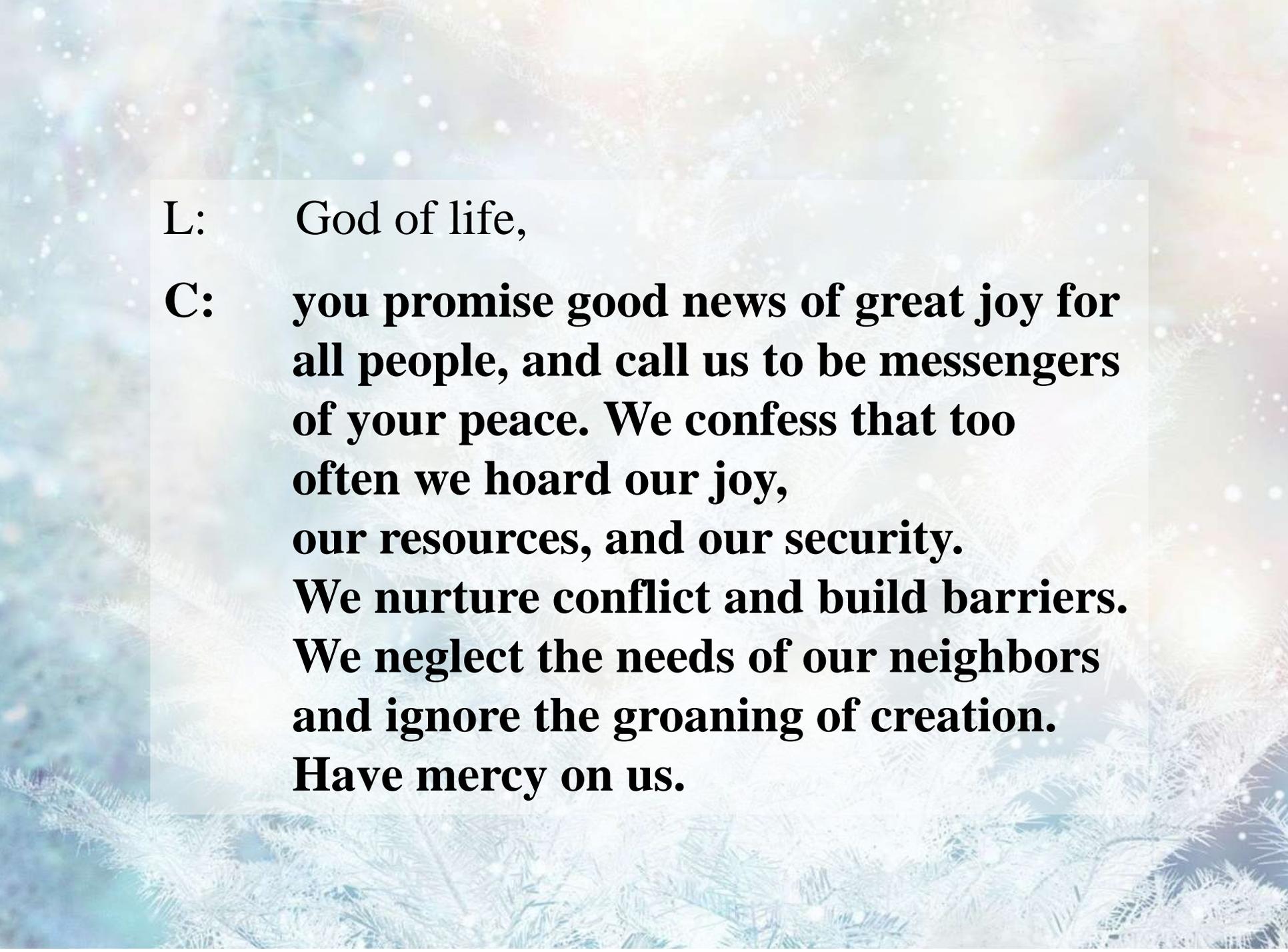
# *Confession and Forgiveness*

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the Word made flesh,  
our life and our salvation.

**C: Amen.**

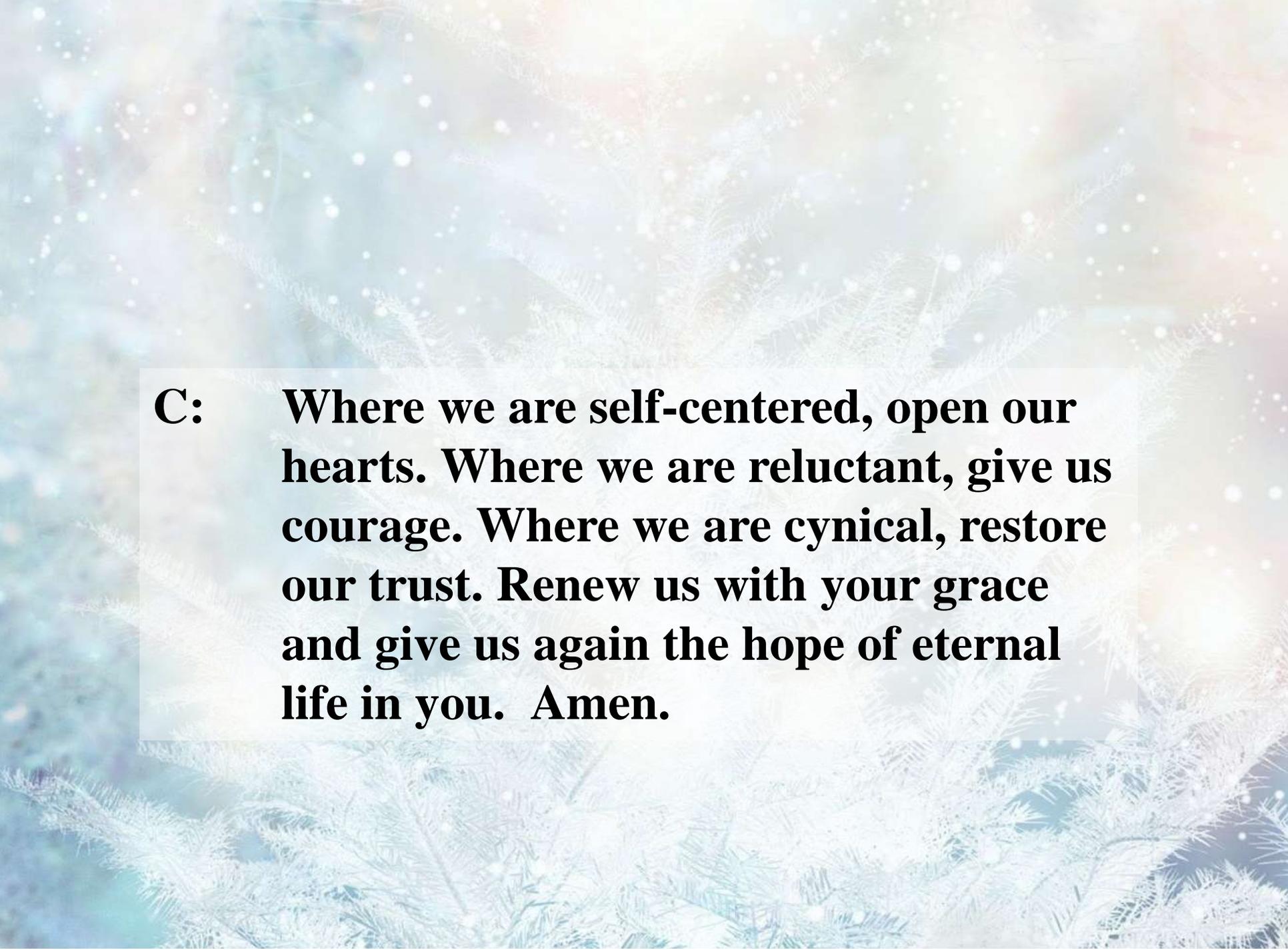
L: Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of  
God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*



L: God of life,

**C: you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us.**



**C: Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.**

L: Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

**C: Amen.**

# *Greeting*

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion  
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.  
We come to hear your living word:  
it saves us from despair.**

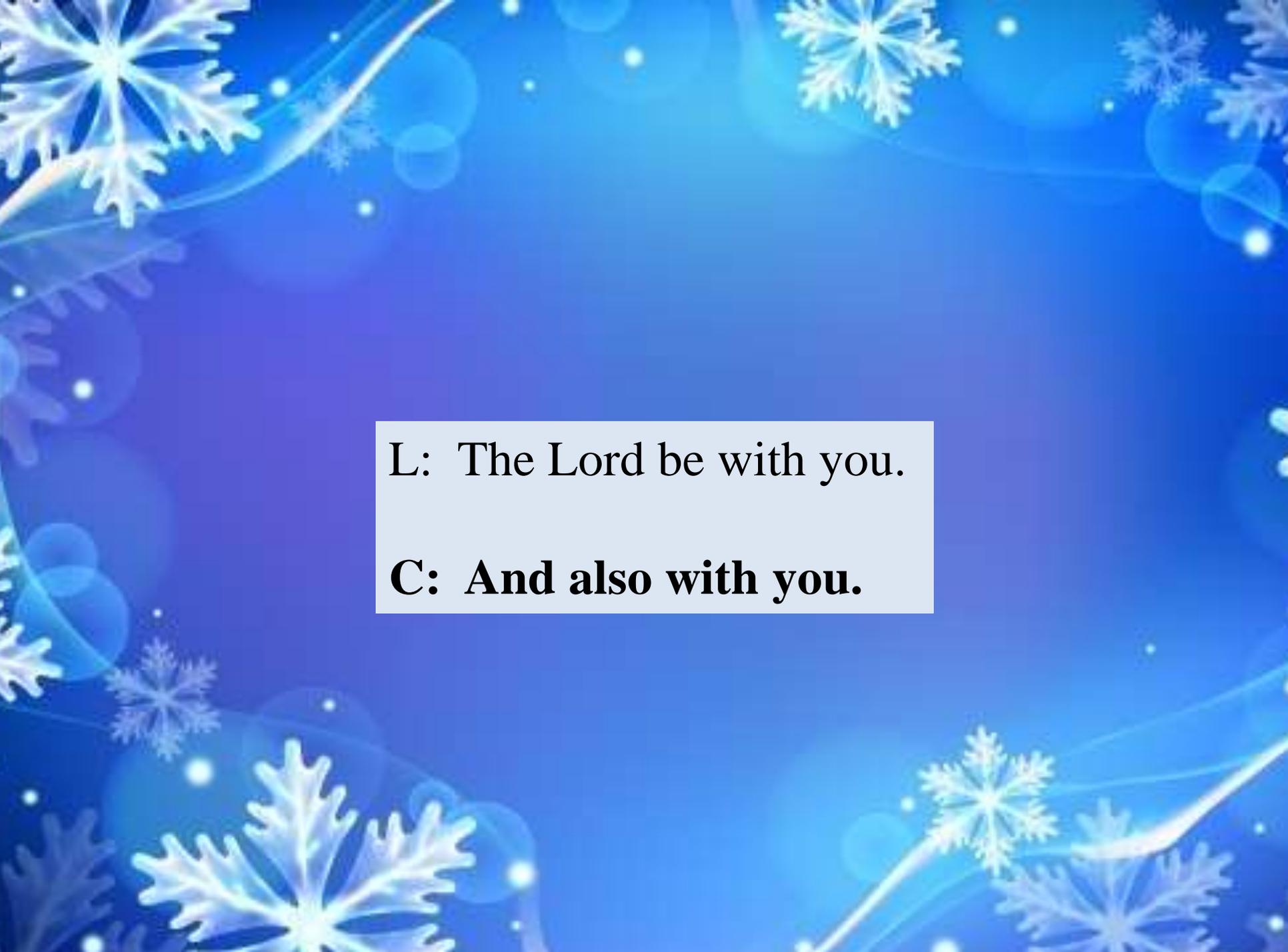
**Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole  
that new life may begin.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart.  
Renew us with your saving pow'r;  
create in us new hearts!**

**Glory be to God in heaven;  
peace, good-will to all the earth.  
Mighty God of all creation,  
Father of surpassing worth;  
we exalt you, we adore you,  
we lift high our thanks and praise.  
Saints and angels bow before you;  
here on earth our songs we raise.**

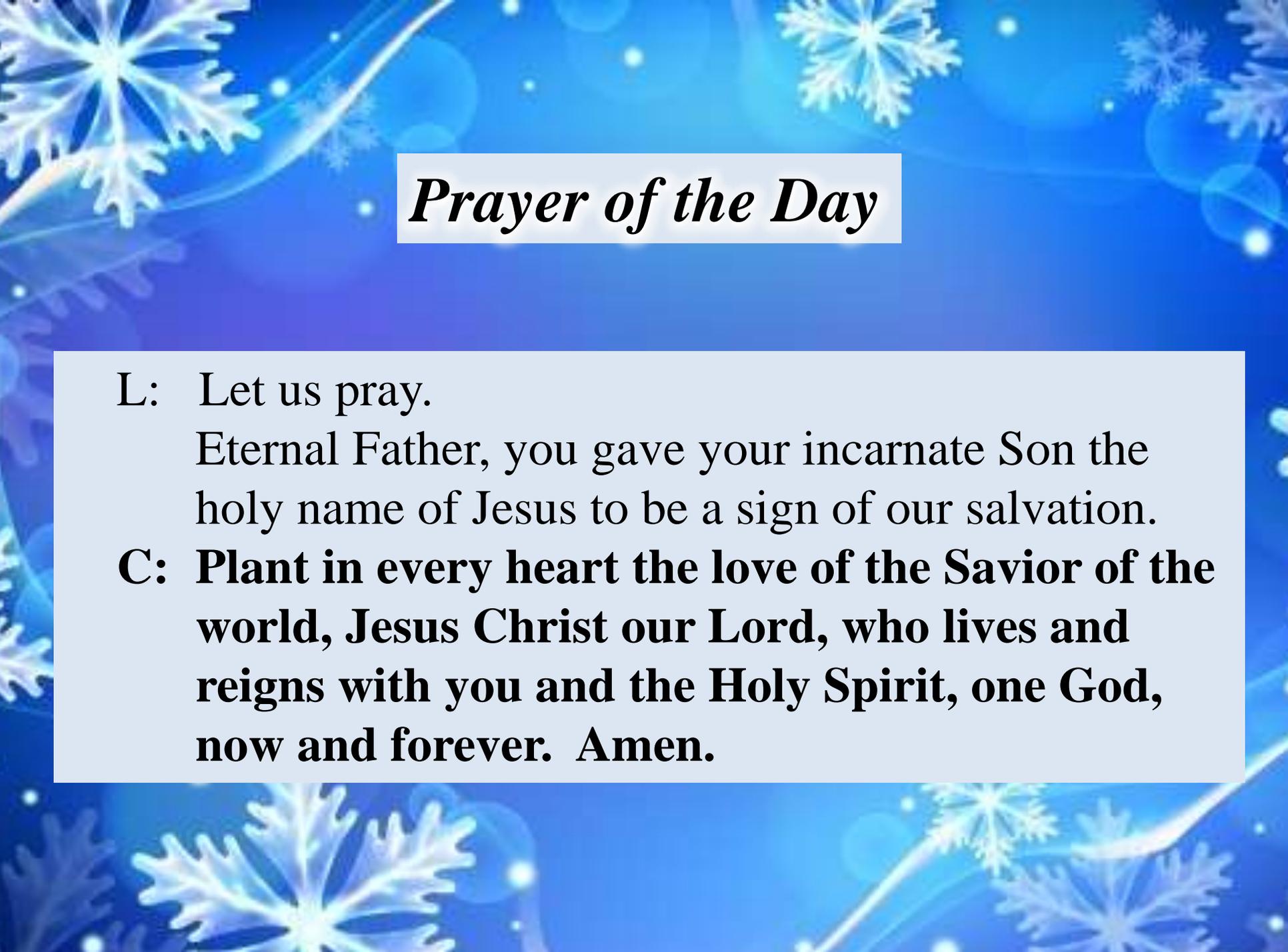
**Glory be to Christ forever,  
Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
Son of God and gracious Savior,  
you have come from heav'n above;  
on the cross you died to save us;  
now you reign at God's right hand.  
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us;  
in your promise firm we stand.**

**Holy One we now acclaim you;  
Lord alone, to you we call.  
Holy One in faith we name you,  
God most high, yet near to all:  
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit,  
in the Father's splendor bright.  
For the peace that we inherit,  
glory be to God on high!**



L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

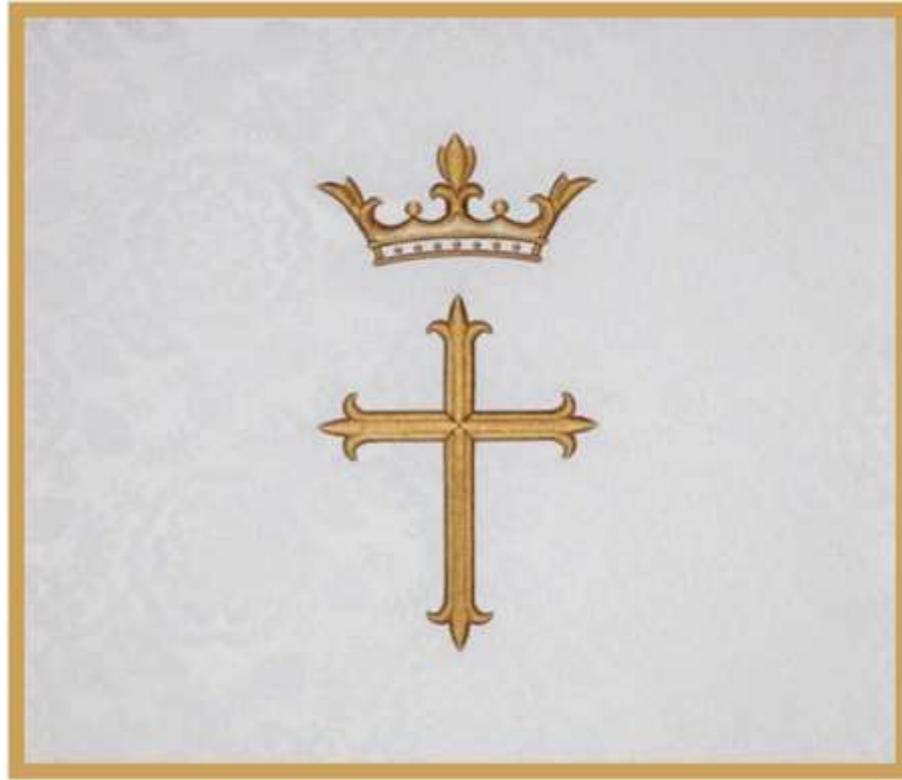


## *Prayer of the Day*

L: Let us pray.

Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation.

**C: Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**



**+ WORD +**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## **First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27**

*God commanded Aaron to say these words, known as the Aaronic benediction, in blessing the people of Israel. We too are marked with God's name and God's blessing as we are sent from our assemblies into the world.*

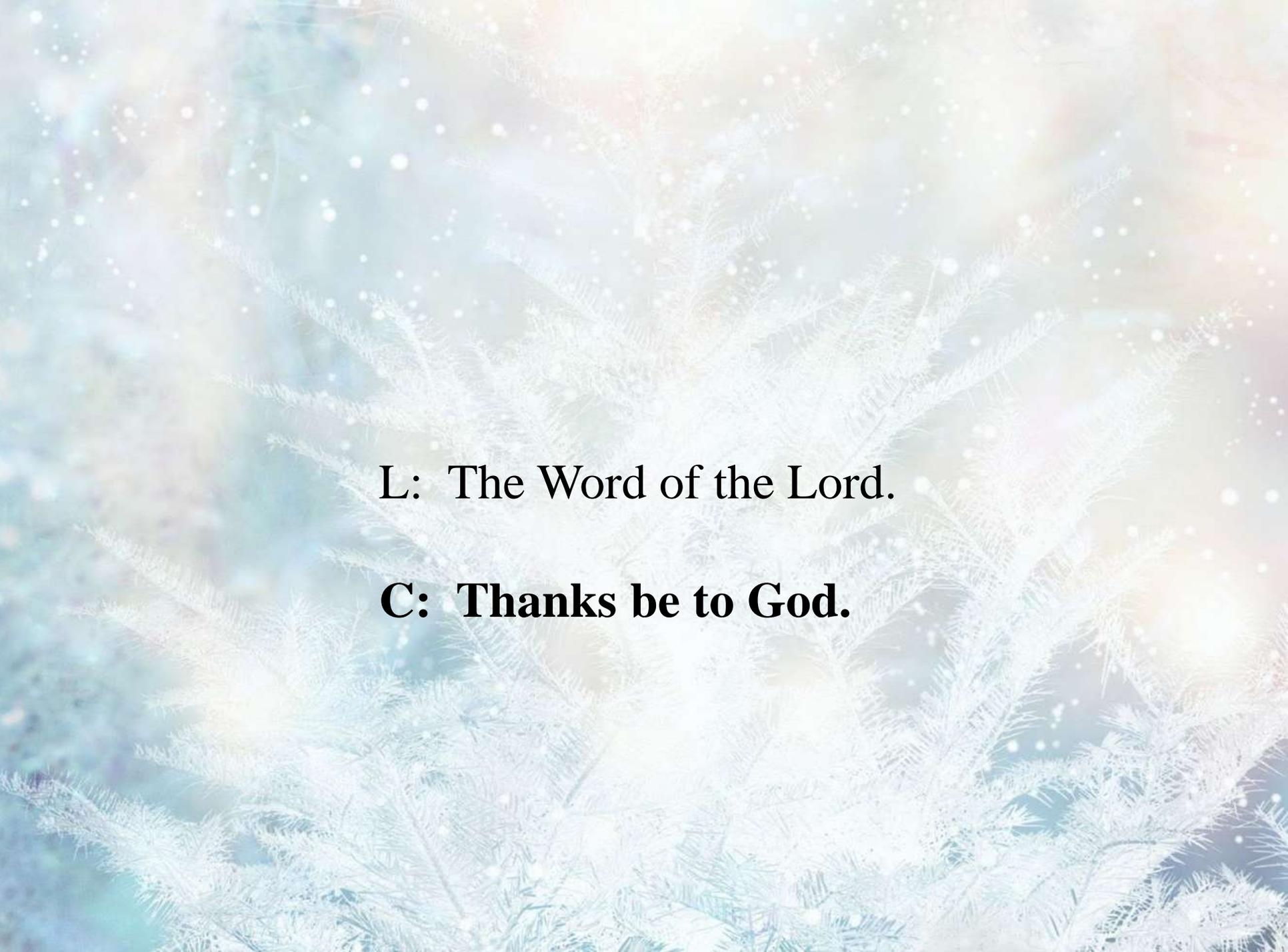
<sup>22</sup>The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: <sup>23</sup>Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,

<sup>24</sup>The LORD bless you and keep you;

<sup>25</sup>the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;

<sup>26</sup>the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

<sup>27</sup>So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.



L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 8

L: <sup>1</sup>O LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**C: <sup>2</sup>you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**

L: <sup>3</sup>When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

**C: <sup>4</sup>what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?**

L: <sup>5</sup>Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.

**C: <sup>6</sup>You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:**

L: <sup>7</sup>all flocks and cattle,  
even the wild beasts of the field,

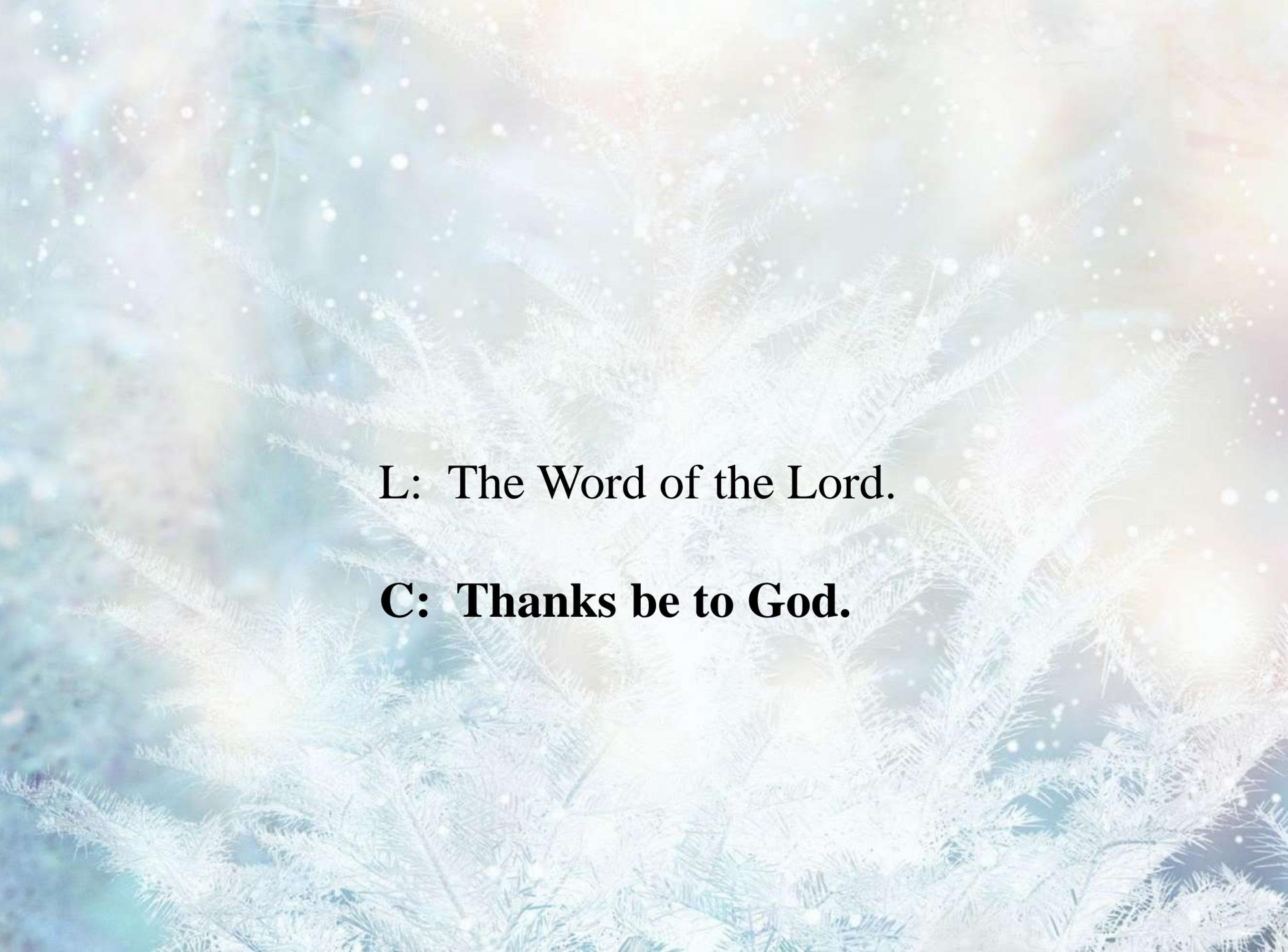
**C: <sup>8</sup>the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,  
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

L: <sup>9</sup>O LORD our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

*Paul proclaims the ultimate significance of the nativity: Jesus was born the Son of God so that, because of him, we all may be God's children.*

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.



L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Kids'  
Time*



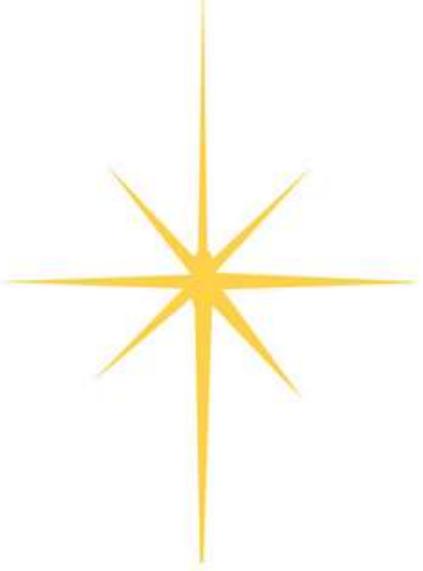


# We Three Kings of Orient Are

Text: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. Music: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. Public Domain.

1. **We three kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.**





**O star of wonder, star of light,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.**

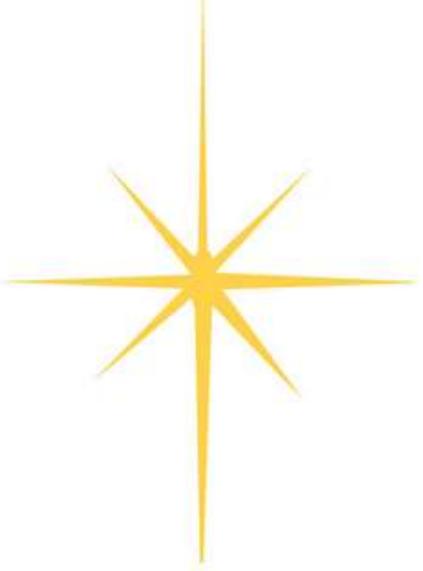




2.

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
Gold I bring to crown Him again;  
King forever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign.**





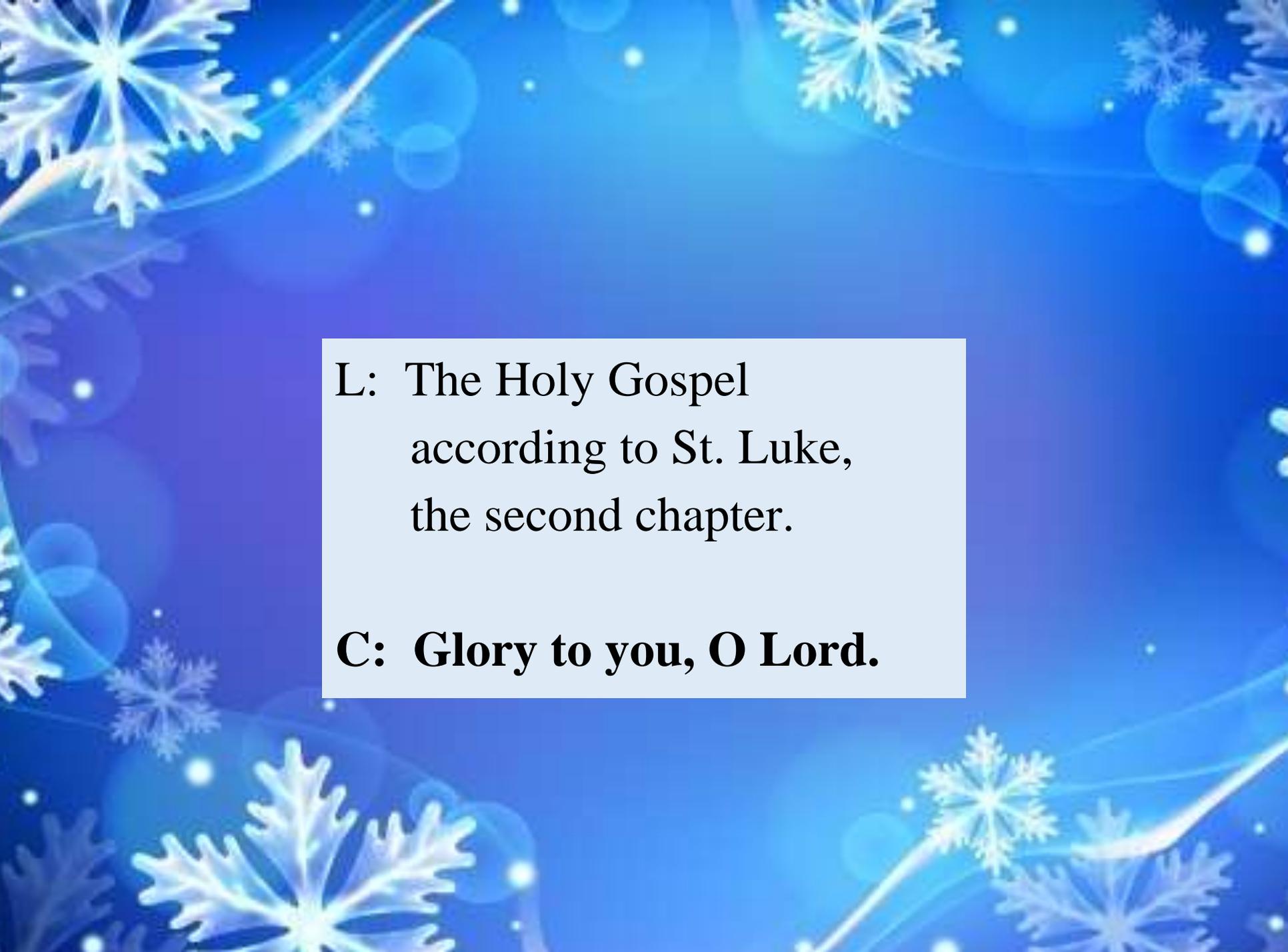
**O star of wonder, star of light,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.**



# *Gospel Acclamation*

p. 205

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior:  
open now your saving word.  
Let it burn like fire within us;  
speak until our hearts are stirred.  
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the  
good news that you bring.**



L: The Holy Gospel  
according to St. Luke,  
the second chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

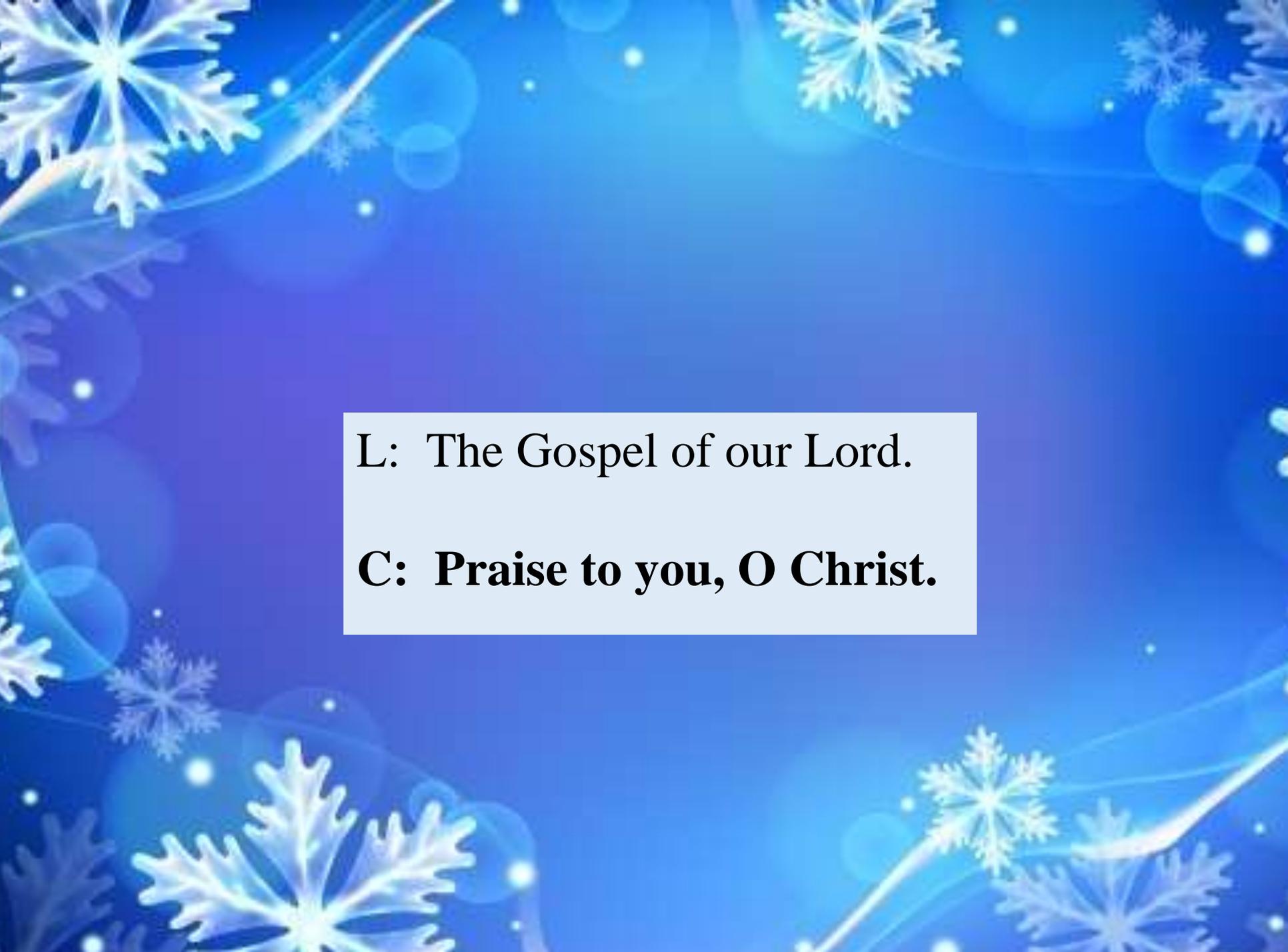
## **Gospel: Luke 2:15-21**

*Eight days after his birth, Jesus is circumcised according to Jewish law and given the name announced by the angel before his conception.*

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”

<sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

<sup>21</sup>After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.



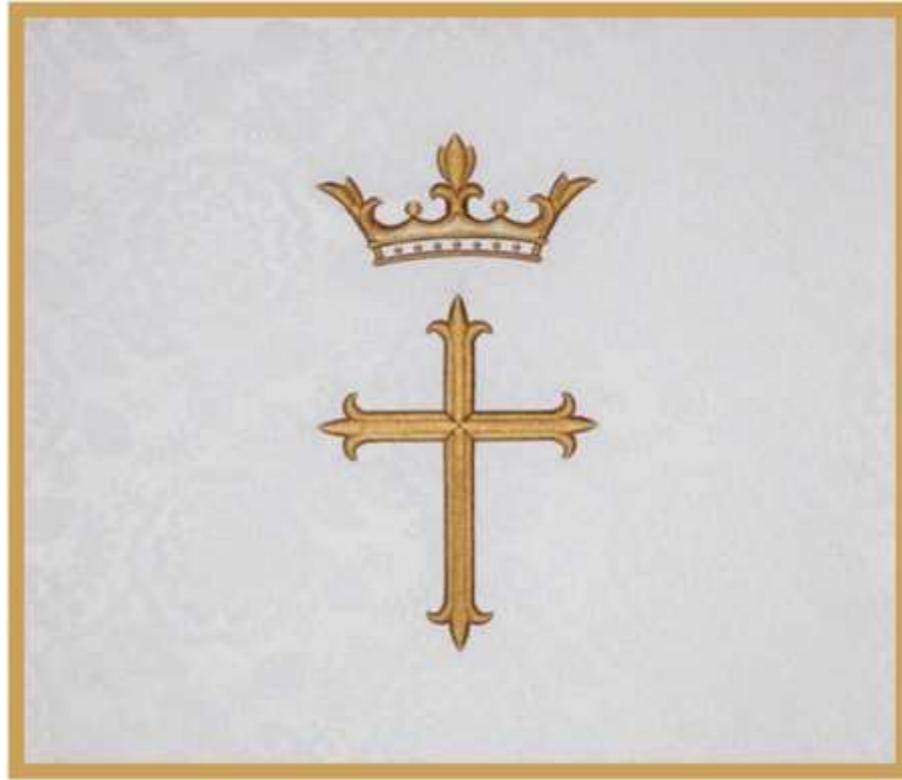
L: The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Message*

*“Transition from B.C to A.D.”*





**+ RESPONSE TO THE WORD +**

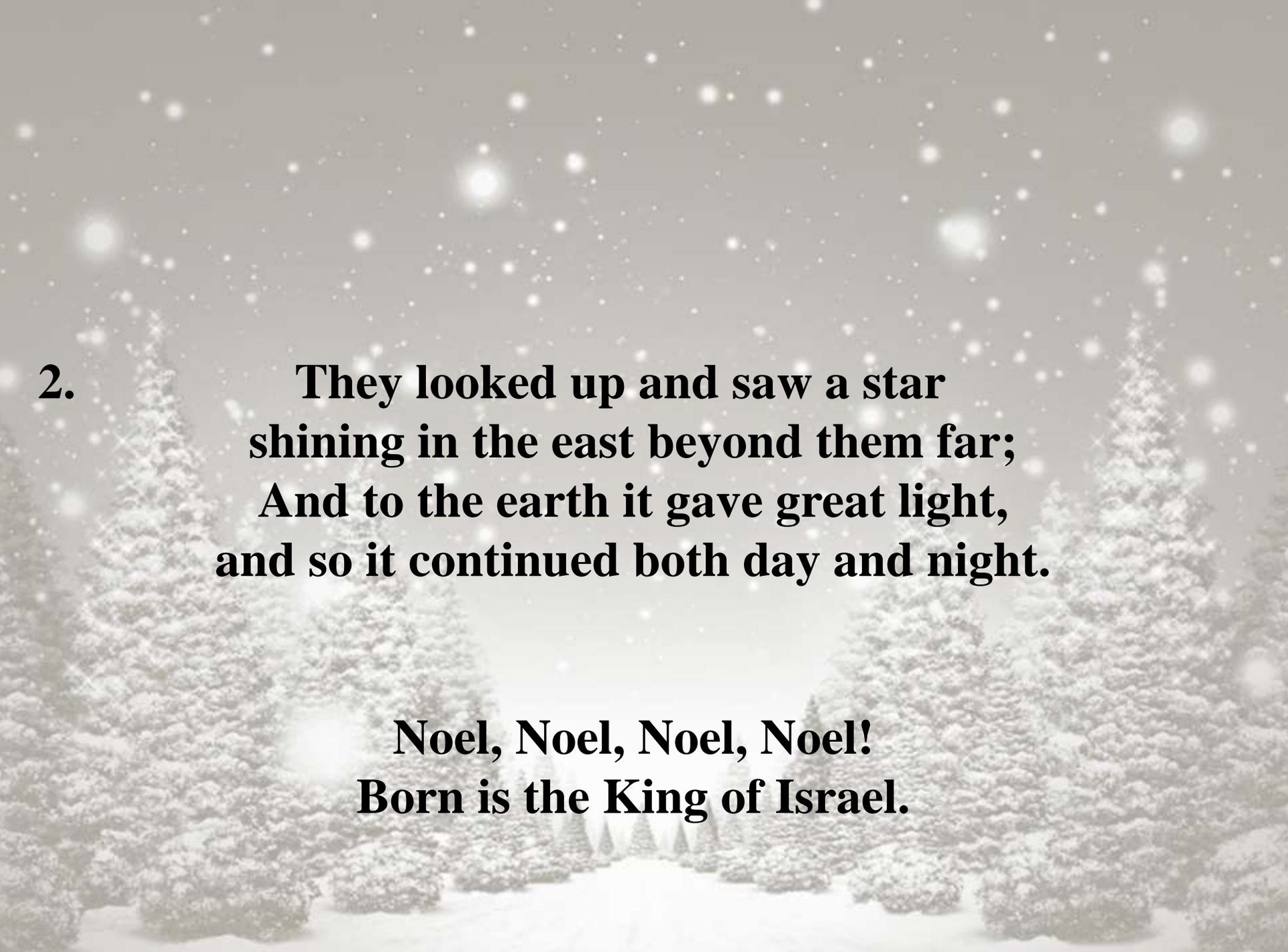
# The First Noel

#300

Text: English traditional. Music: English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901. Public Domain.

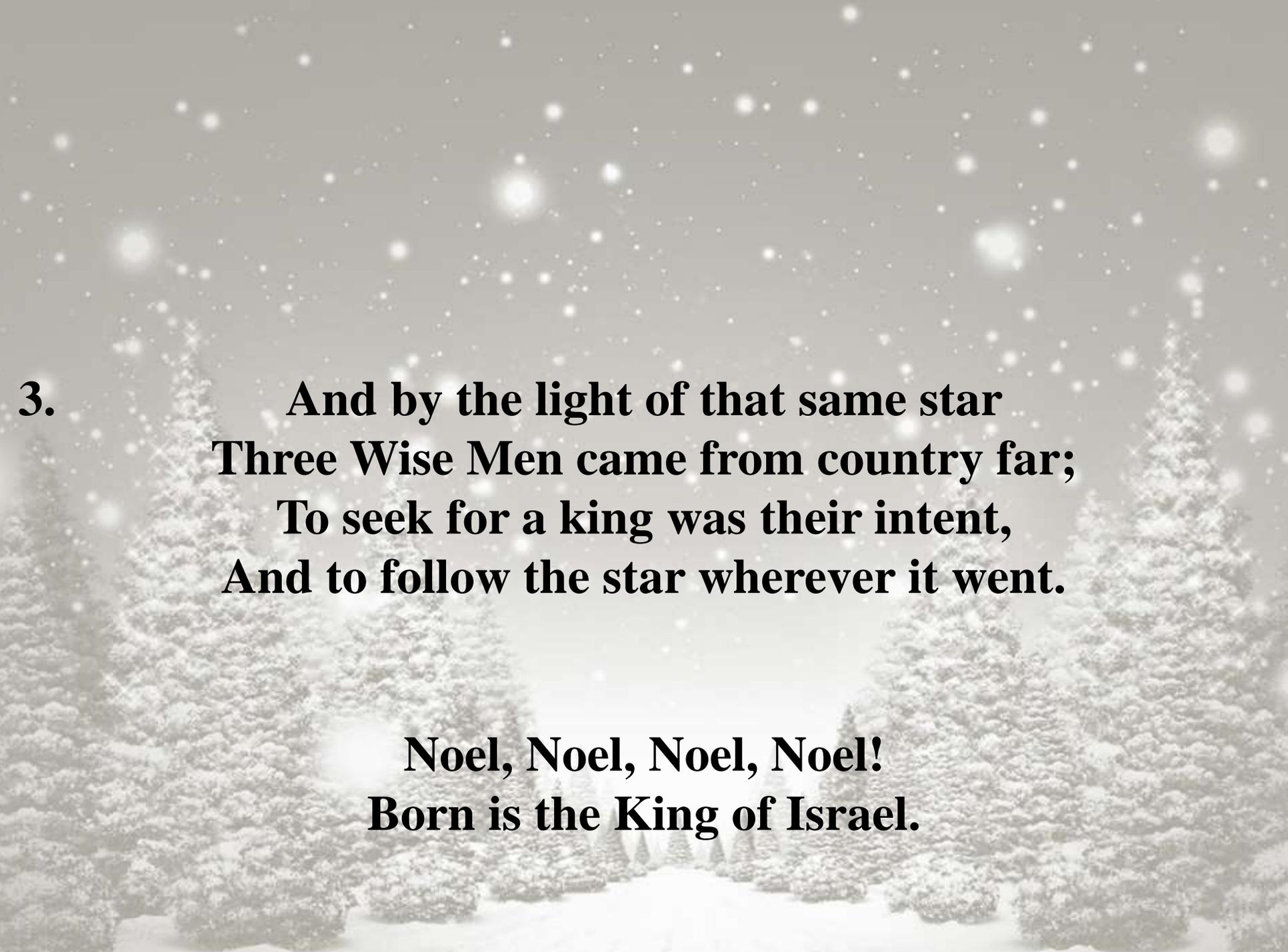
1. **The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds  
in fields where they lay;  
In fields where they lay,  
keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night  
that was so deep.**

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.**

A soft, white, snowy winter landscape with evergreen trees and falling snow. The scene is bright and festive, with a gentle glow. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

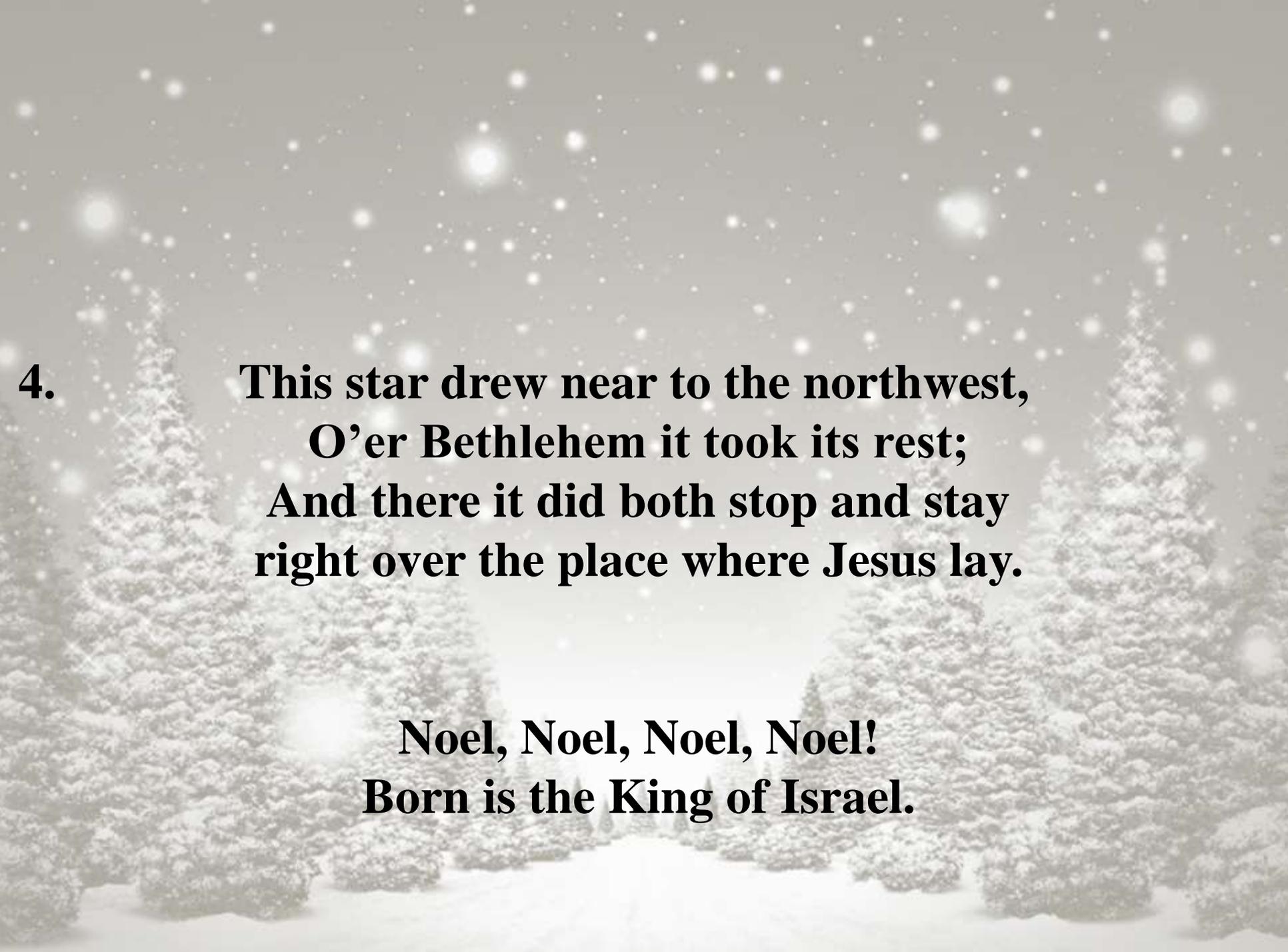
**2. They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.**

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.**

A soft, monochromatic winter scene featuring a path lined with snow-covered evergreen trees. The sky is filled with numerous bright, out-of-focus snowflakes, creating a gentle, falling snow effect. The overall atmosphere is serene and festive.

**3.           And by the light of that same star  
Three Wise Men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went.**

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.**

A soft, monochromatic winter scene featuring a path of snow leading through evergreen trees. The sky is filled with falling snow, creating a gentle, serene atmosphere. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

**4. This star drew near to the northwest,  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
And there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay.**

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.**

**5. Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
Full rev'rently upon their knee,  
And offered there in His presence  
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.**

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.**



## *Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

*Offering*  
*with*  
*Special Music*  
Tracy Hagstrom Durant  
“Amazing Grace”



OFFERTORYS AND OFFERINGS

# Love Has Come

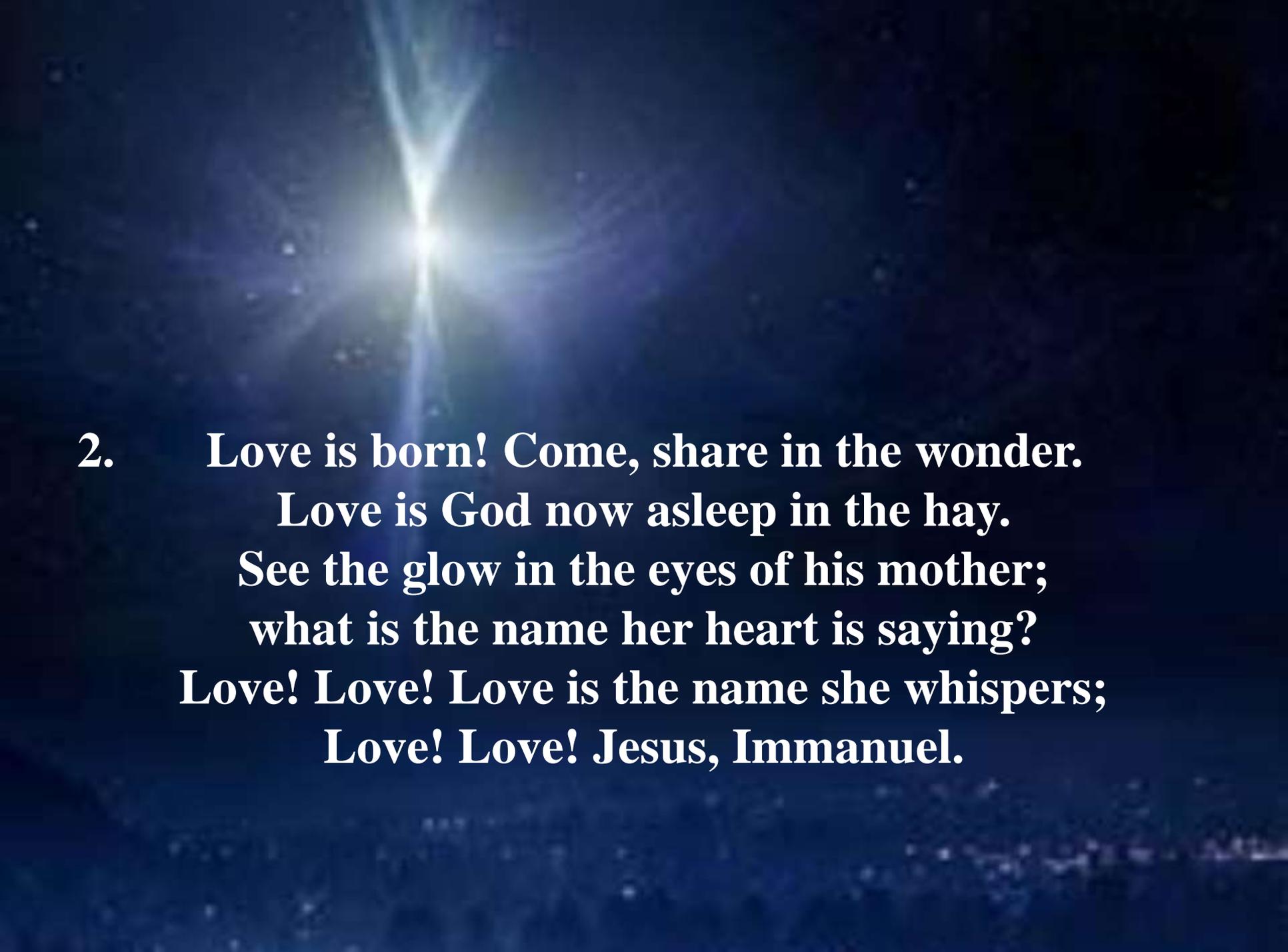
#292

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950. Music: F. Seguin, *Recueil de noels composes en langue provencale*, 1856. Public Domain.

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- 1. Love has come—a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**



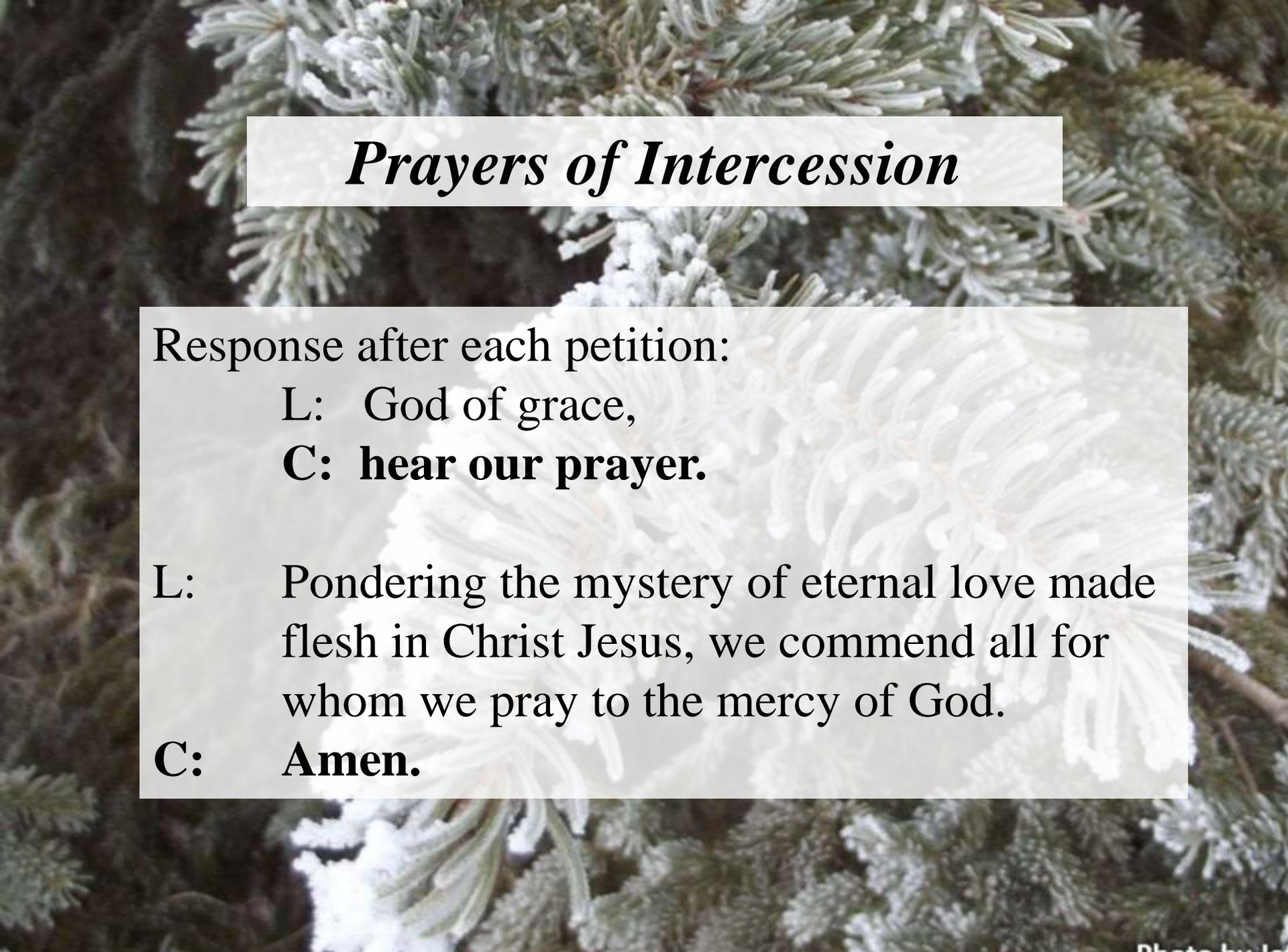
**2. Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;  
what is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;  
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.**



**3. Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

# *Offering Prayer*

- L:** God of abundance,  
receive and bless these gifts we have offered.  
Join our hearts with the song of the angels  
and strengthen us to share with all the world  
the abundance of your grace upon grace,  
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
- C:** **Amen.**



## *Prayers of Intercession*

Response after each petition:

L: God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.

**C: Amen.**

# *The Lord's Prayer*

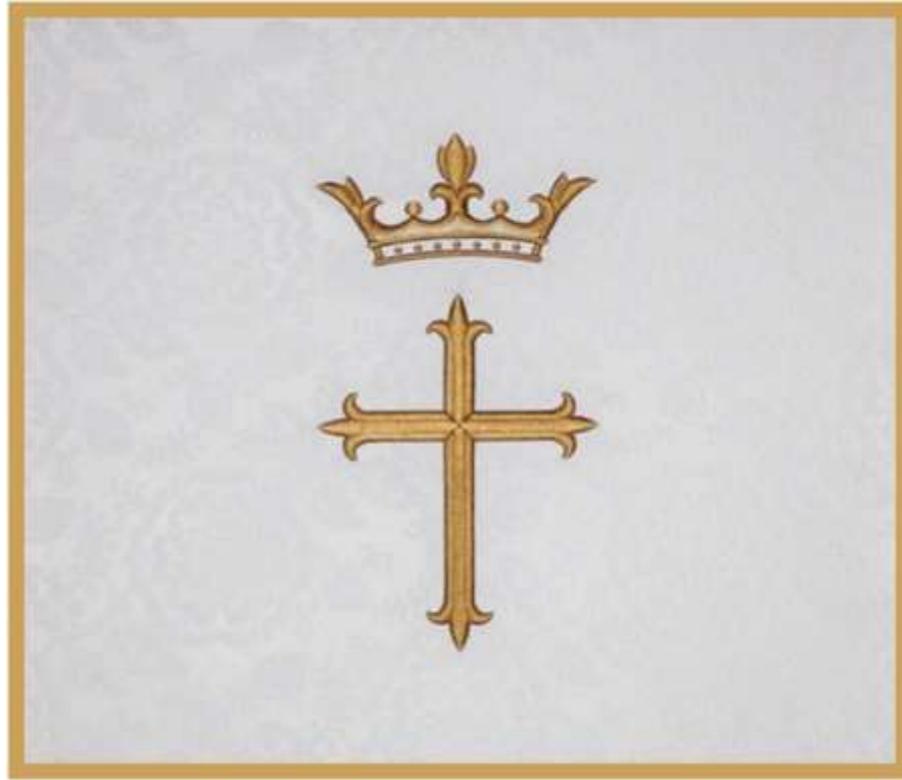
**Our Father, Who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

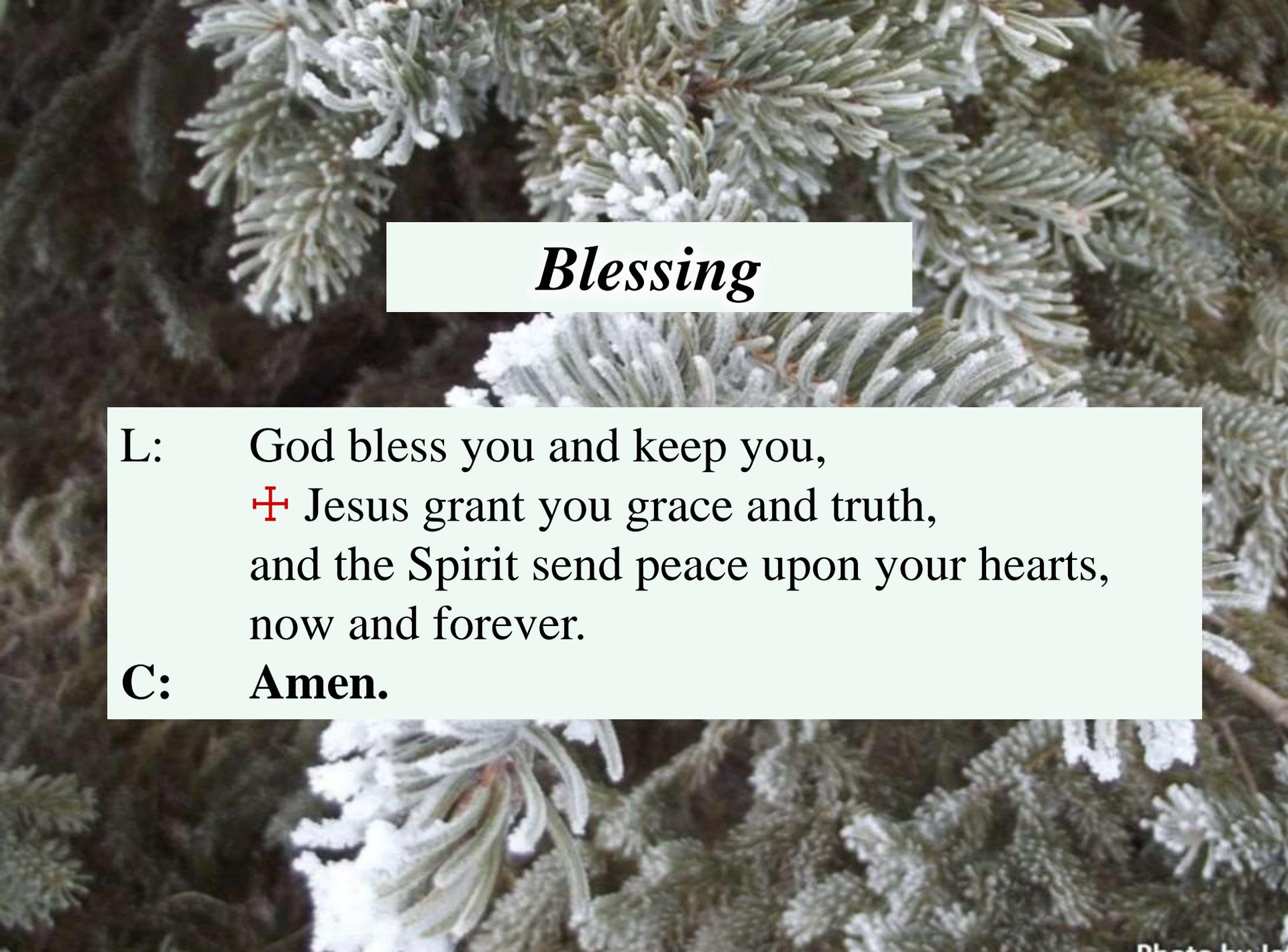
**Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**



# + **SENDING** +

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*



## *Blessing*

L: God bless you and keep you,  
✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,  
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,  
now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

A close-up photograph of a waterfall cascading over dark, mossy rocks. The water is in motion, creating a soft, blurred effect as it falls. The rocks are wet and covered in green moss, with some fallen leaves scattered around. The overall scene is natural and serene.

# *Announcements*





# Care Packages for College Students

If you would like your student  
to receive a package, please  
turn in their name and address

by

**January 5.**

See the Messenger or eMessenger  
for more details.



**Happy  
New Year!**

**Wednesday, January 4:**

No Wednesday classes

No Worship service





***Our Mission Statement***

**Together in Christ,  
We reach up - Worship  
We reach in - Discipleship  
We reach out - Evangelism...  
To the glory of God.**

# Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW #270

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915 Public Domain..

1. **Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”**



**Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

**Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King.”**

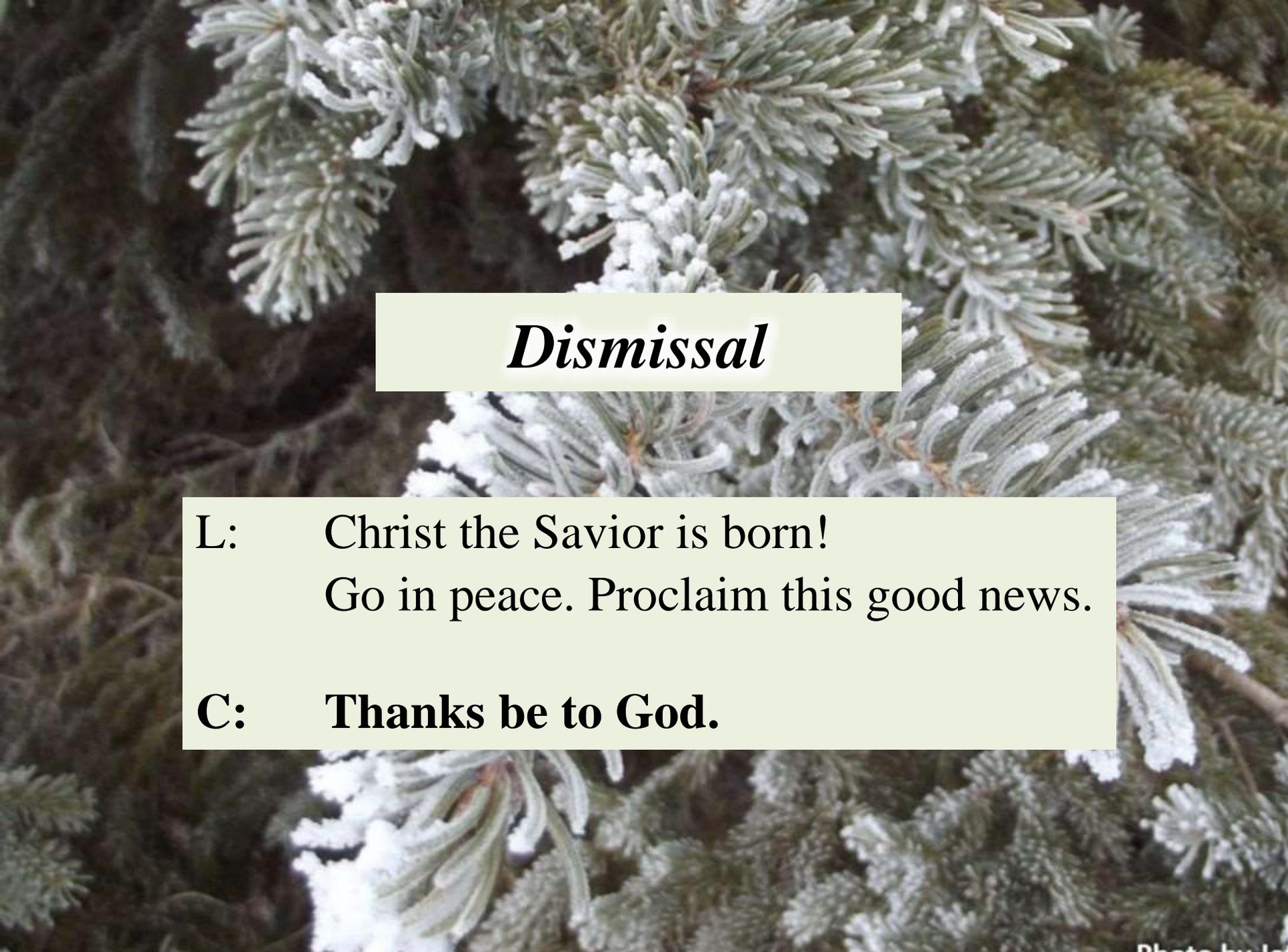
2.

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!**

**Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King."**

**3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth.**

**Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King.”**



*Dismissal*

**L:** Christ the Savior is born!  
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**



*Thank you  
for worshipping  
with us today!*

*May God  
bless you!*

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