

A woodpecker with a red crest is perched on a tree trunk. The background is a dense forest with green foliage and bare branches.

***Welcome to
Worship at
Zion Lutheran Church***

Sunday, March 5, 2023 9:00 am

Photo by Becky Huff



+ GATHERING +

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



Welcome and Announcements

A close-up photograph of a person's feet wearing brown sandals, walking on a dusty, rocky path. The person is wearing a white skirt. The ground is composed of light brown soil and small, dark rocks. The text "Walking dusty in a living hope" is overlaid on the image in a white, cursive font with a drop shadow.

Walking
dusty
in a
living hope

Our Wednesday midweek worship on March 8 will focus on "Cultivating Hope and Community in Worship." A meal will be served starting at 5:00 pm with worship at 6:15 pm around tables in the Fellowship Hall.

This Is the Spirit's Entry Now

ELW #448

Text: Thomas E. Herbranson, b. 1933. Music: North American traditional, arr. Hymnal version. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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- 1. This is the Spirit's entry now:
the water and the word,
the cross of Jesus on your brow,
the seal both felt and heard.**



**2. This miracle of life reborn
comes from the Lord of breath;
the sinless one from life was torn;
our life comes through his death.**



**3. Let water be the sacred sign
that we must die each day
to rise again by his design
as foll'wers of his way.**



**4. Renewing Spirit, hear our praise
 for your baptismal pow'r
 that washes us through all our days.
 Come, cleanse again this hour.**

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C: **Amen.**

L: Let us acknowledge before God and one
another our need for repentance and God's
mercy.

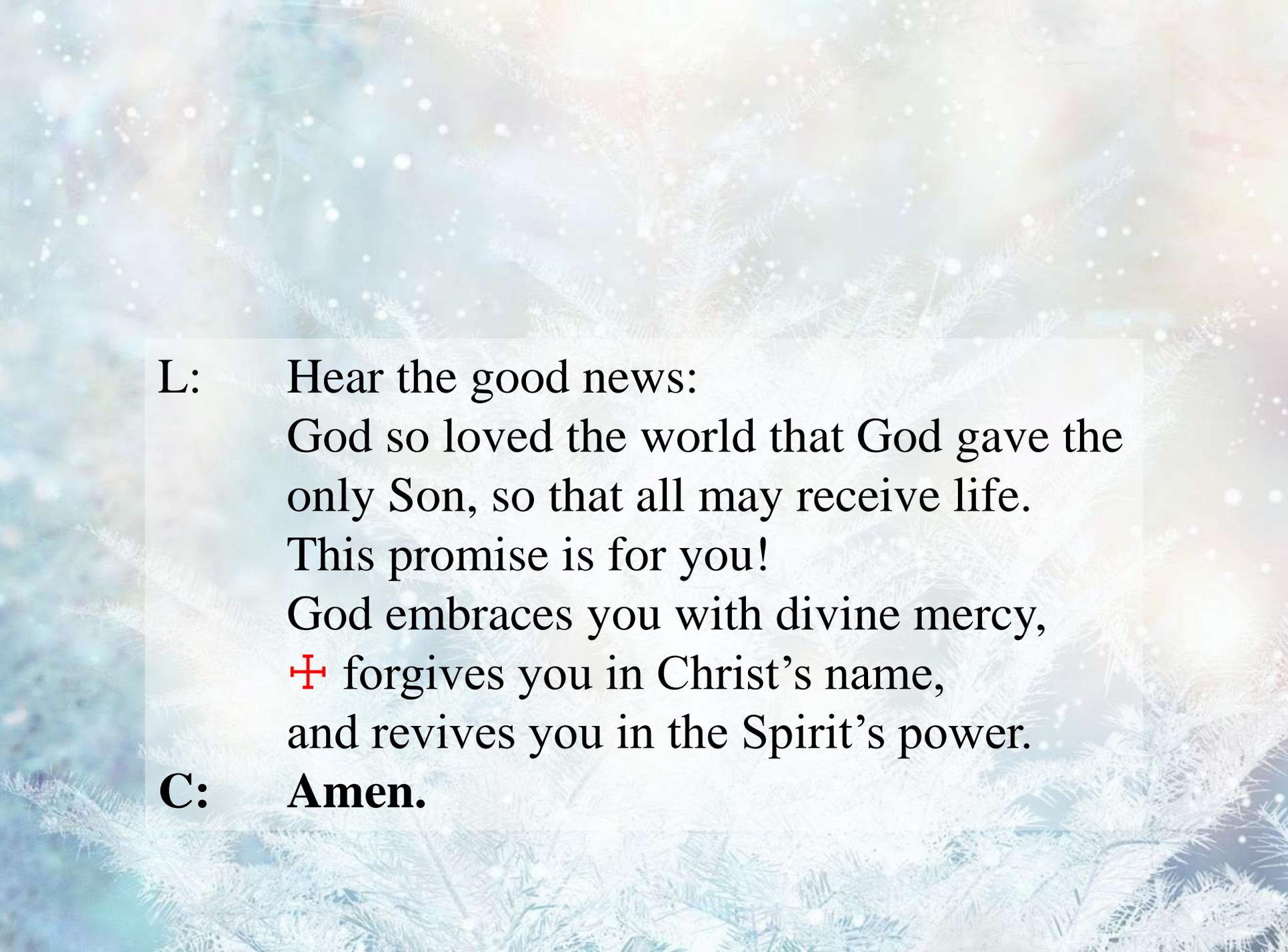
Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Holy God,

C: we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life.

Amen.



L: Hear the good news:
God so loved the world that God gave the
only Son, so that all may receive life.
This promise is for you!
God embraces you with divine mercy,
✝ forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power.

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.

Kyrie

L: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
let us pray to the lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

L: For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the church of God,
and the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

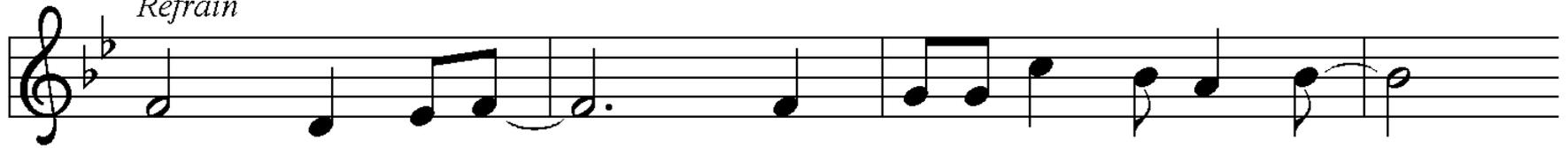
C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

Refrain



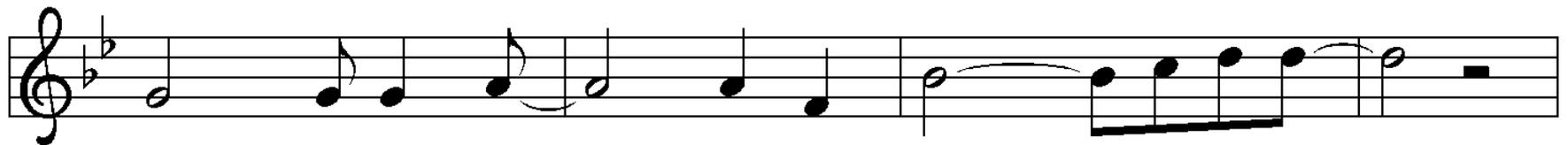
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



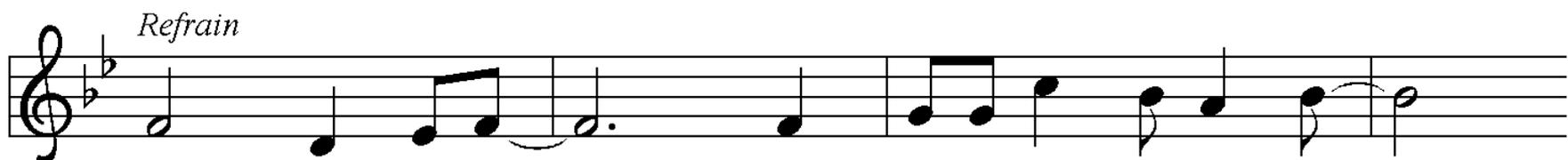
blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

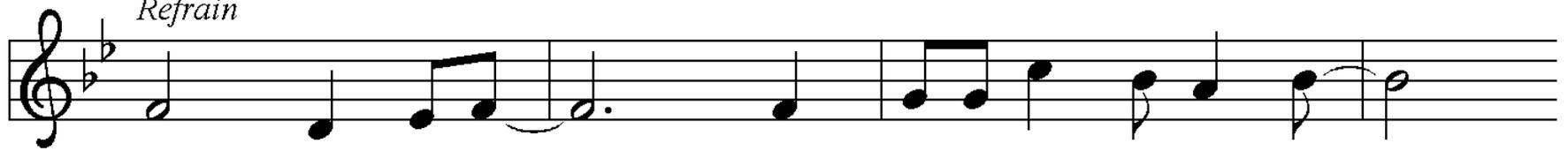


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

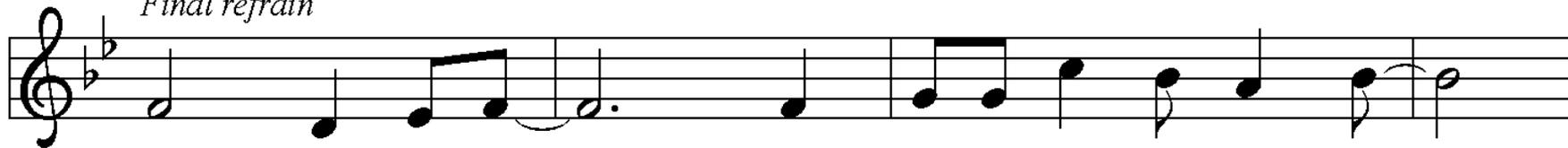


3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

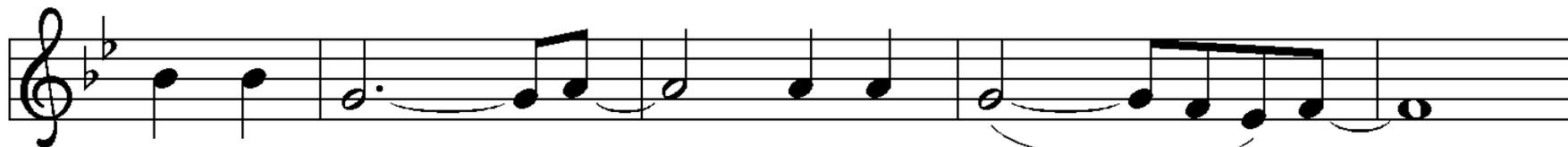


gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

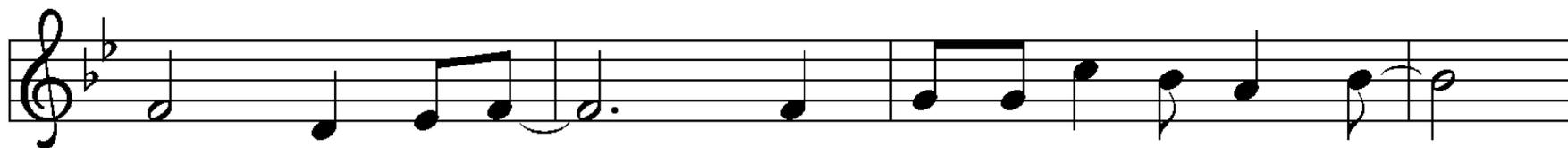
Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



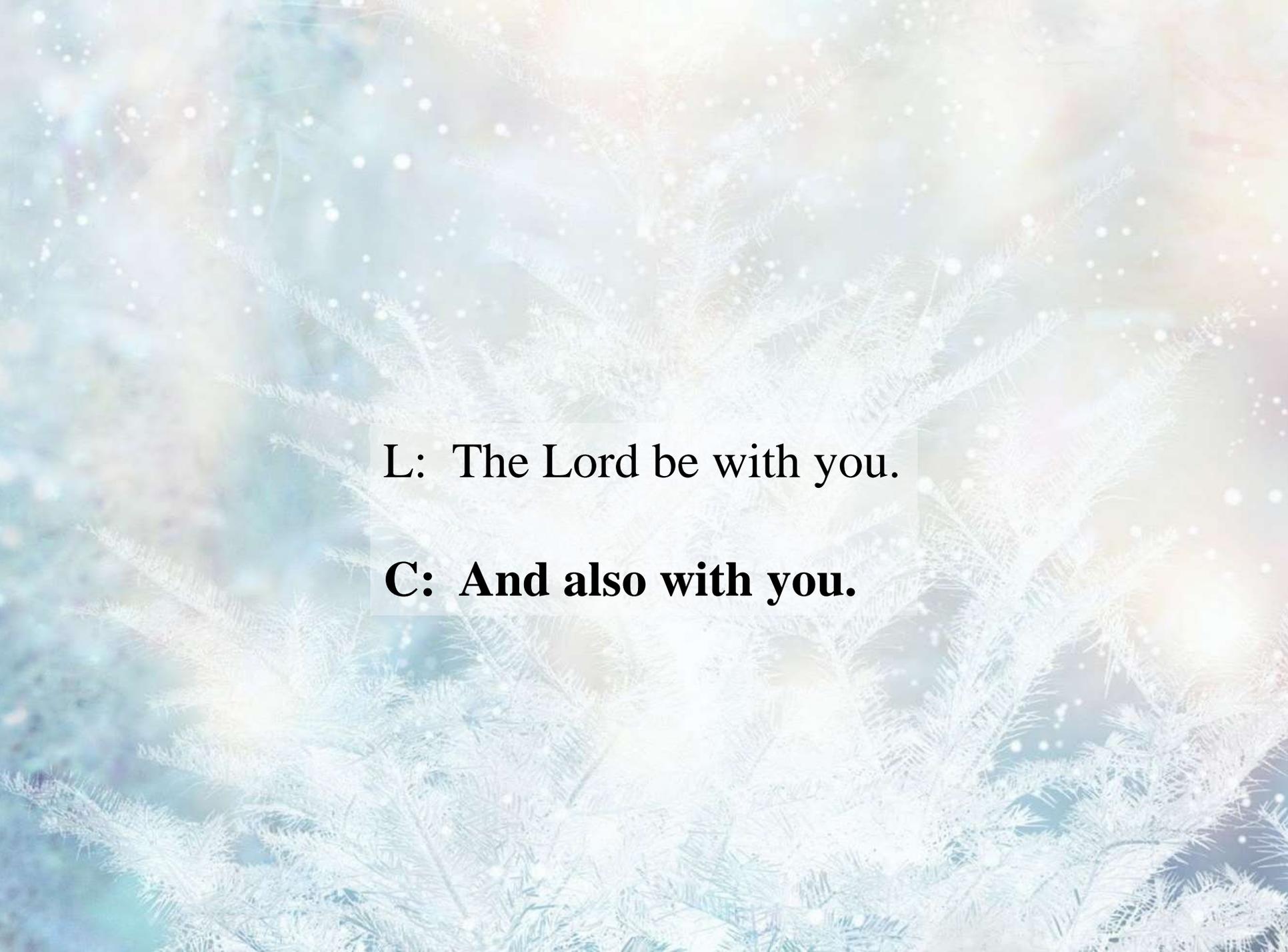
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.



L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray.

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children.

C: Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.



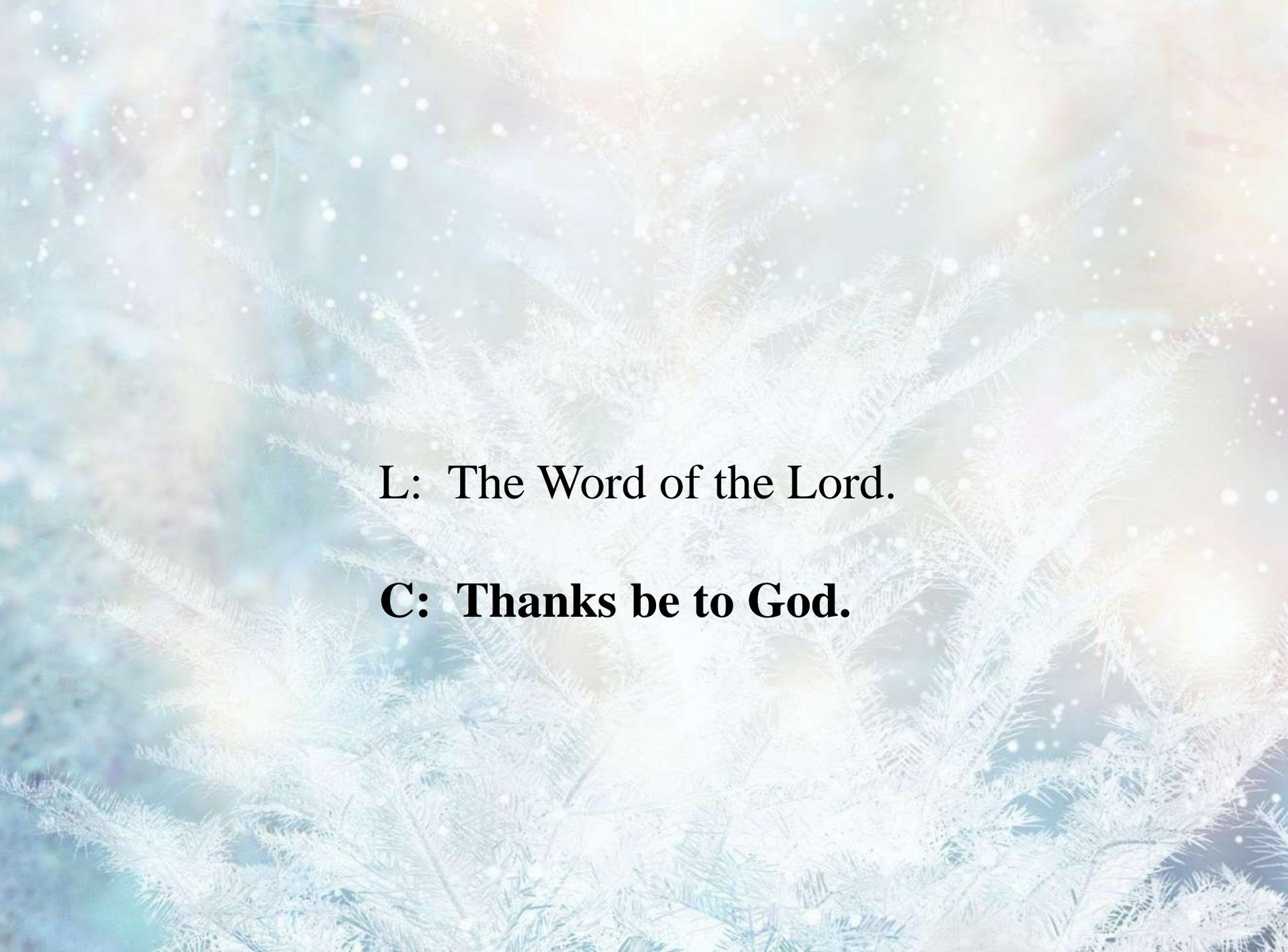
Children's Message

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

¹The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.



L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121

L: ¹I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

C: ²**My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

L: ³The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

C: ⁴**Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

L: ⁵the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

**C: ⁶the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

L: ⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

**C: ⁸The LORD will watch over your going out
and your coming in, from this time forth
forevermore.**

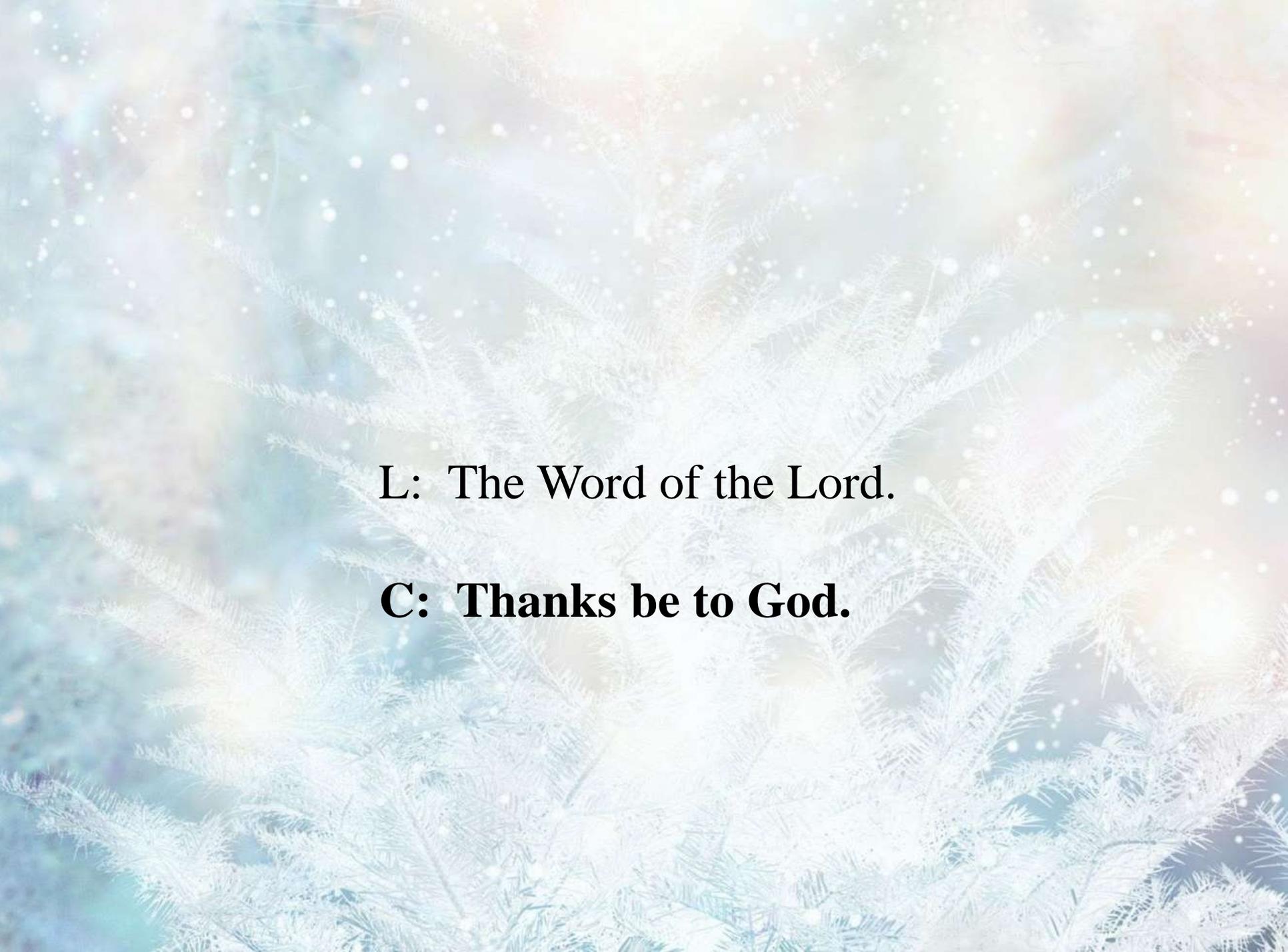
Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.



L: The Word of the Lord.

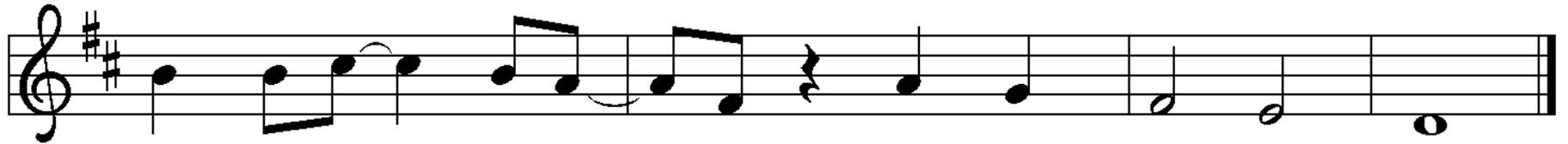
C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

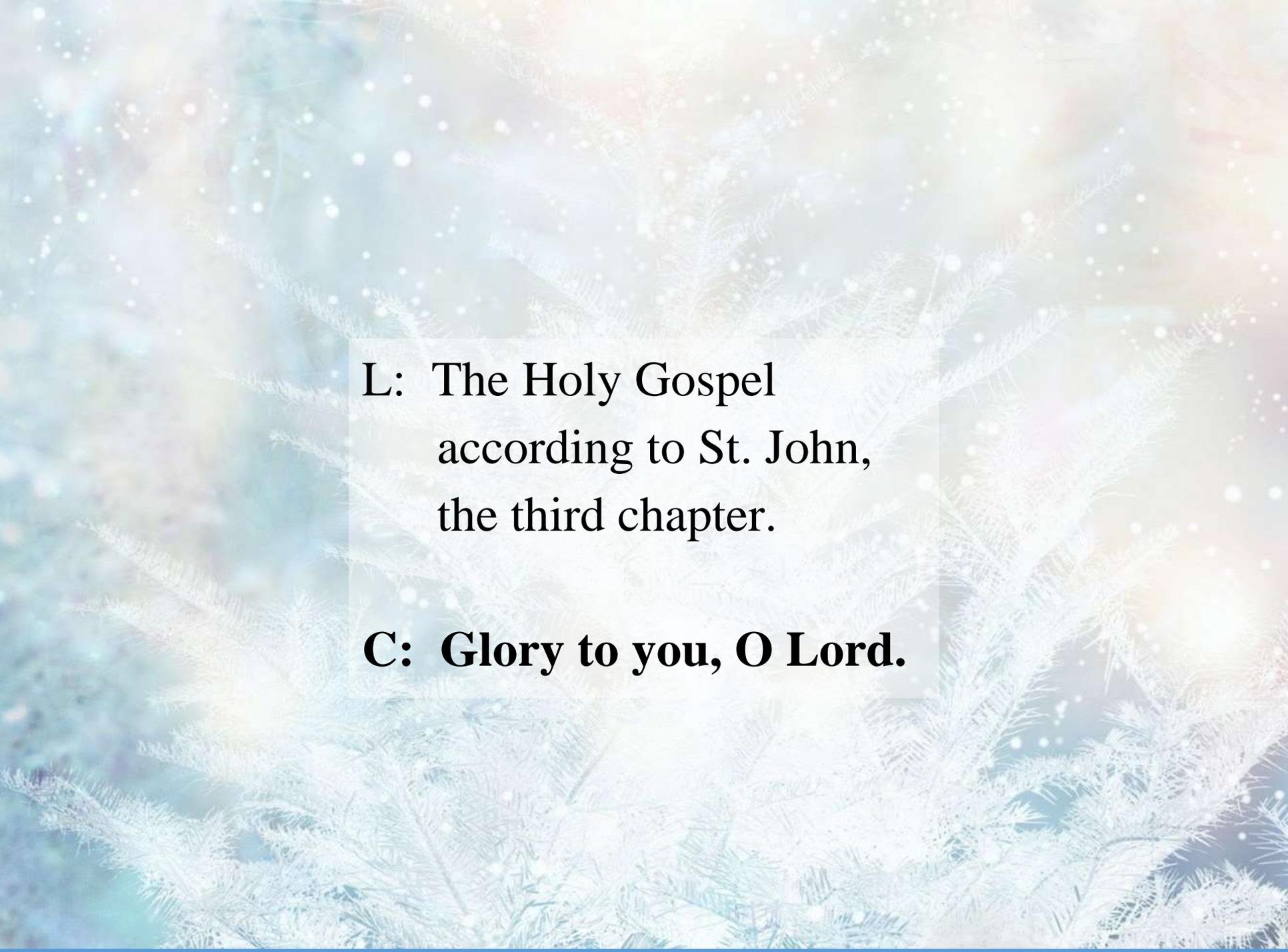
p. 171



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



L: The Holy Gospel
according to St. John,
the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.”

³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’”

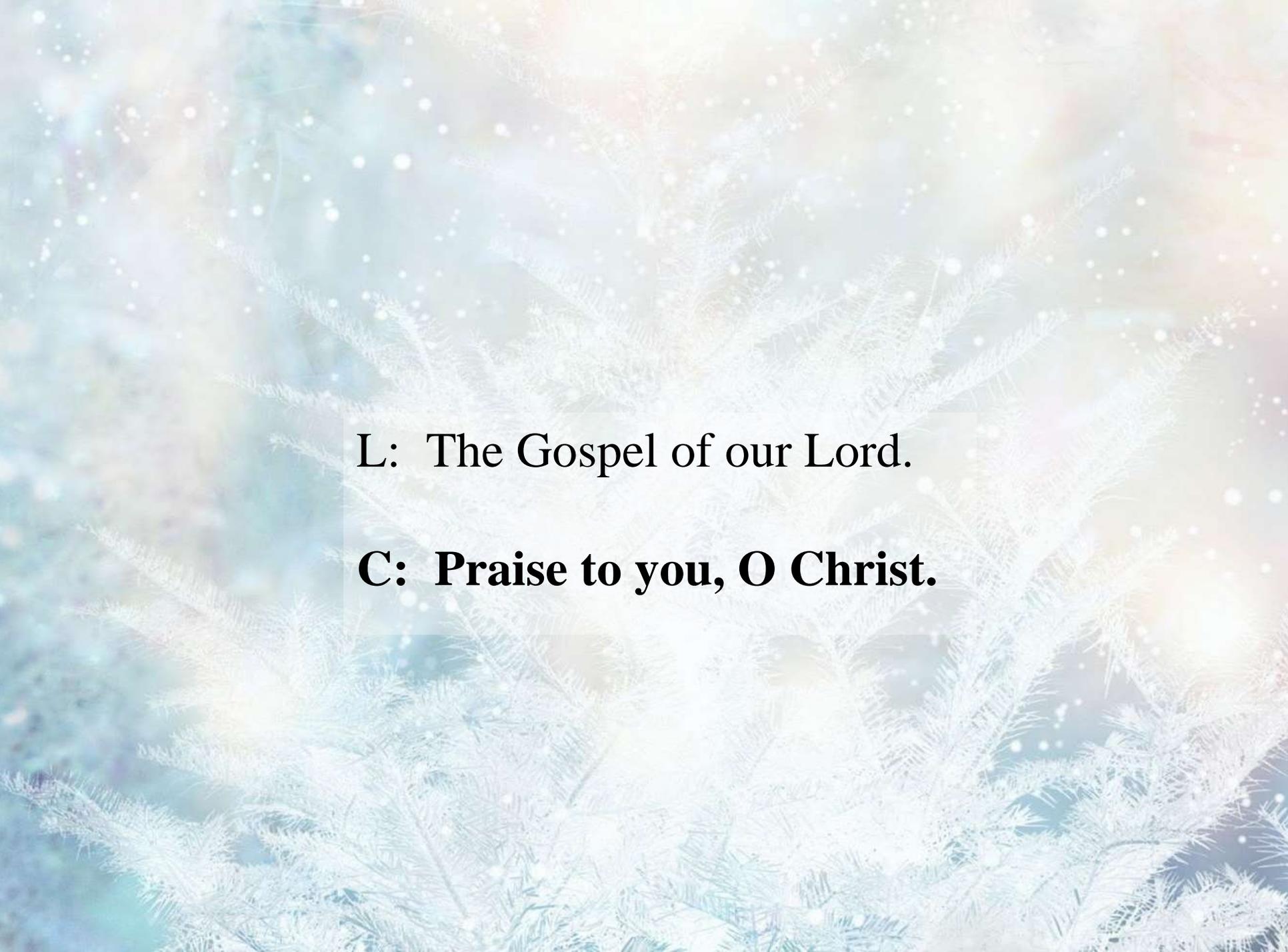
⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

A background image of a Christmas tree with white lights and snow. The tree is covered in white snow and has many small white lights. The background is a soft, warm glow with a gradient from light blue to yellow. The text is centered on the tree.

L: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

“The Holy Spirit at Work”



+ RESPONSE TO THE WORD +

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus

#451

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937. Music: John C. Ylvisaker. Text and music © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense #731814-A. All rights reserved.

- 1. We are baptized in Christ Jesus,
we are baptized in his death;
that as Christ is raised victorious,
we might live a brand new life.
And if we have been united
in a dreadful death like his,
we will all be reunited, for he lives.**

2.

**In the water and the witness,
in the breaking of the bread,
in the waiting arms of Jesus
who is risen from the dead,
God has made a new beginning
from the ashes of our past;
in the losing and the winning we hold fast.**

3.

**Glory be to God the Father,
glory be to Christ the Son,
glory to the Holy Spirit,
ever three and ever one;
as it was in the beginning,
glory now resounds again
in a song that has no ending. Amen**

Apostles' Creed

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

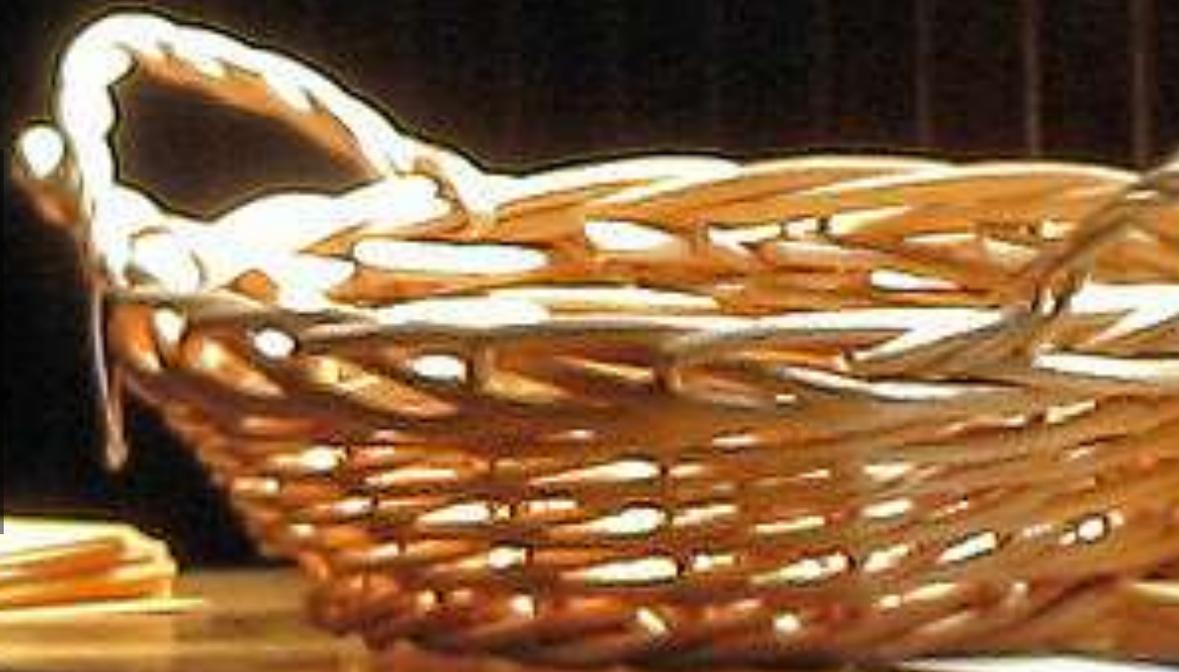
**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**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
Choir Anthem



OFFERTORIES AND OFFERINGS

Just As I Am, without One Plea

ELW #592 v. 1

Text: Charlotte Elliot, 1789-1871. Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868. Public Domain.

- 1. Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

Offering Prayer

- L:** God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
- C:** **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Response after each petition:

L: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

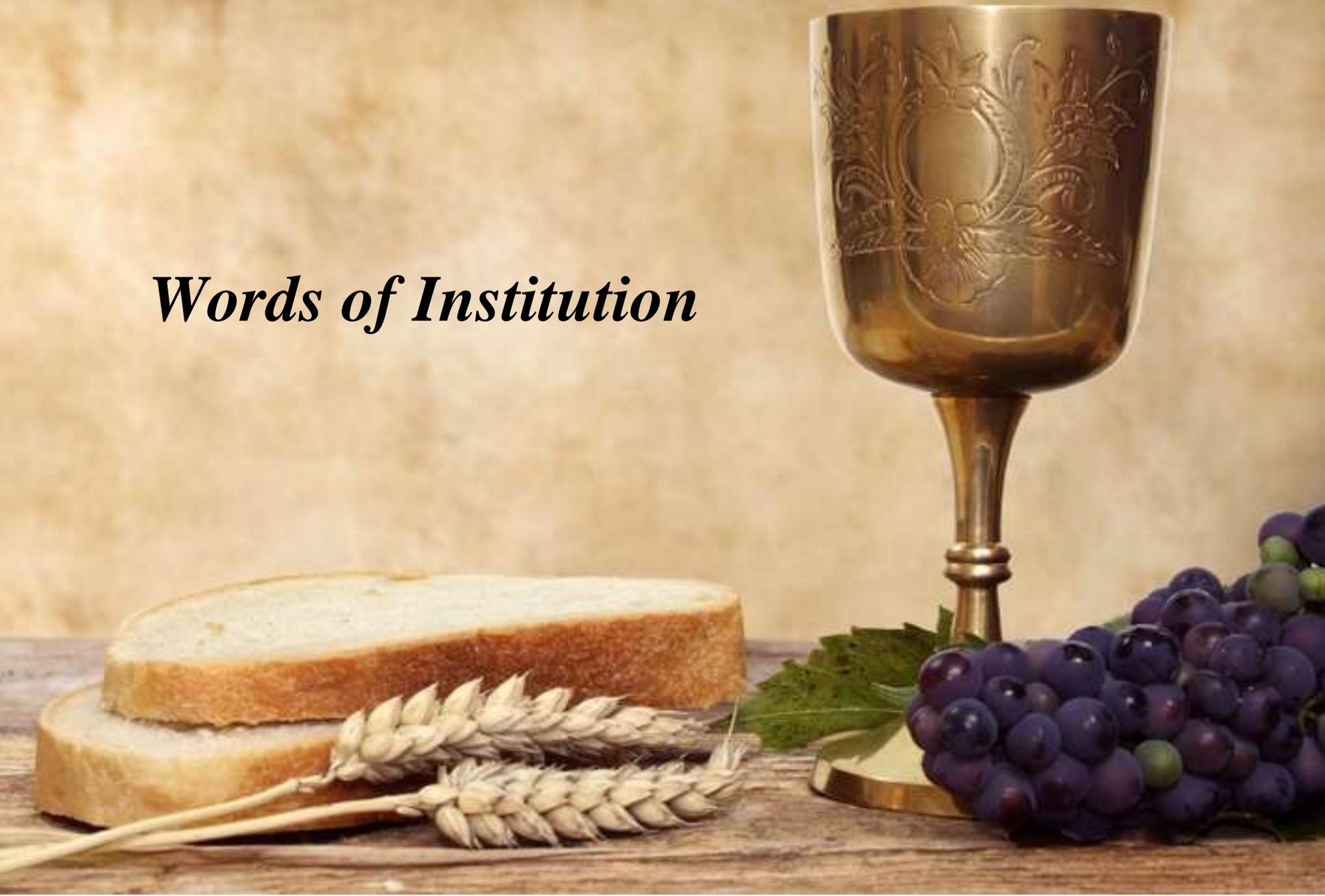
C: Amen.



+ MEAL +

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Words of Institution



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.**

Holy Communion

An usher will guide you forward. Wafers or gluten free bread and wine or juice will be offered. You will be served a wafer unless you indicate otherwise. Please take the wine or juice from the tray yourself.

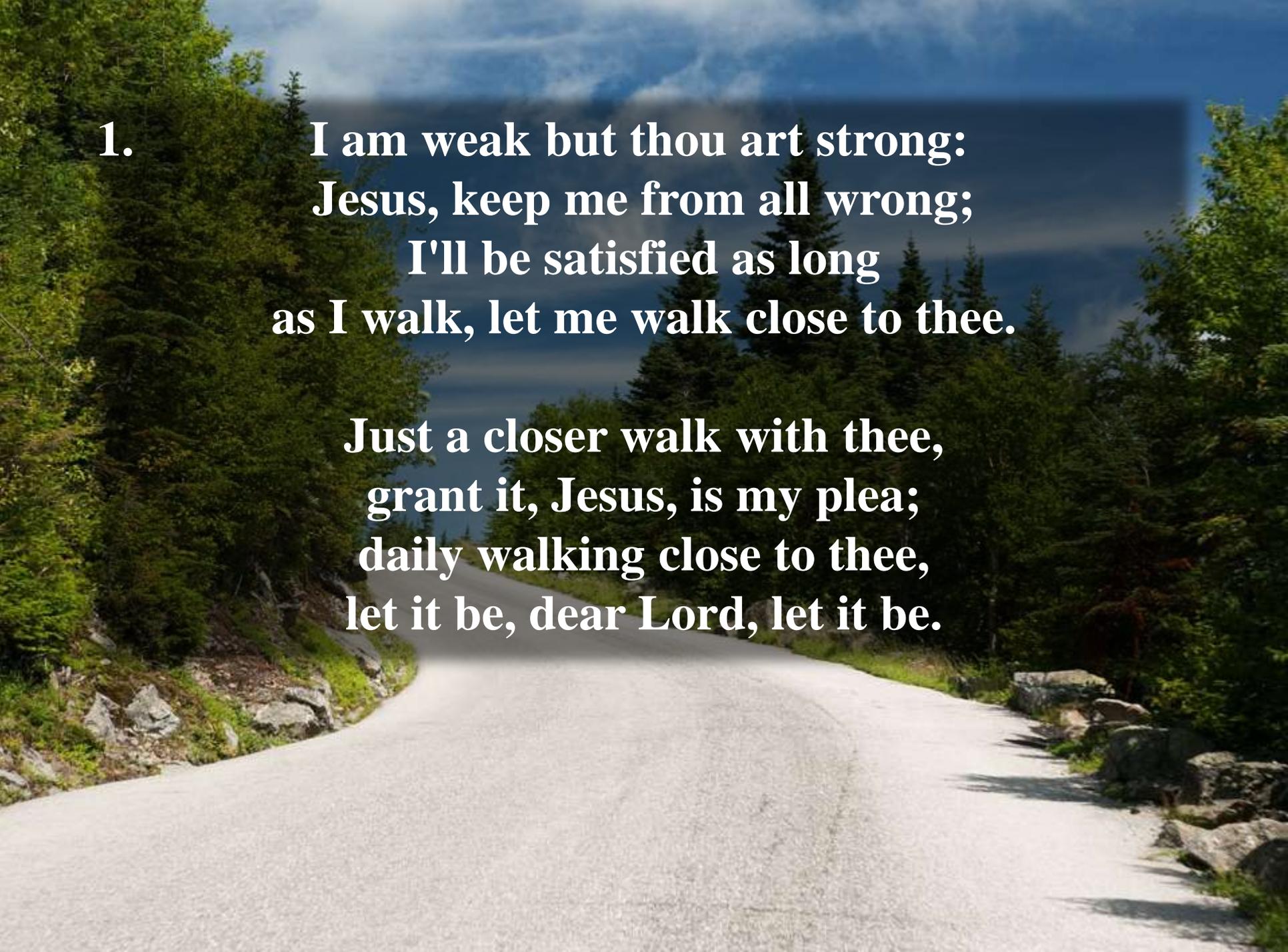


Just a Closer Walk with Thee

ELW #697

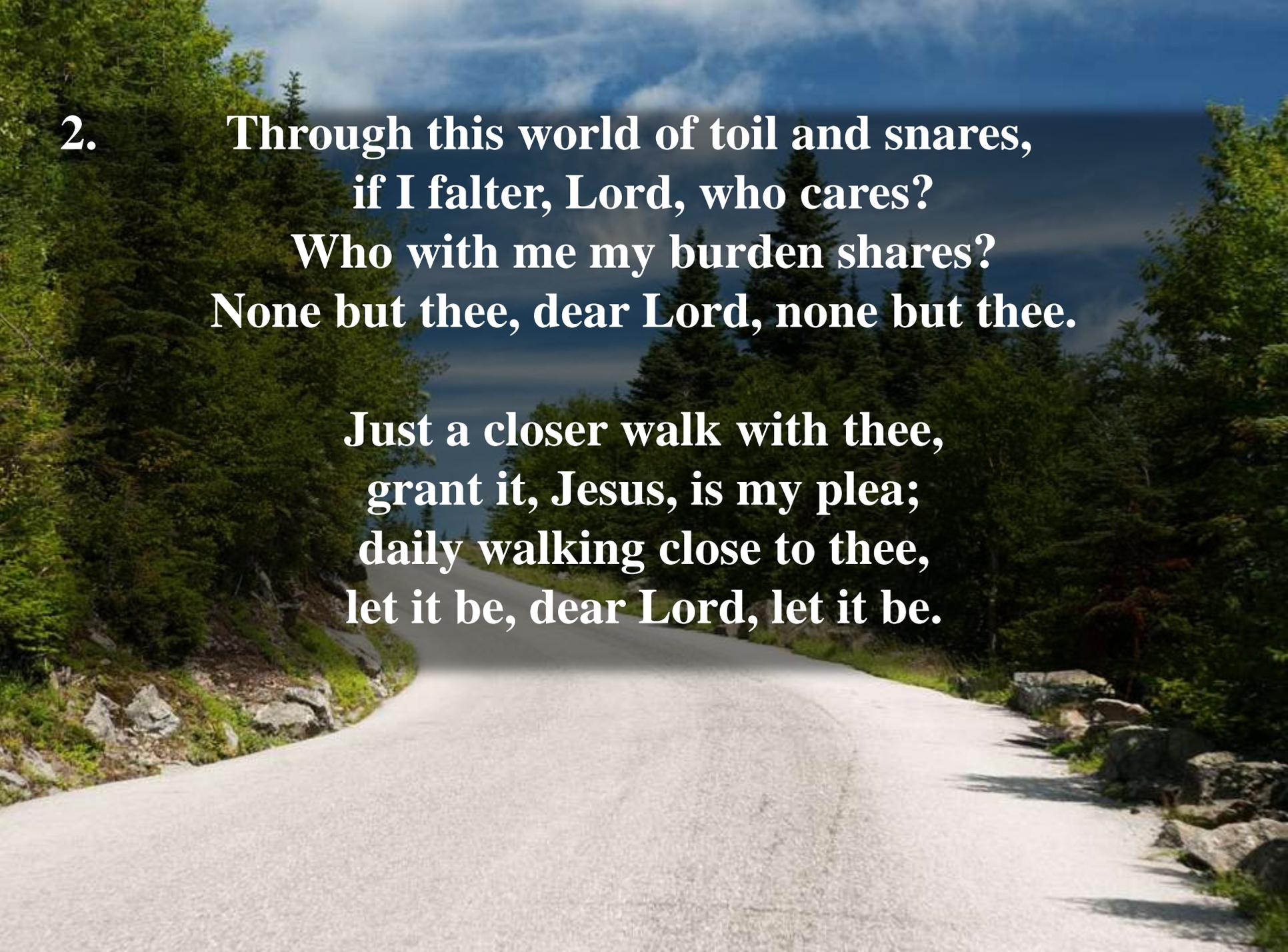
Text: North American traditional. Music: North American traditional. Public Domain.

**Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
daily walking close to thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**



**1. I am weak but thou art strong:
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk close to thee.**

**Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
daily walking close to thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**



**2. Through this world of toil and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.**

**Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
daily walking close to thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

3.

**When my feeble life is o'er,
time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er
to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore.**

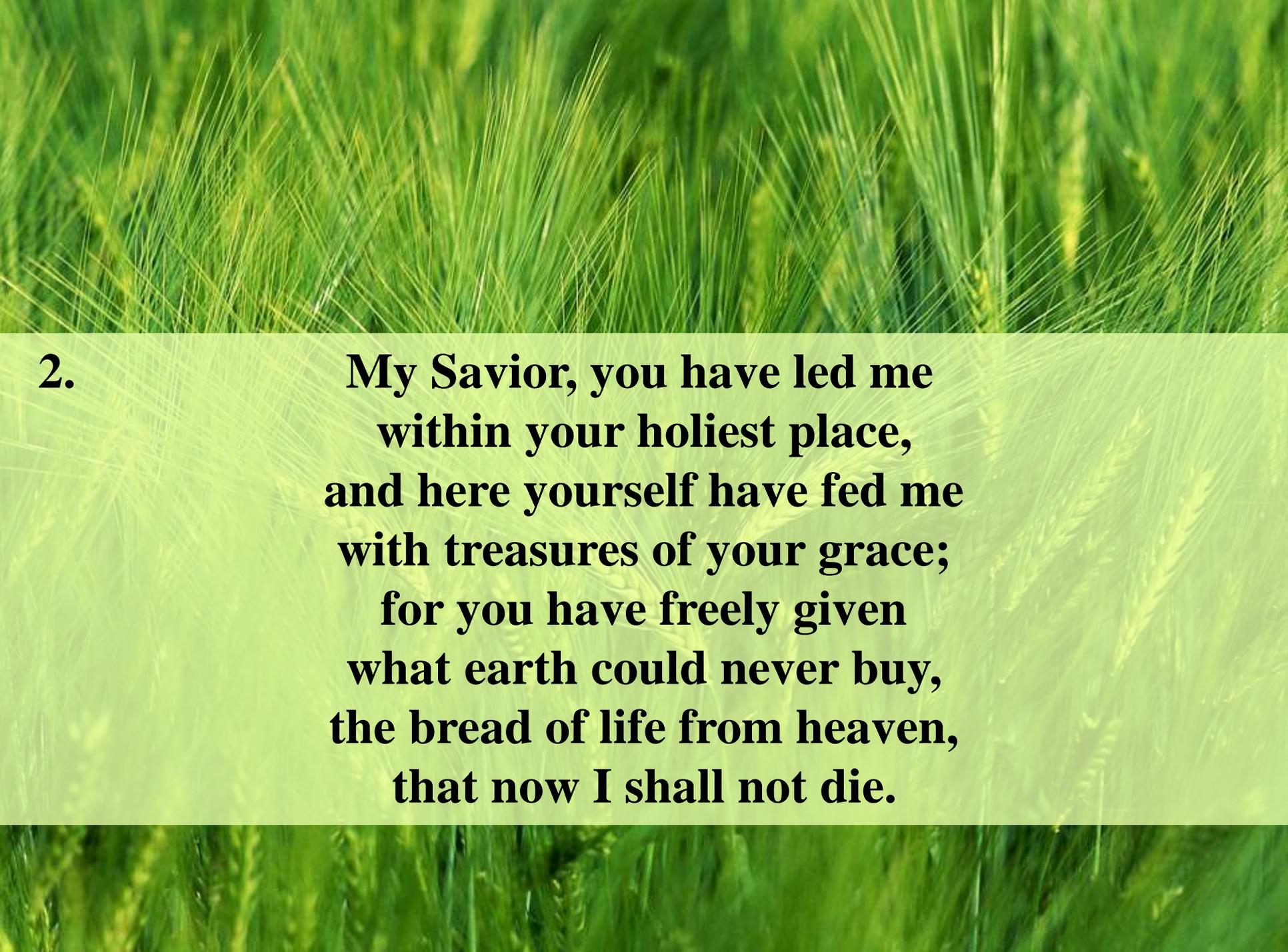
**Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
daily walking close to thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

O Living Bread from Heaven

ELW #542

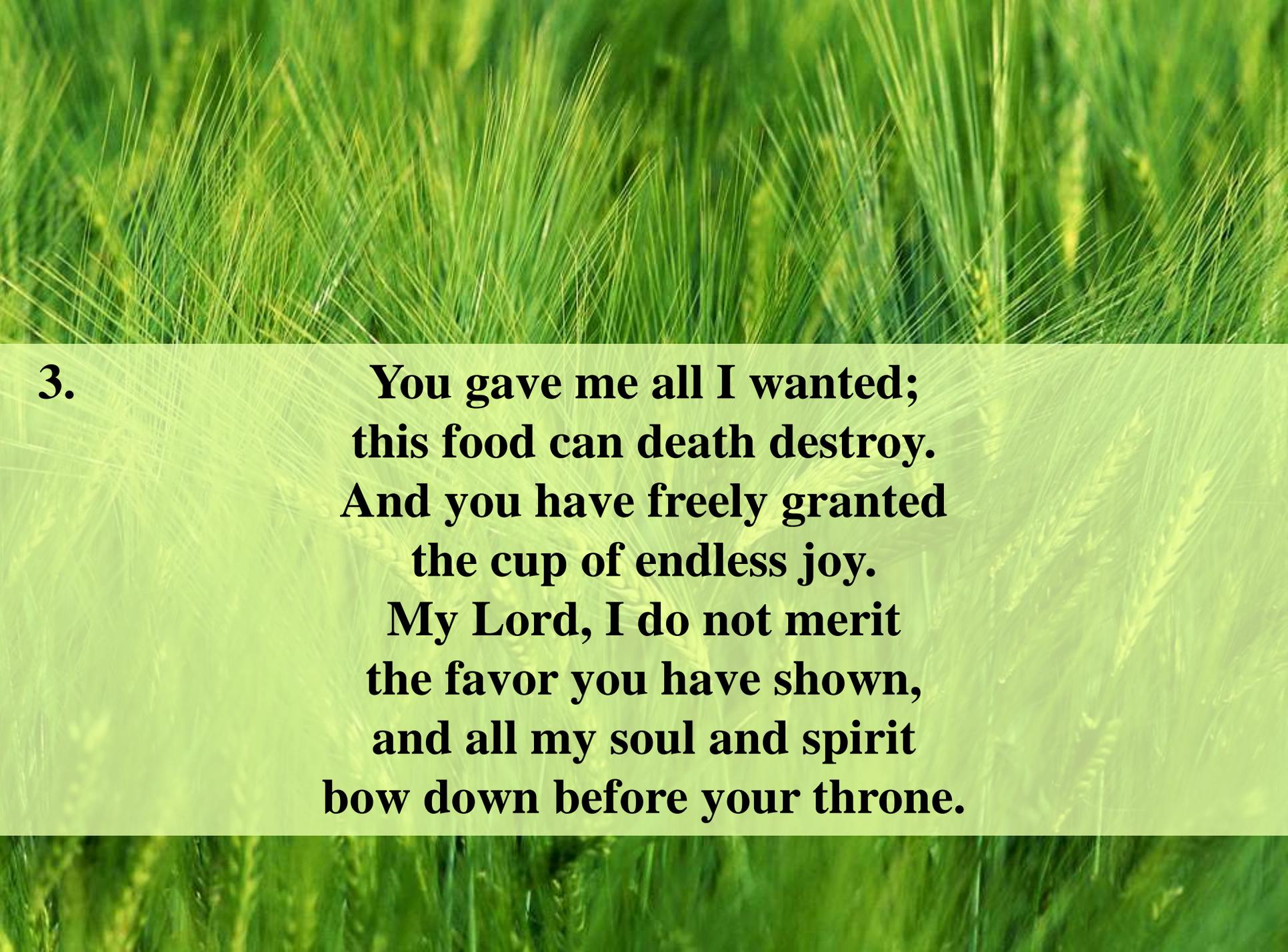
Text: Johann Rist, 1607-1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt. Music: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876. Public Domain.

- 1. How well you feed your guest!
The gifts that you have given
have filled my heart with rest.
O wondrous food of blessing!
O cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing,
in thankful song o'er flows!**



2.

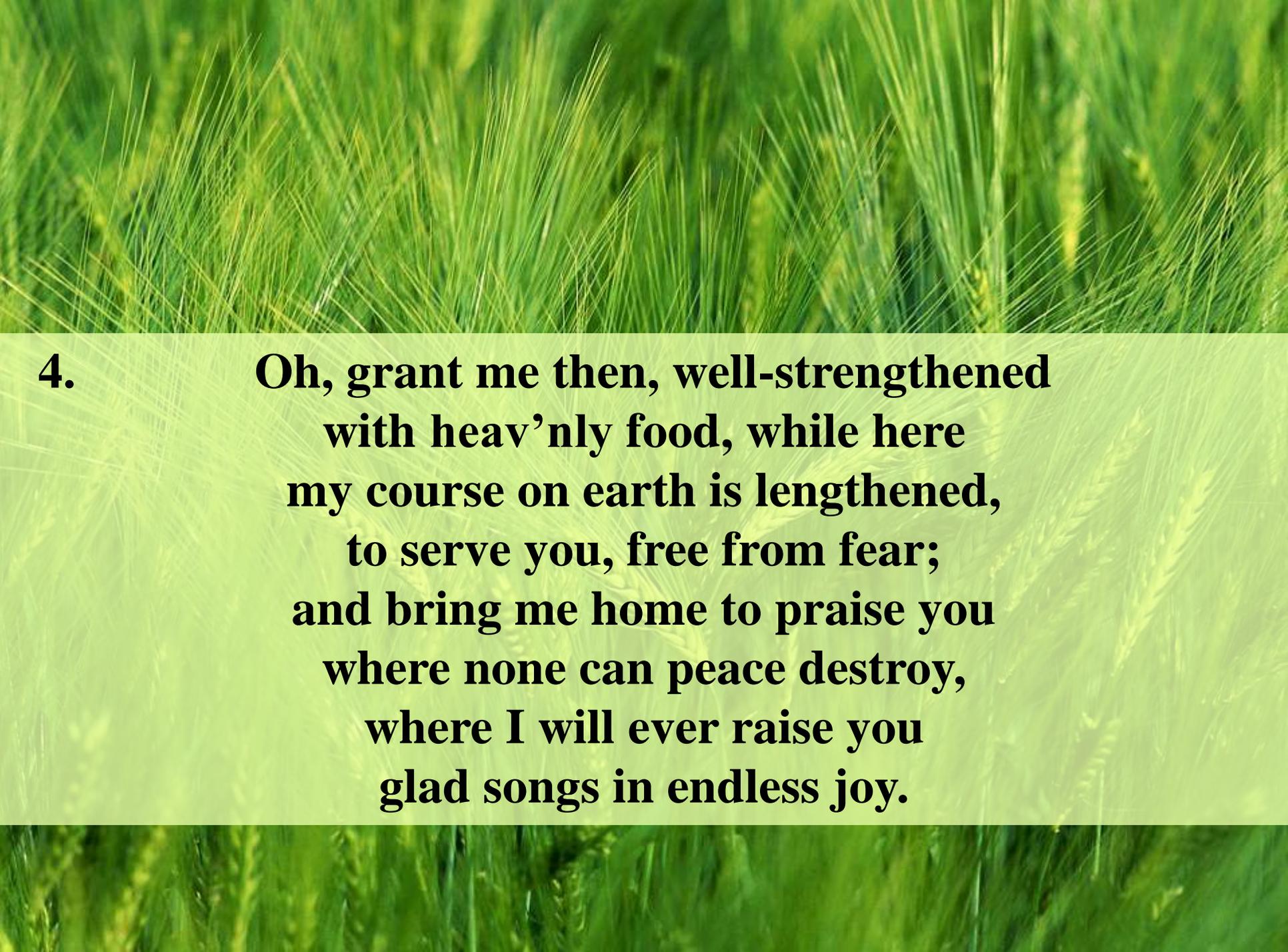
**My Savior, you have led me
within your holiest place,
and here yourself have fed me
with treasures of your grace;
for you have freely given
what earth could never buy,
the bread of life from heaven,
that now I shall not die.**



3.

**You gave me all I wanted;
this food can death destroy.
And you have freely granted
the cup of endless joy.**

**My Lord, I do not merit
the favor you have shown,
and all my soul and spirit
bow down before your throne.**



**4. Oh, grant me then, well-strengthened
with heav'nly food, while here
my course on earth is lengthened,
to serve you, free from fear;
and bring me home to praise you
where none can peace destroy,
where I will ever raise you
glad songs in endless joy.**

Prayer after Communion

L: Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness
of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open
to your promise, empower us to hear the
needs of our neighbors and touch the
world with your love.

C: **Amen.**



+ SENDING +

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

Blessing

L: God, the giver of love,
✝ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.

C: **Amen.**



Lift High the Cross

ELW #660

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956.

Music: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947. Text and Music: © 1974 Hope

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

- 1. Come, Christians, follow
where our captain trod,
our king victorious,
Christ, the Son of God.**

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

**2. All newborn servants
of the Crucified
bear on their brows
the seal of him who died.**

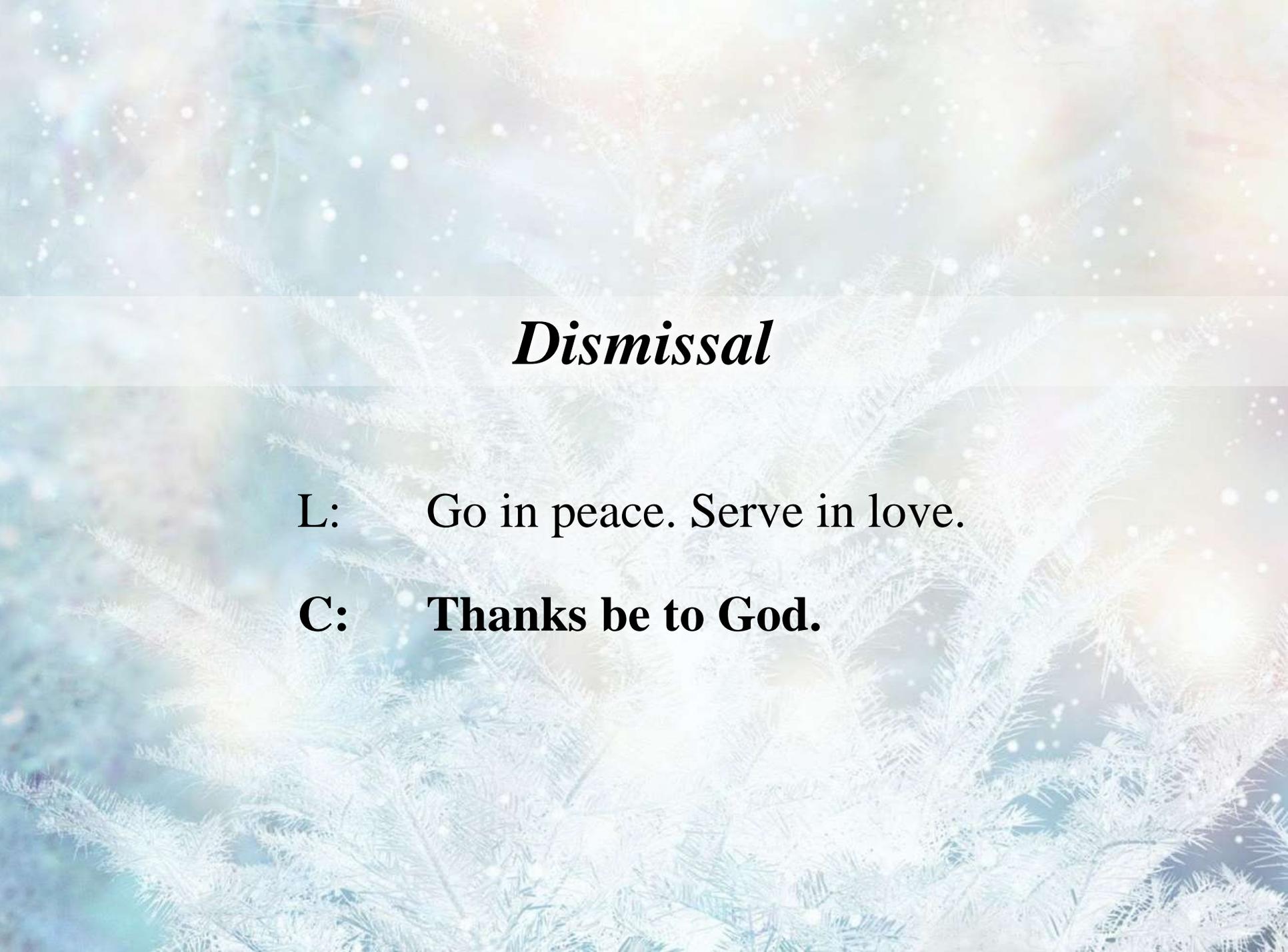
**Lift high the cross,
the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore
his sacred name.**

**3. O Lord, once lifted
on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised,
draw us all to thee.**

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

**4. So shall our song
of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified
for victory!**

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



Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve in love.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

A woodpecker with a red crest and black and white stripes on its head, perched on a tree trunk. The background is a dense forest with green foliage and bare branches.

*Thank you
for worshipping
with us today!*

God bless you!

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