

*Welcome to  
Worship at  
Zion Lutheran Church*



*Wednesday, December 24, 2025*

*4:00 and 6:00 pm*

*Welcome*





**Congregation:**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

# *Lighting the Advent Wreath: The Christ Candle*

L: Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises God continually offers us, all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle.




# **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.”**



## *Prayer of the Day*

**L:** Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

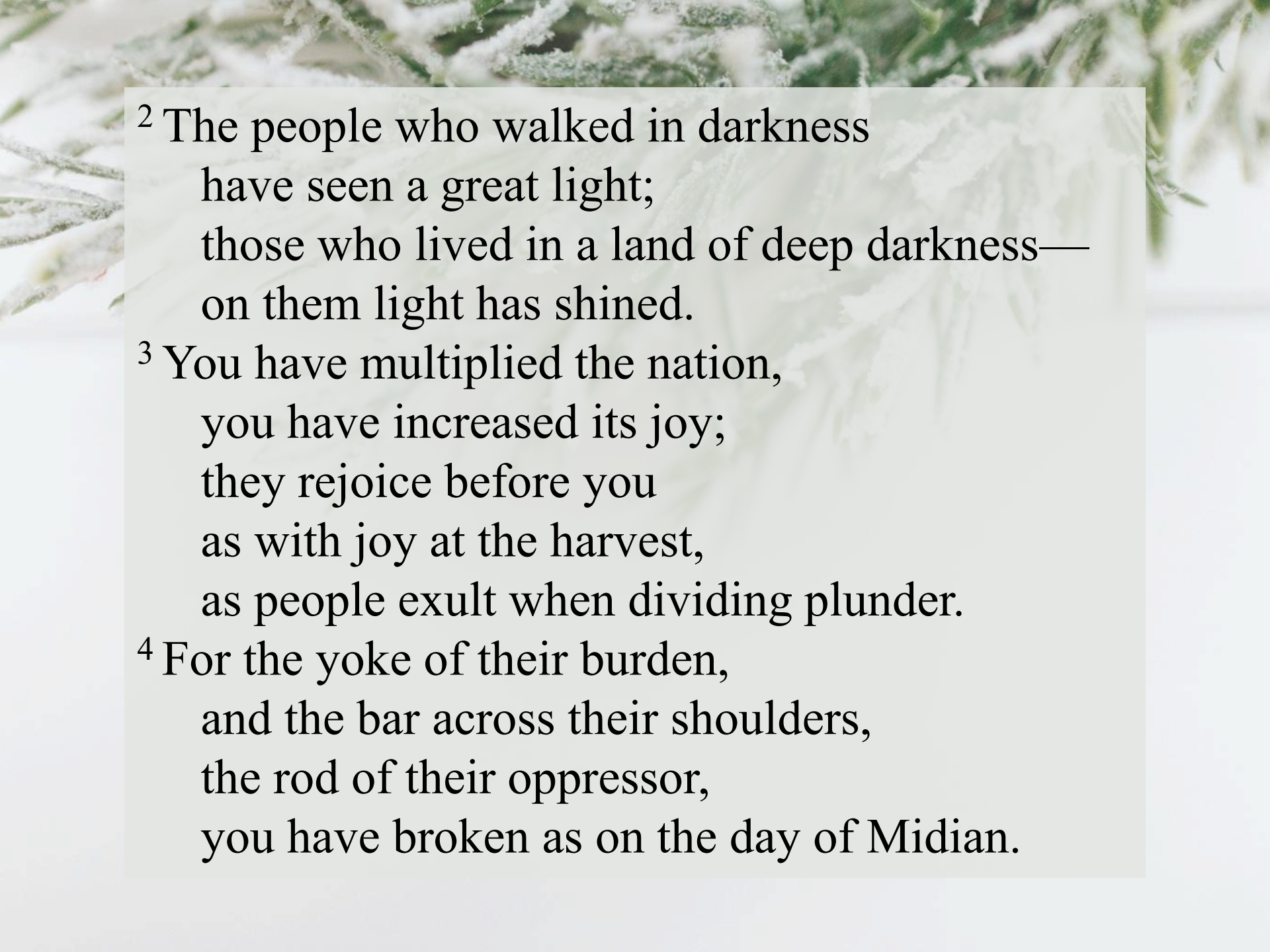
# *A Message for All God's Children*



A close-up photograph of green, needle-like foliage, possibly a pine branch, heavily coated in a thick layer of white frost or snow. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white, suggesting a snowy landscape.

## **First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7**


*This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!*



<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

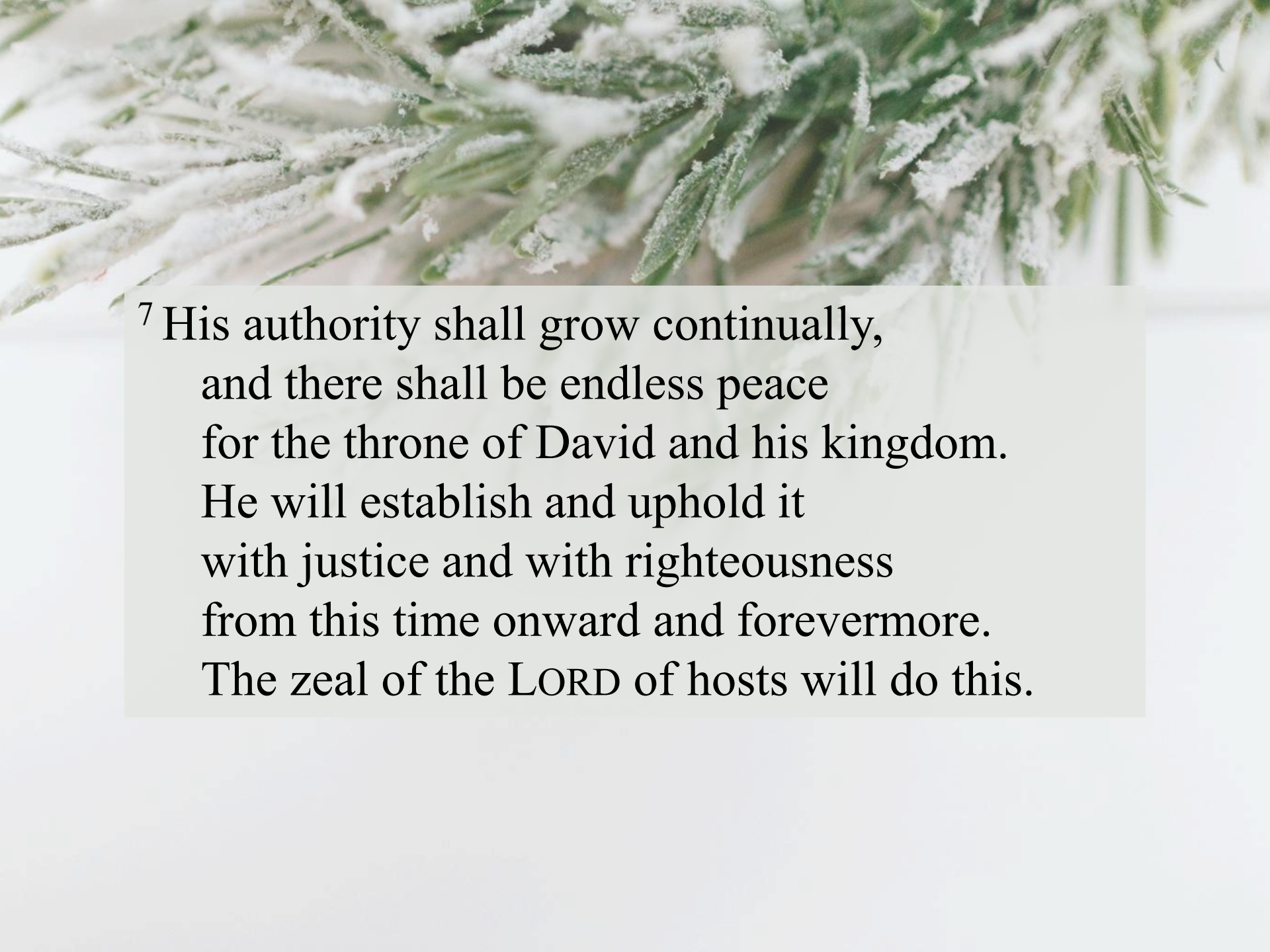
<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.



<sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty  
God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



<sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.



L: The Word of the Lord.

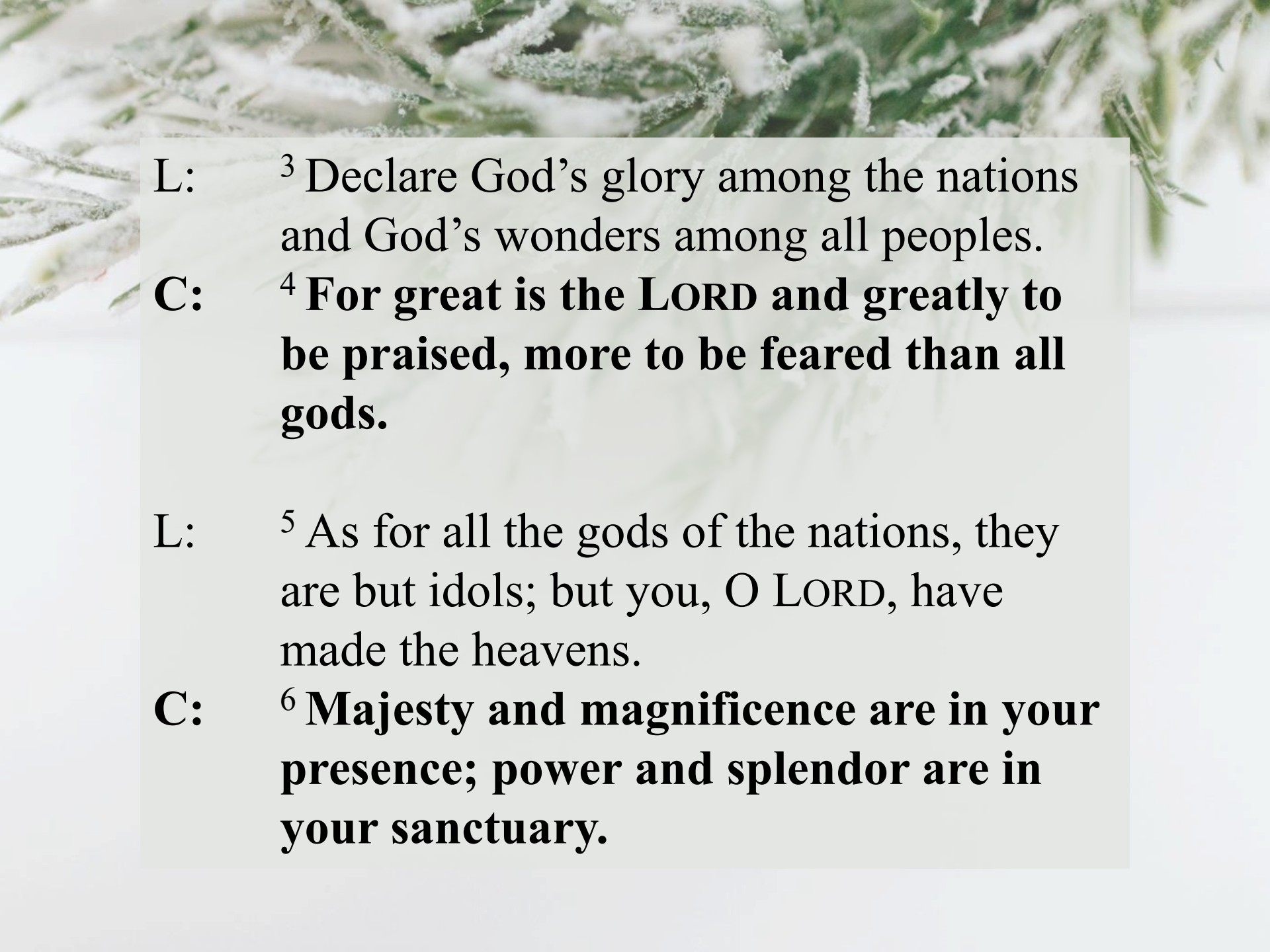
**C: Thanks be to God.**



## Psalm 96

L     <sup>1</sup> Sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

C:    <sup>2</sup> **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the  
LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to  
day.**

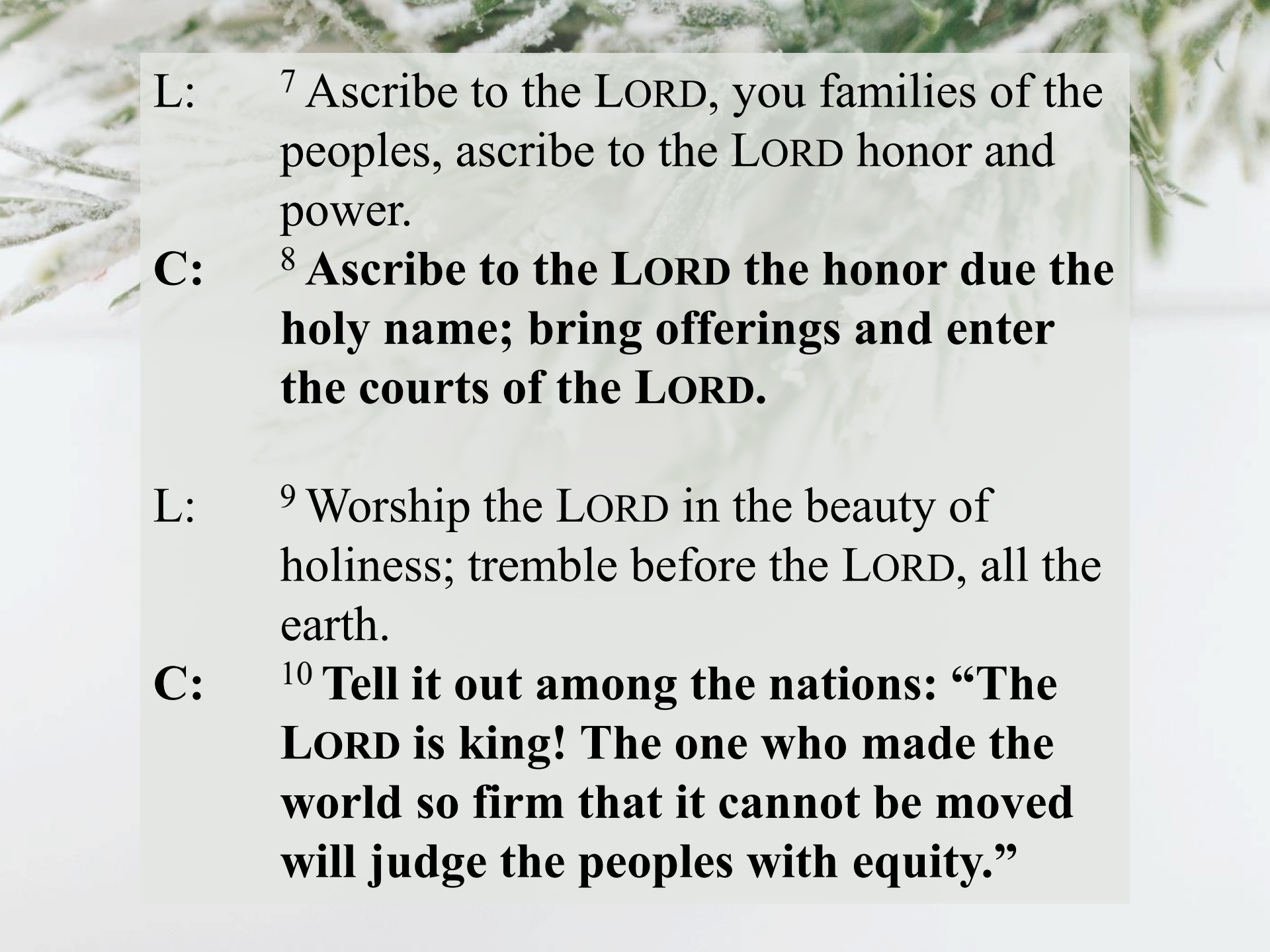
A close-up photograph of green, needle-like foliage, possibly a pine branch, heavily coated in a thick layer of white frost or snow. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white, suggesting a snowy landscape.

L:     <sup>3</sup> Declare God's glory among the nations  
and God's wonders among all peoples.

C:     <sup>4</sup> **For great is the LORD and greatly to  
be praised, more to be feared than all  
gods.**

L:     <sup>5</sup> As for all the gods of the nations, they  
are but idols; but you, O LORD, have  
made the heavens.

C:     <sup>6</sup> **Majesty and magnificence are in your  
presence; power and splendor are in  
your sanctuary.**

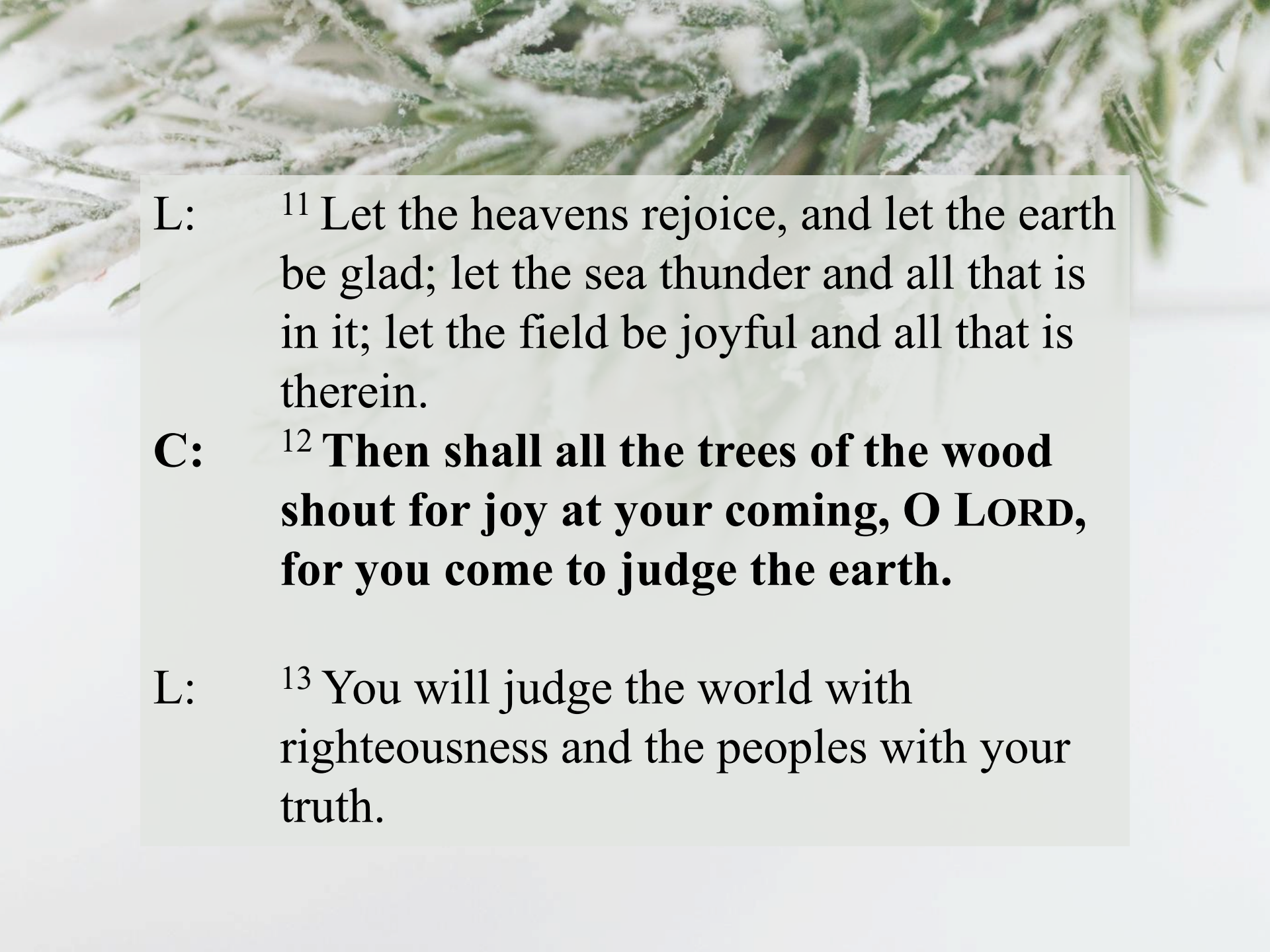


L: <sup>7</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

**C: <sup>8</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

L: <sup>9</sup> Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

**C: <sup>10</sup> Tell it out among the nations: “The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity.”**

A close-up photograph of evergreen branches covered in a thick layer of white frost or snow. The branches are green and needle-like, and the background is a soft, out-of-focus white.

L:     <sup>11</sup> Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth  
be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is  
in it; let the field be joyful and all that is  
therein.

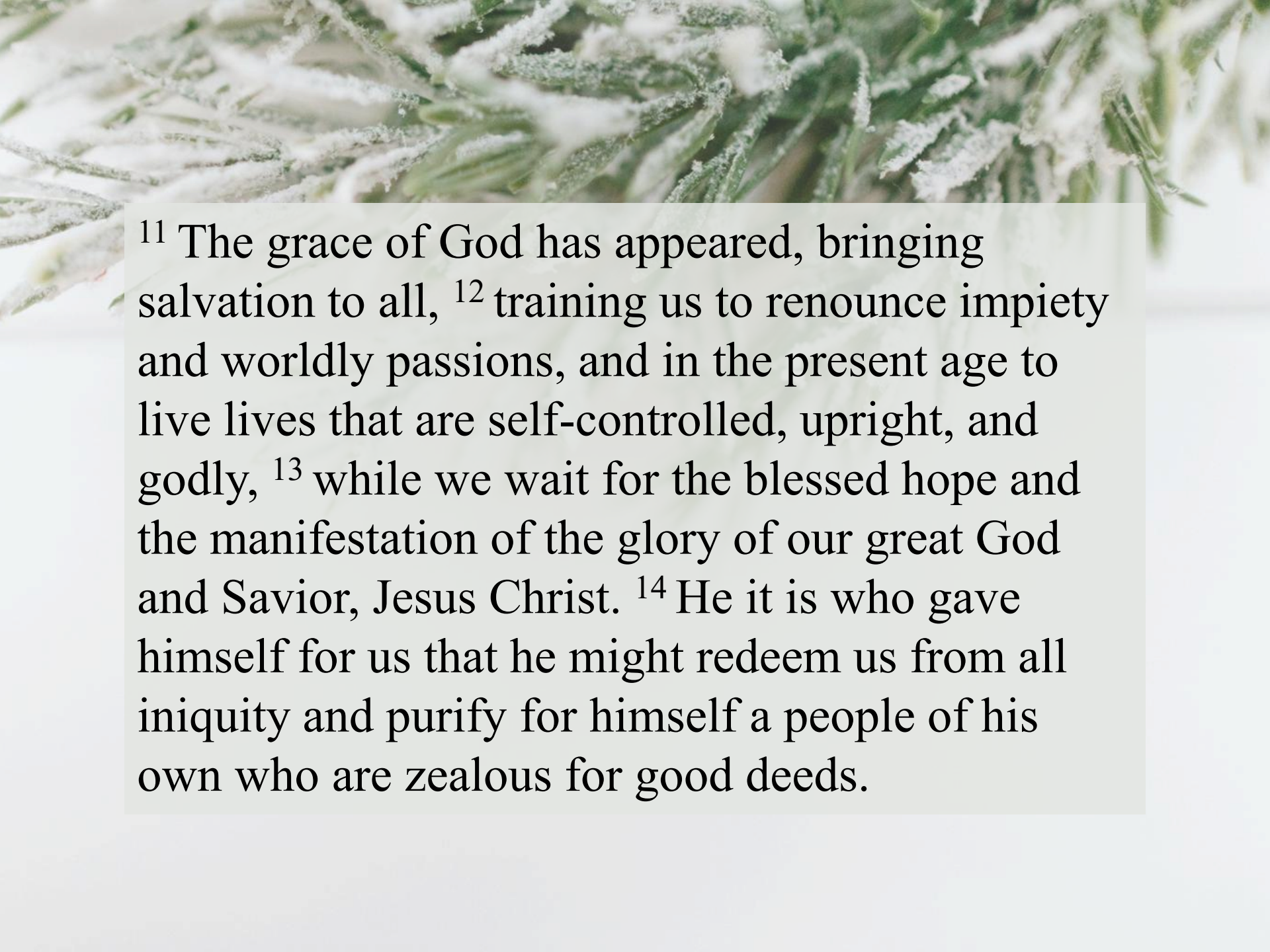
C:     <sup>12</sup> **Then shall all the trees of the wood  
shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,  
for you come to judge the earth.**

L:     <sup>13</sup> You will judge the world with  
righteousness and the peoples with your  
truth.



## **Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14**

*The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.*

A close-up photograph of green, needle-like foliage, possibly a pine branch, heavily coated in a thick layer of white frost or snow. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white, suggesting a snowy environment.

<sup>11</sup> The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.



L: The Word of the Lord.

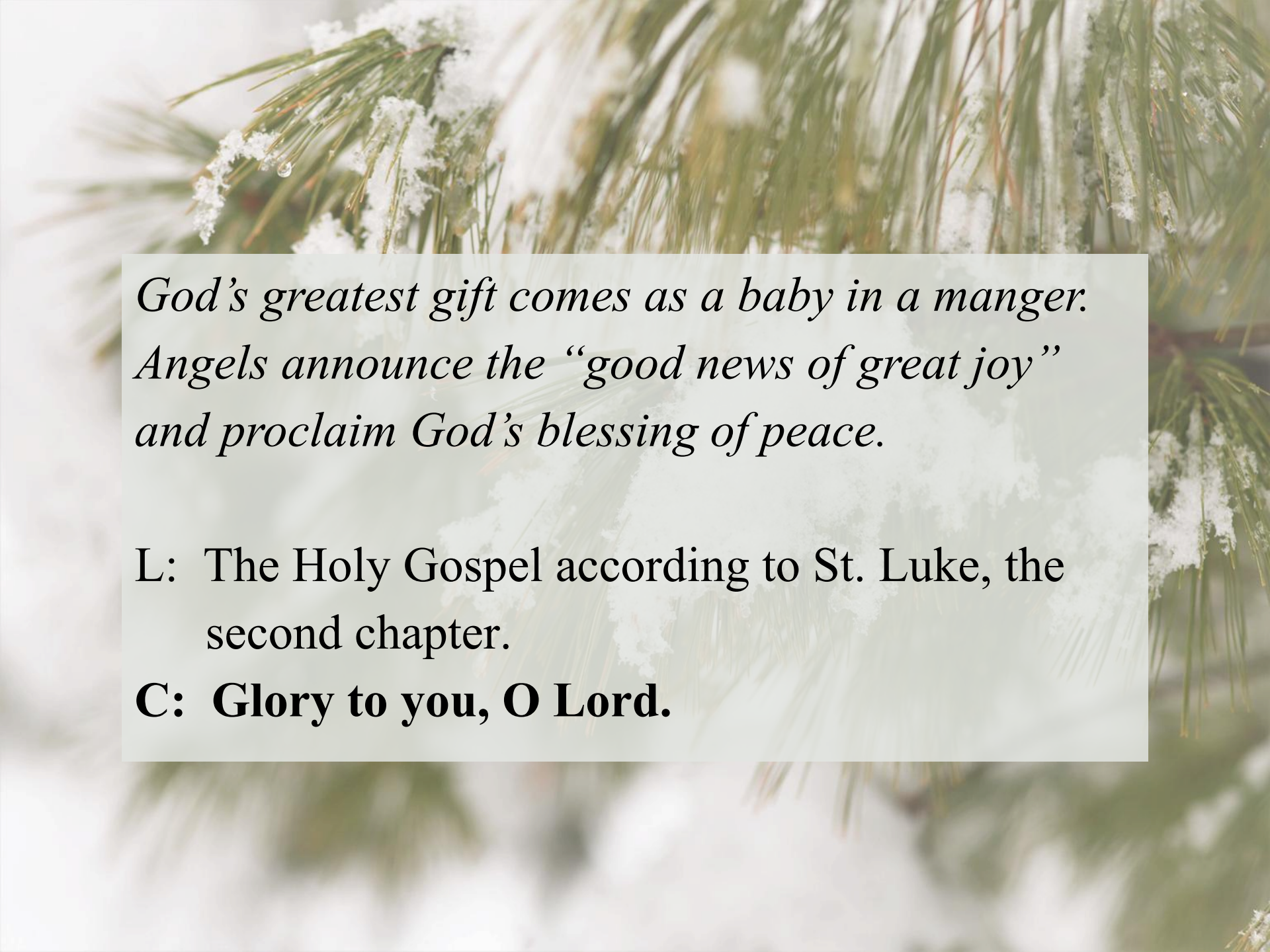
**C: Thanks be to God.**

# **What Child is This**

ELW #296

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898. Music: English ballad, 16<sup>th</sup> cent. Public Domain.

- 1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!**



*God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger.  
Angels announce the "good news of great joy"  
and proclaim God's blessing of peace.*

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

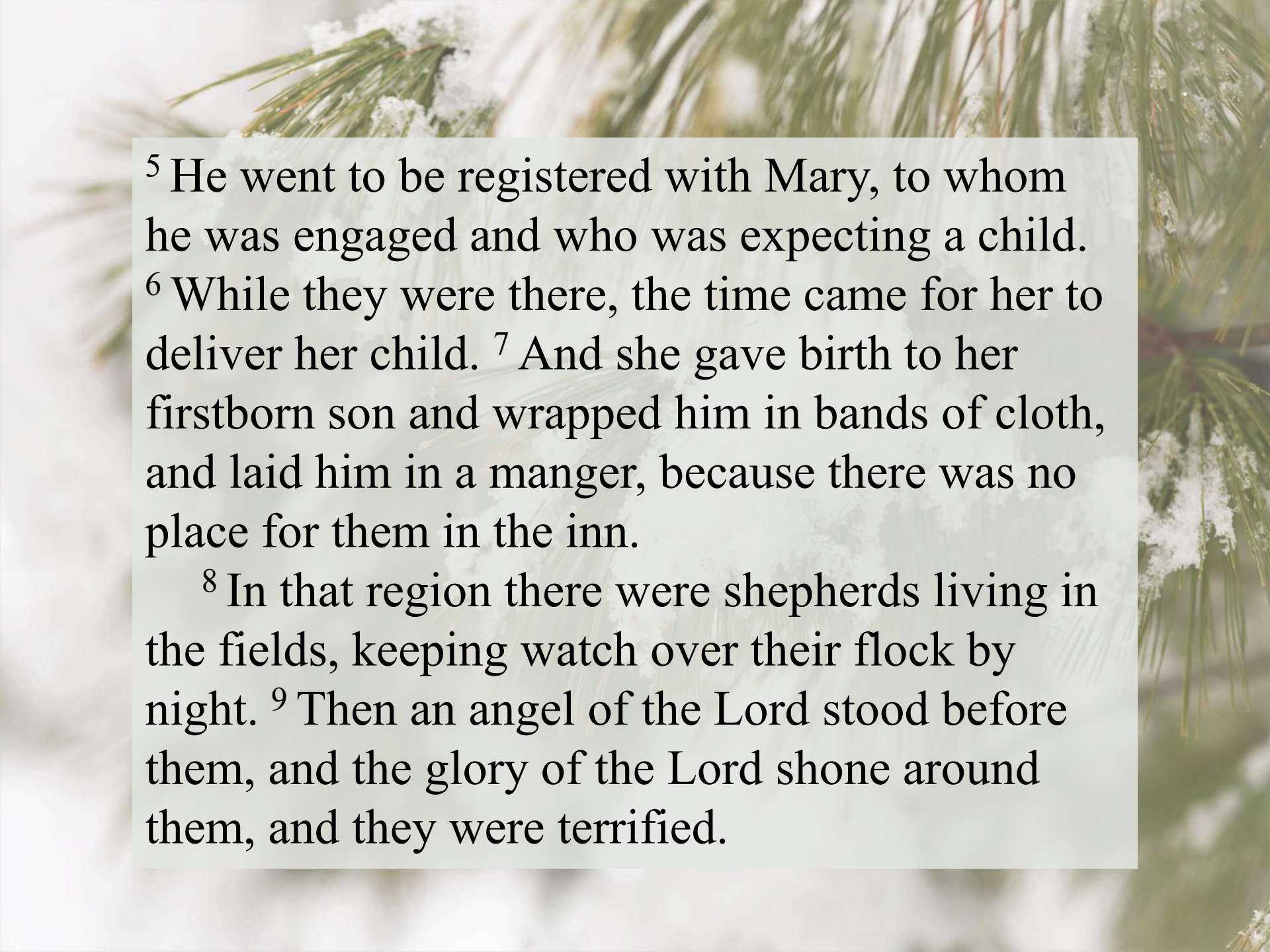
**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **Gospel: Luke 2:1-20**

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

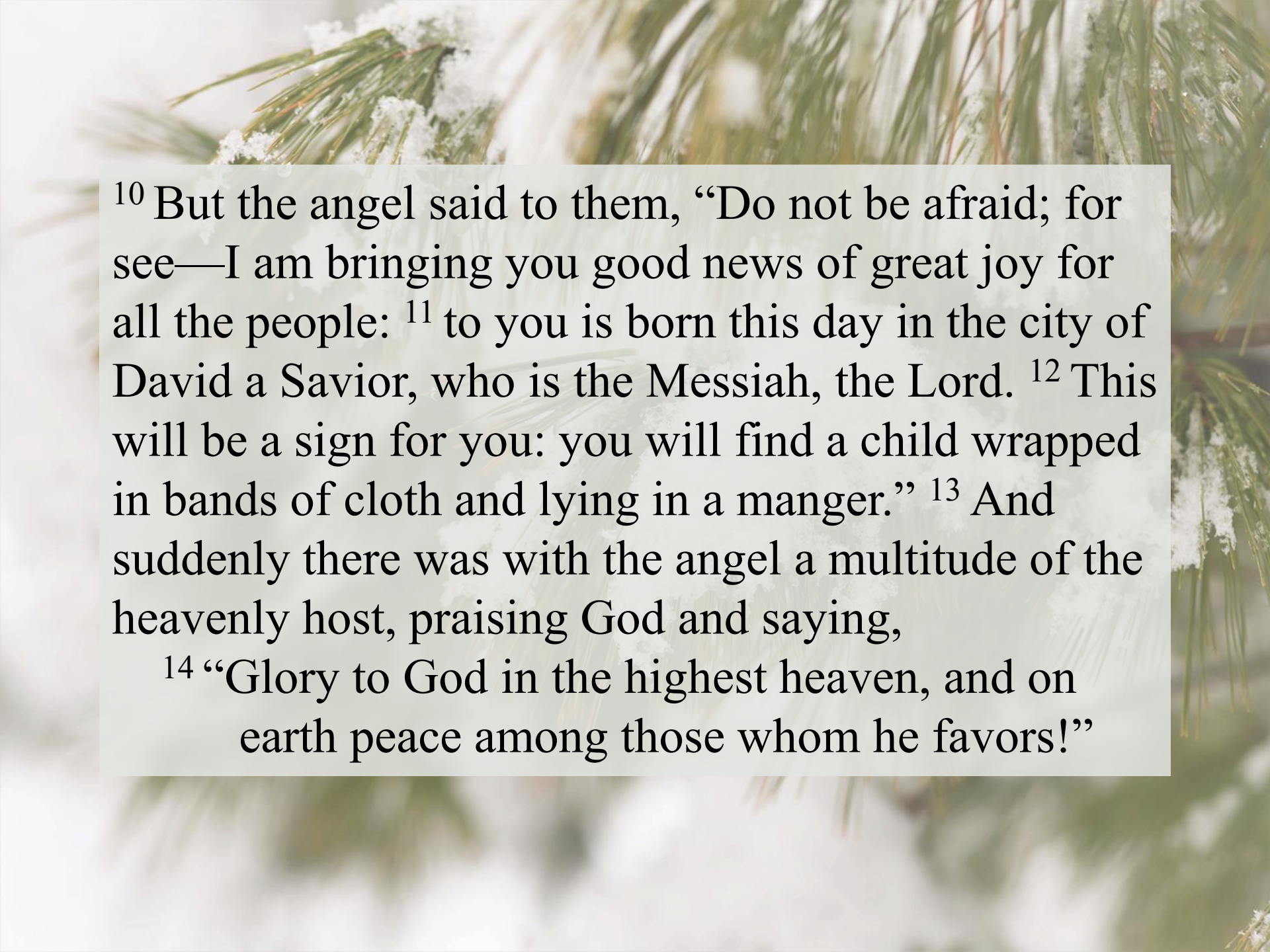
<sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered.

<sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.



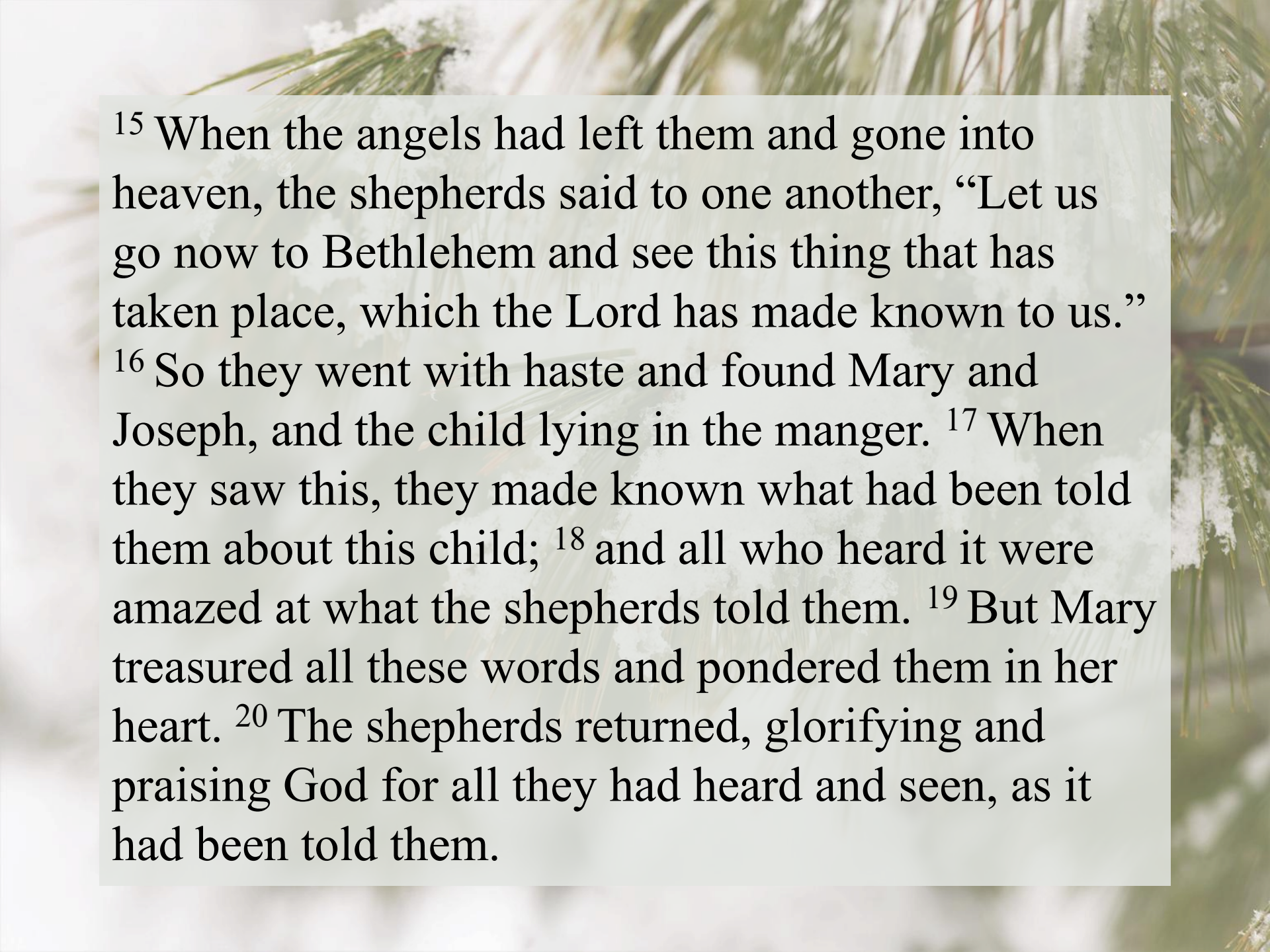
<sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.



<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

A close-up photograph of a pine branch covered in a thick layer of white snow. The needles are dark green and partially obscured by the snow. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white, suggesting a snowy landscape.

<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.



L: The Gospel of our Lord.

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

*Message*

# O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW #283

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Fredrick Oakley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4: tr. Unknown, st. 2.

Music: attr. John Francis Wade. Public Domain.

1. **O, come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant!  
O, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him born the king of angels:  
O, come, let us adore him,  
O, come, let us adore him,  
O, come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!**



**2. The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father  
now in flesh appearing!  
O, come, let us adore him,  
O, come, let us adore him,  
O, come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!**



**3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God... in the highest:  
O, come, let us adore him,  
O, come, let us adore him,  
O, come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!**



**4.           Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
              born this happy morning;  
              Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
              O, come, let us adore him,  
              O, come, let us adore him,  
              O, come, let us adore him,  
              Christ the Lord!**



# *Nicene Creed*


**We believe in one God, the Father,  
the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit  
and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

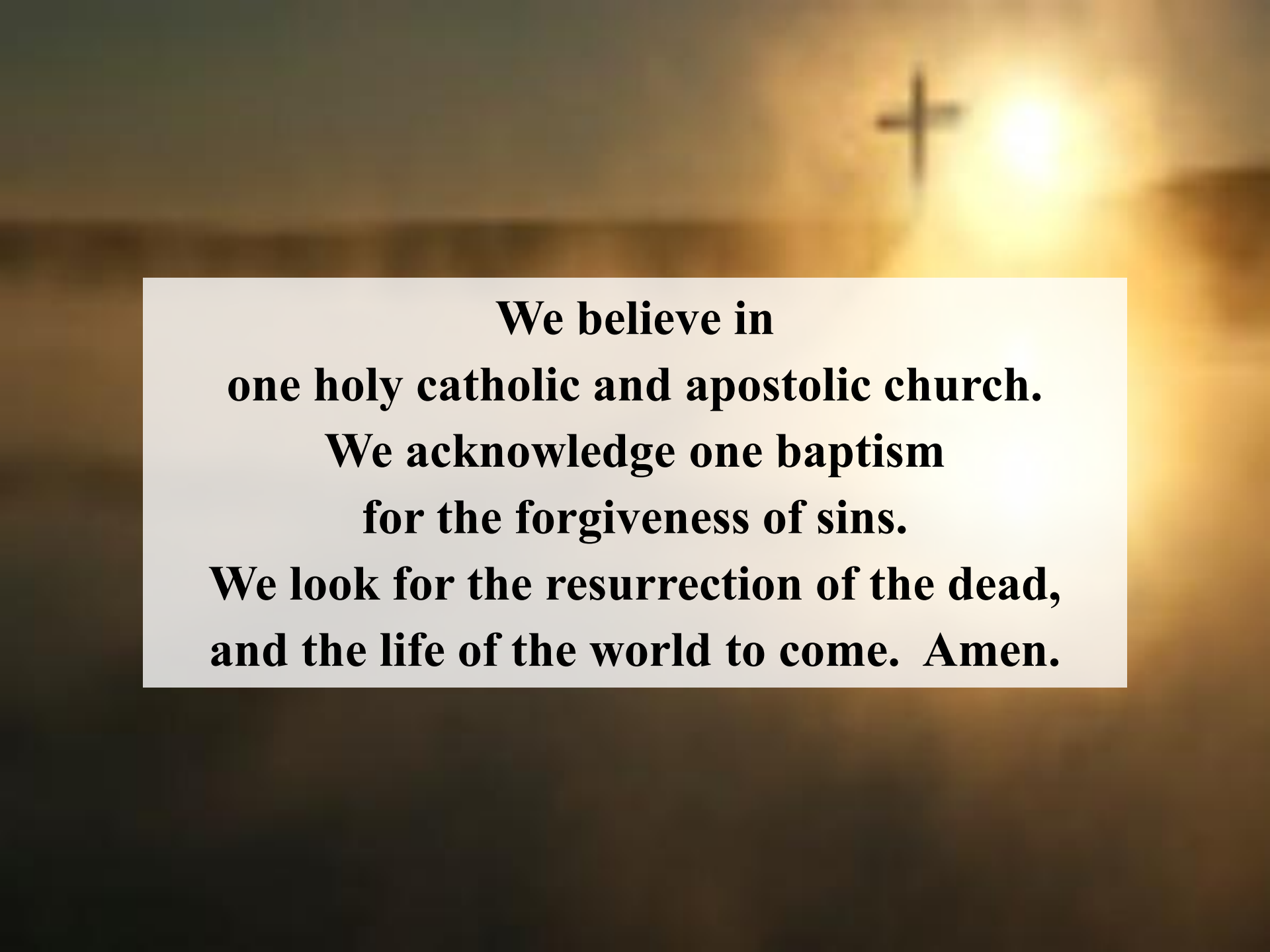
**For our sake he was crucified  
under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**



**He will come again in glory to judge the  
living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**



**We believe in  
one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

# *Prayers of Intercession*

Response after each petition:

**L:** Hear us, O God.

**C:** **Your mercy is great.**

**L:** With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C:** **Amen.**



***Offering***

**4:00 pm- Choir Anthem**  
“Born a Mighty King”

**6:00 pm- Special Music**  
Jenée Provance

**Congregation:**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

## *Offering Prayer*

L: God of glory,  
great are your wonders among us and  
many are the blessings you bestow.  
Use us and these your gifts for the  
needs of the world, that all the ends of  
the earth may rejoice in your saving  
grace, through Christ our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

# *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.*



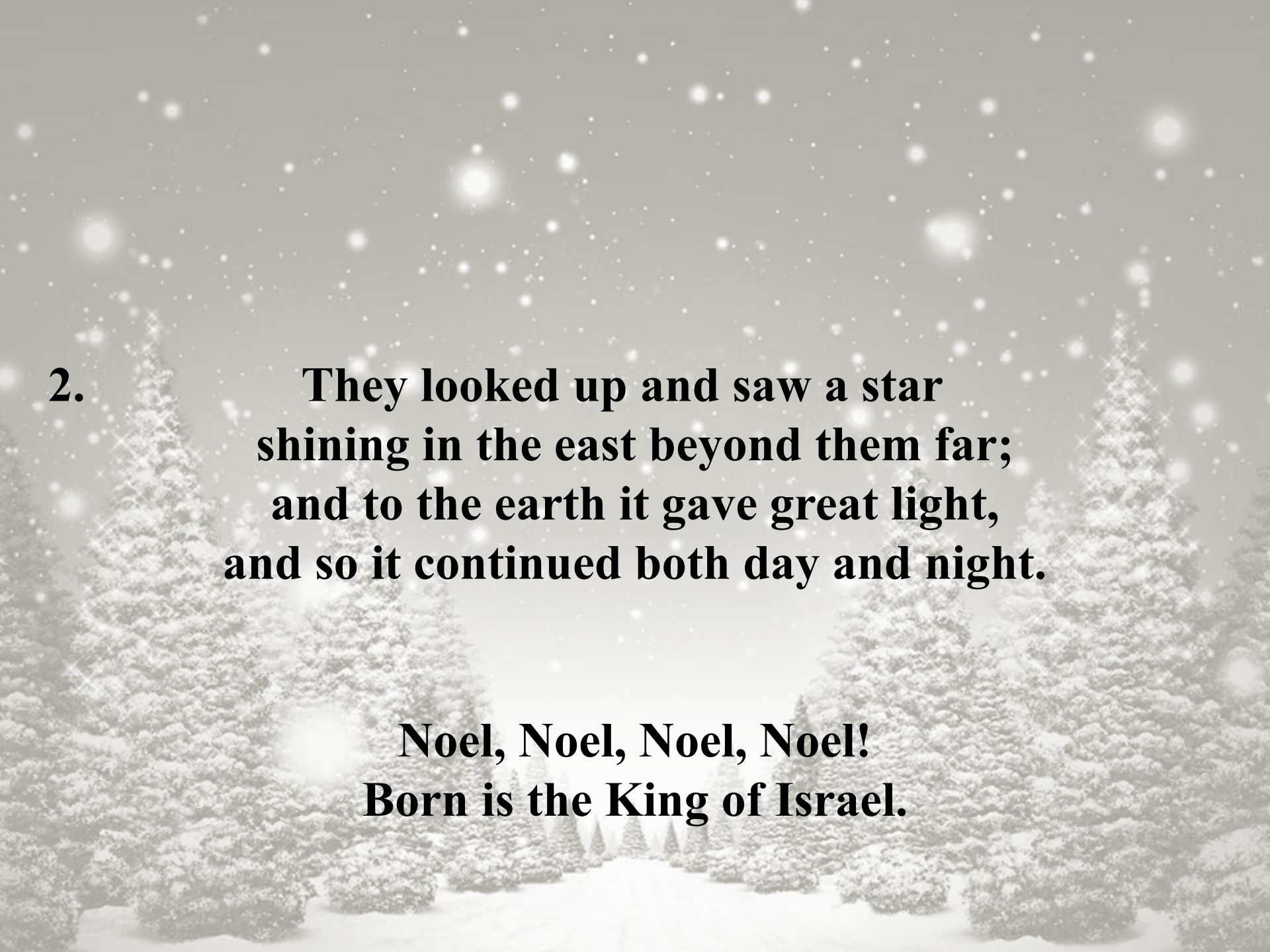
# **The First Noel**

ELW #300

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

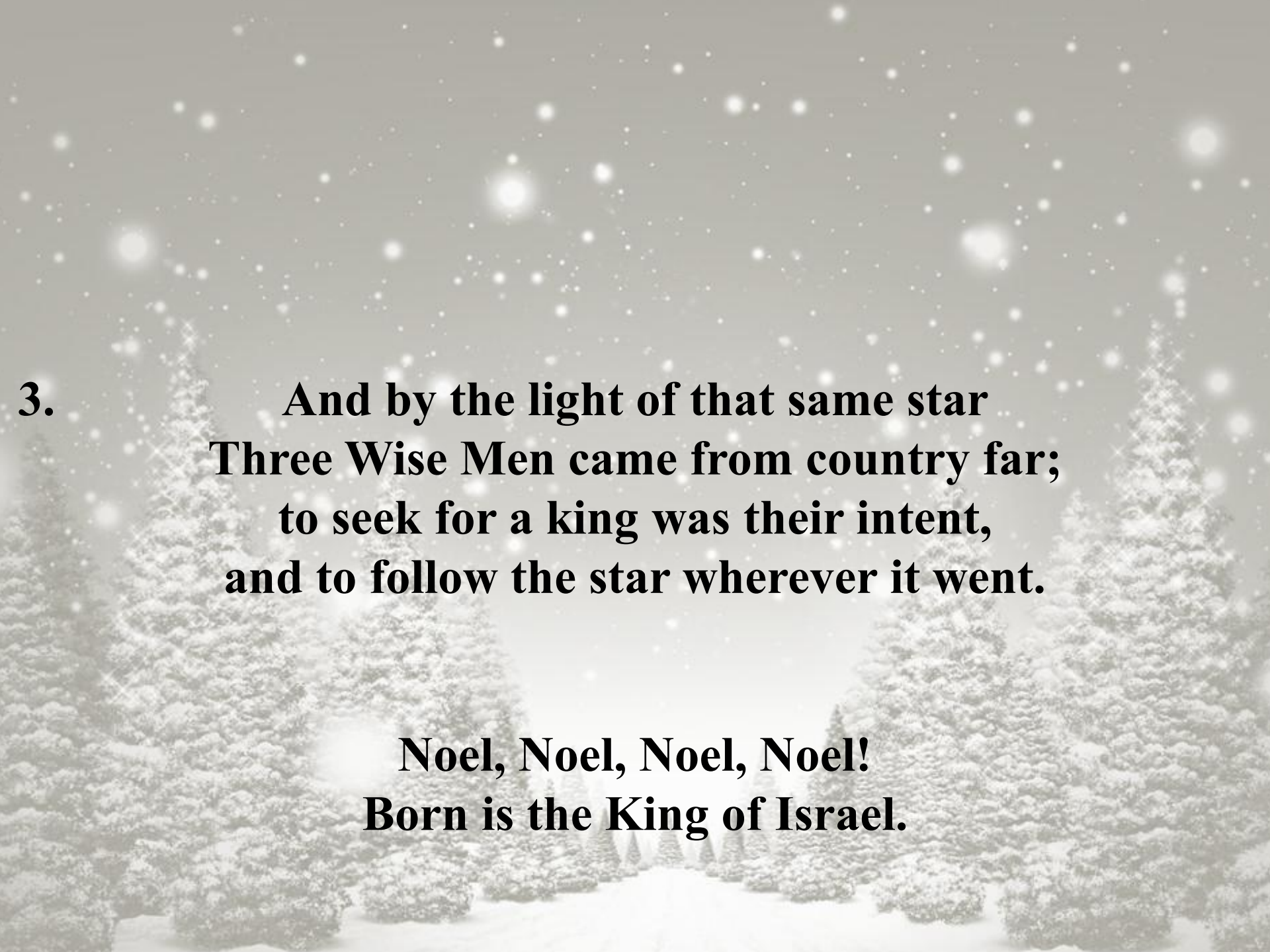
**1. The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds  
in fields where they lay;  
in fields where they lay,  
keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night  
that was so deep.**

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



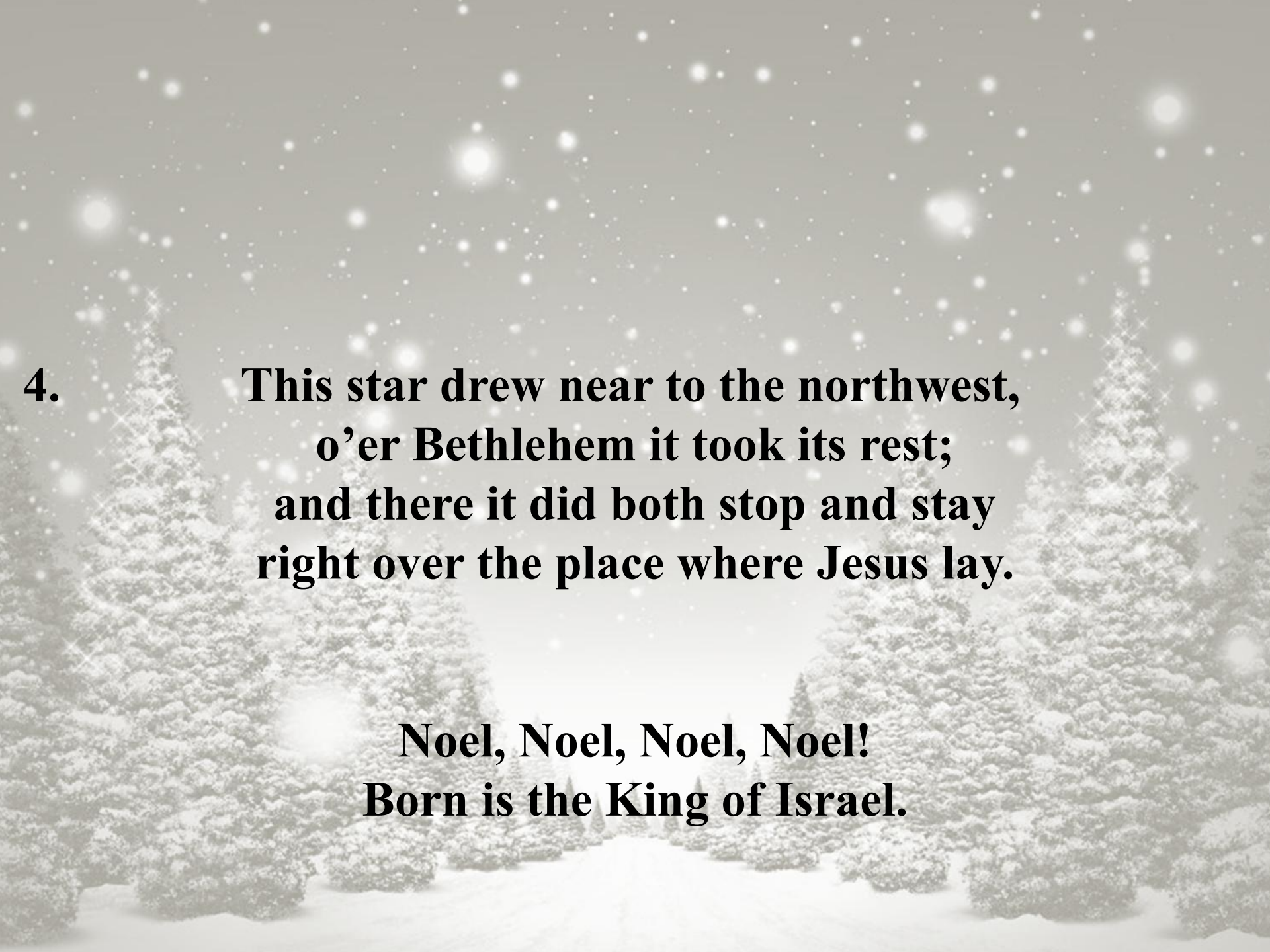
**2. They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.**

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

A soft-focus background of a winter scene. Evergreen trees are covered in a thick layer of snow. Numerous small, bright white dots are scattered across the sky and falling towards the ground, creating a magical, snowy atmosphere.

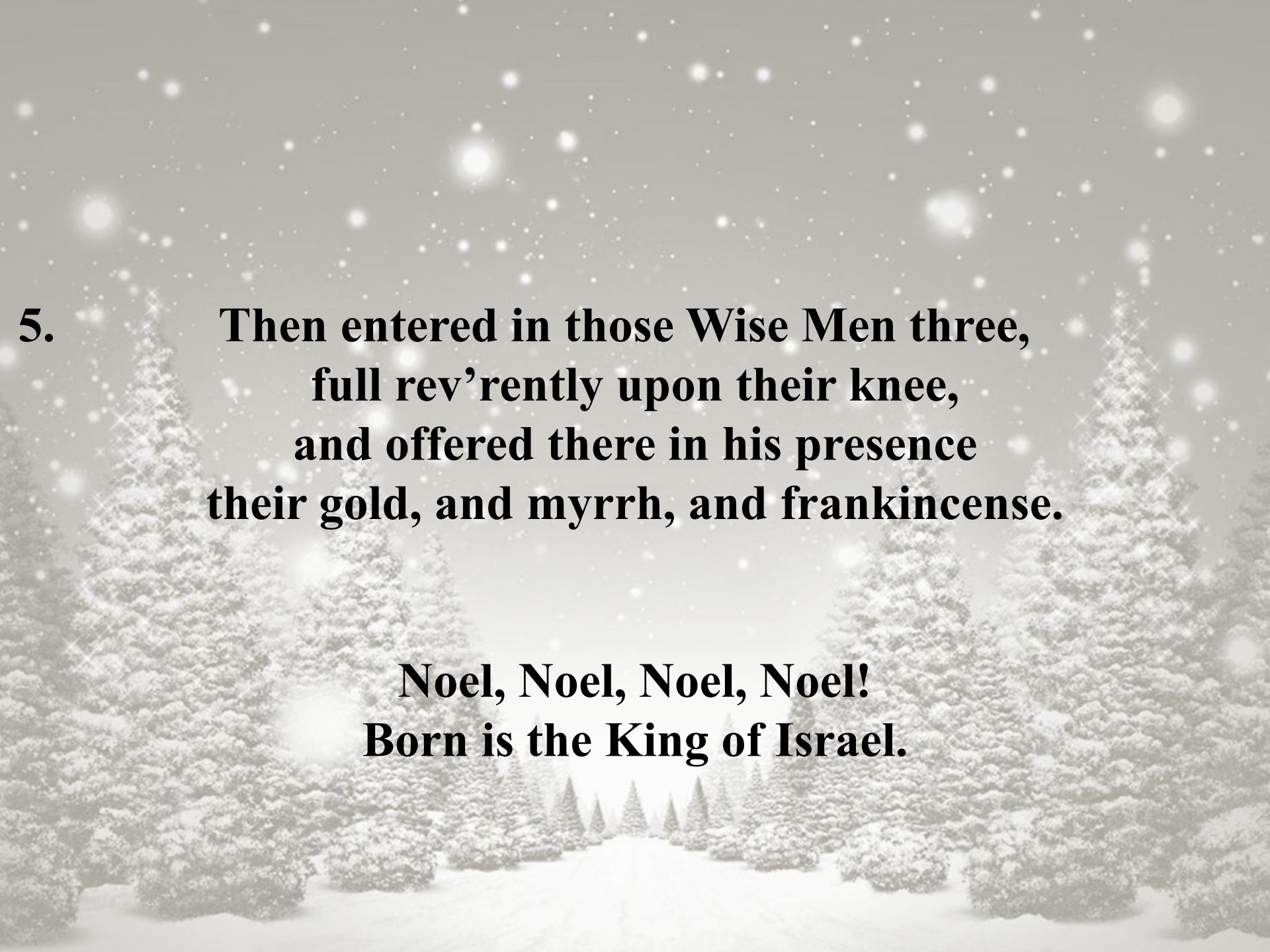
**3.           And by the light of that same star  
Three Wise Men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.**

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



**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.**

The background of the slide is a soft-focus winter scene. A path of snow leads from the bottom center towards the horizon, flanked by rows of snow-laden evergreen trees. The sky is filled with numerous bright, out-of-focus light spots, suggesting falling snow or distant stars, creating a magical and serene atmosphere.

**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.**

# **I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve**

ELW #271

Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832-1911; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881-1959. Music: Peder Knudsen, 1819-1863.  
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- 1. I am so glad each Christmas Eve,  
the night of Jesus' birth!  
Then like the sun the star shone forth,  
and angels sang on earth.**
  
- 2. The little child in Bethlehem,  
he was a king indeed!  
For he came down from heav'n above  
to help a world in need.**

**3.       He dwells again in heaven's realm,  
the Son of God today;  
and still he loves his little ones  
and hears them when they pray.**

**4.       I am so glad each Christmas Eve!  
His praises then I sing;  
he opens now for ev'ry child  
the palace of the king.**

**5.       And so I love each Christmas Eve,  
          and I love Jesus too;  
          and that he loves me ev'ry day  
          I know so well is true.**


# It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

ELW #282

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876. Music: Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900. Public Domain.


1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:






**“Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heav’ns all gracious king.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.**






**2. Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heav'nly music floats  
o'er all the weary world.**






**Above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hov'ring wing,  
and ever o'er its babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.**





**3. And you, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow:**






**look now, for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing;  
oh, rest beside the weary road  
and hear the angels sing!**





**4. For lo! The days are hast'ning on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever circling years  
shall come the time foretold,**





**when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.**



*Communion Blessing*



## *Prayer after Communion*

L: Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

C: **Amen.**

# *Lighting the Candles*

*As the candlelight is shared,  
tip only the UNLIT candle.  
Keep lighted candles upright at all times.*

*As the candles are lit, each person may  
say to the next:*

**“Behold, the Light of the World!”**

*When the candles are all lit, we will sing “Silent Night.”*

# Silent Night

ELW #281

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John RF. Young, 1820-1885. Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863. Public Domain.

- Silent night, holy night!**  
**All is calm, all is bright**  
**Round yon virgin mother and child.**  
**Holy Infant, so tender and mild,**  
**Sleep in heavenly peace,**  
**Sleep in heavenly peace.**



2.

**Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!**



3.

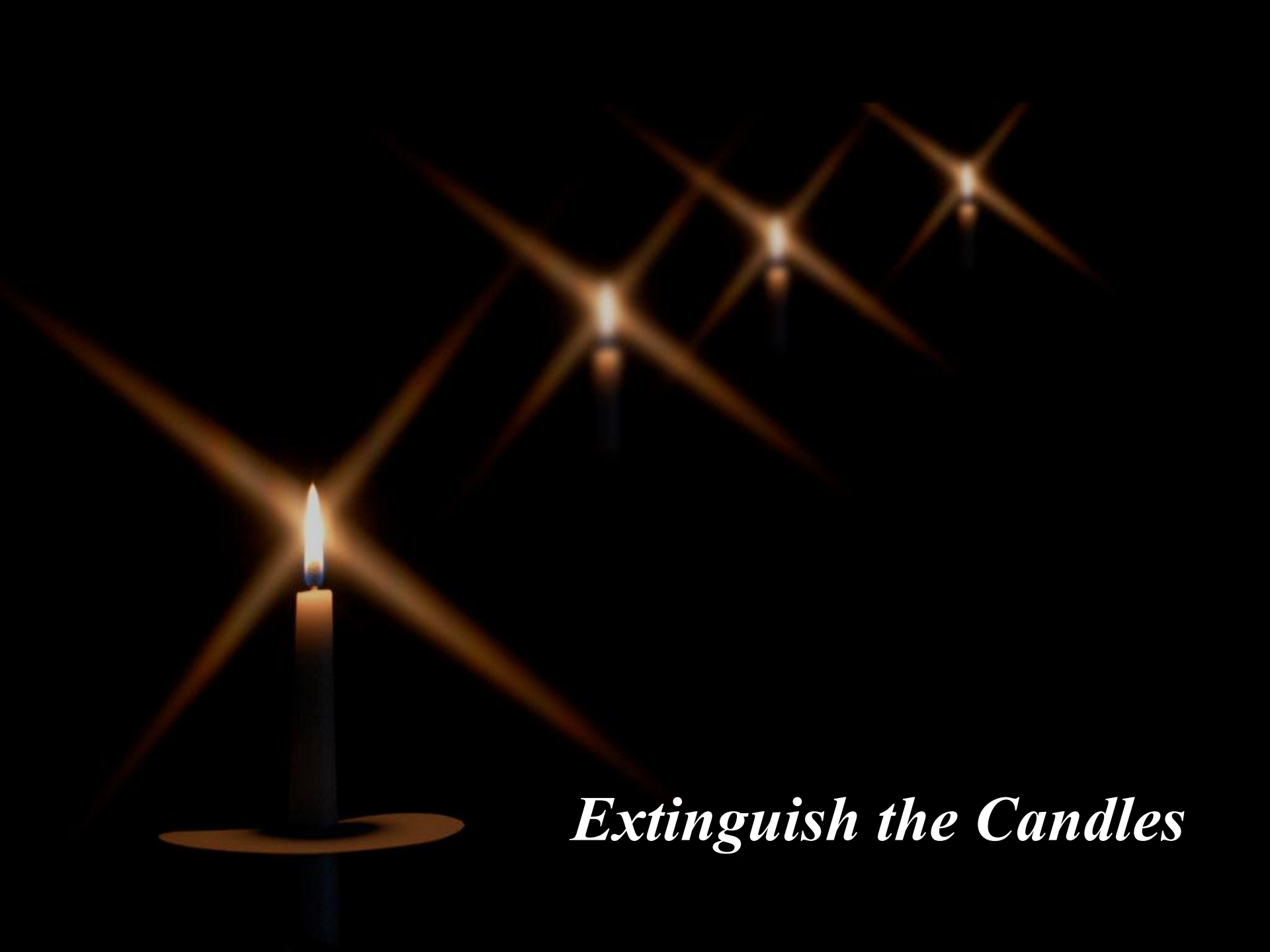
**Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Your holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Your birth.**



# *Blessing*

L: The triune God,  
glorious Mystery,  
holy Incarnate One,  
abiding Comforter,  
✚ bless you with endless  
grace, peace, and joy.

C: Amen.




*Extinguish the Candles*

# Joy to the World

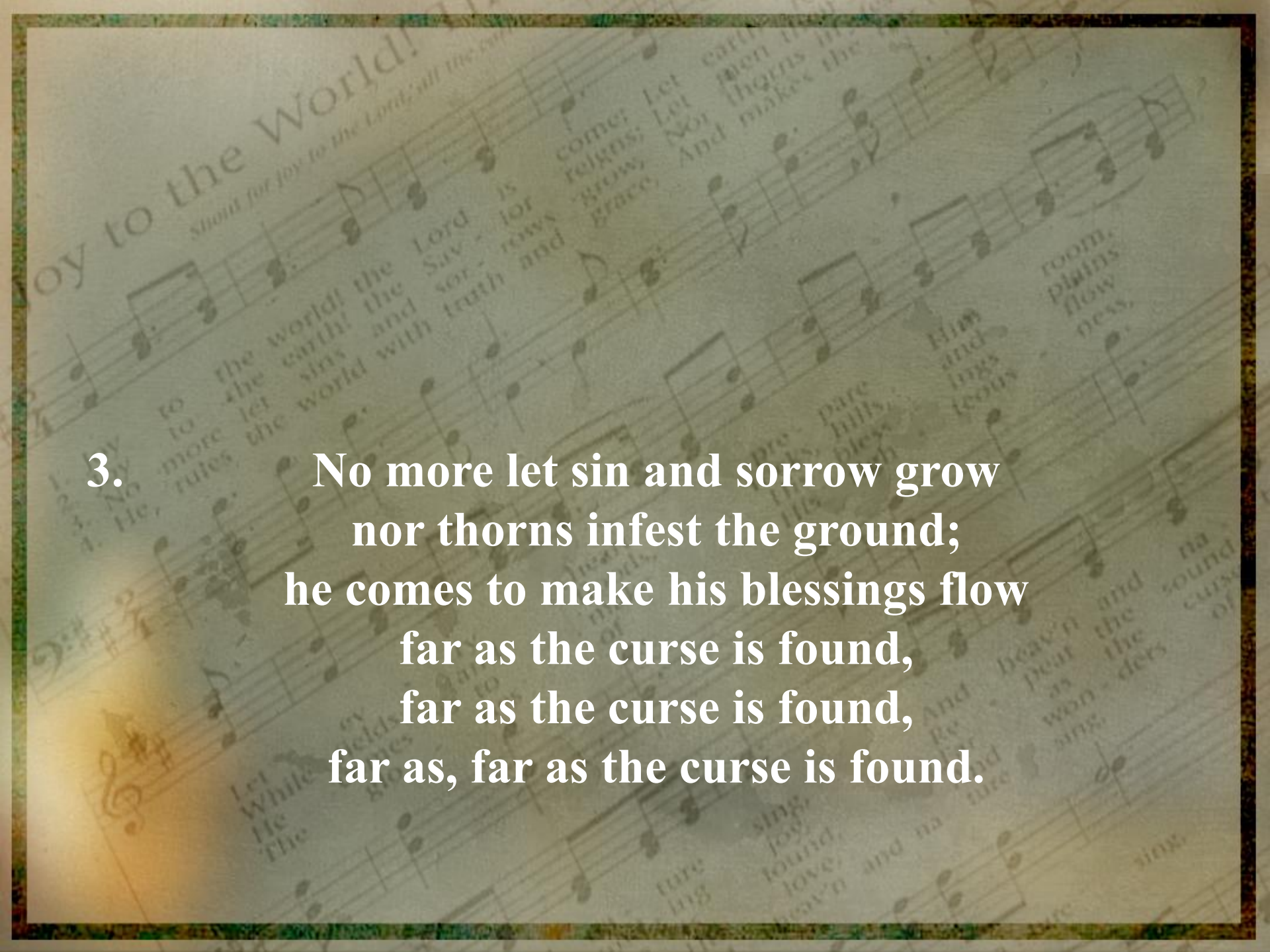
ELW #267

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748. Music: English melody, 18<sup>th</sup> cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872. Public Domain.

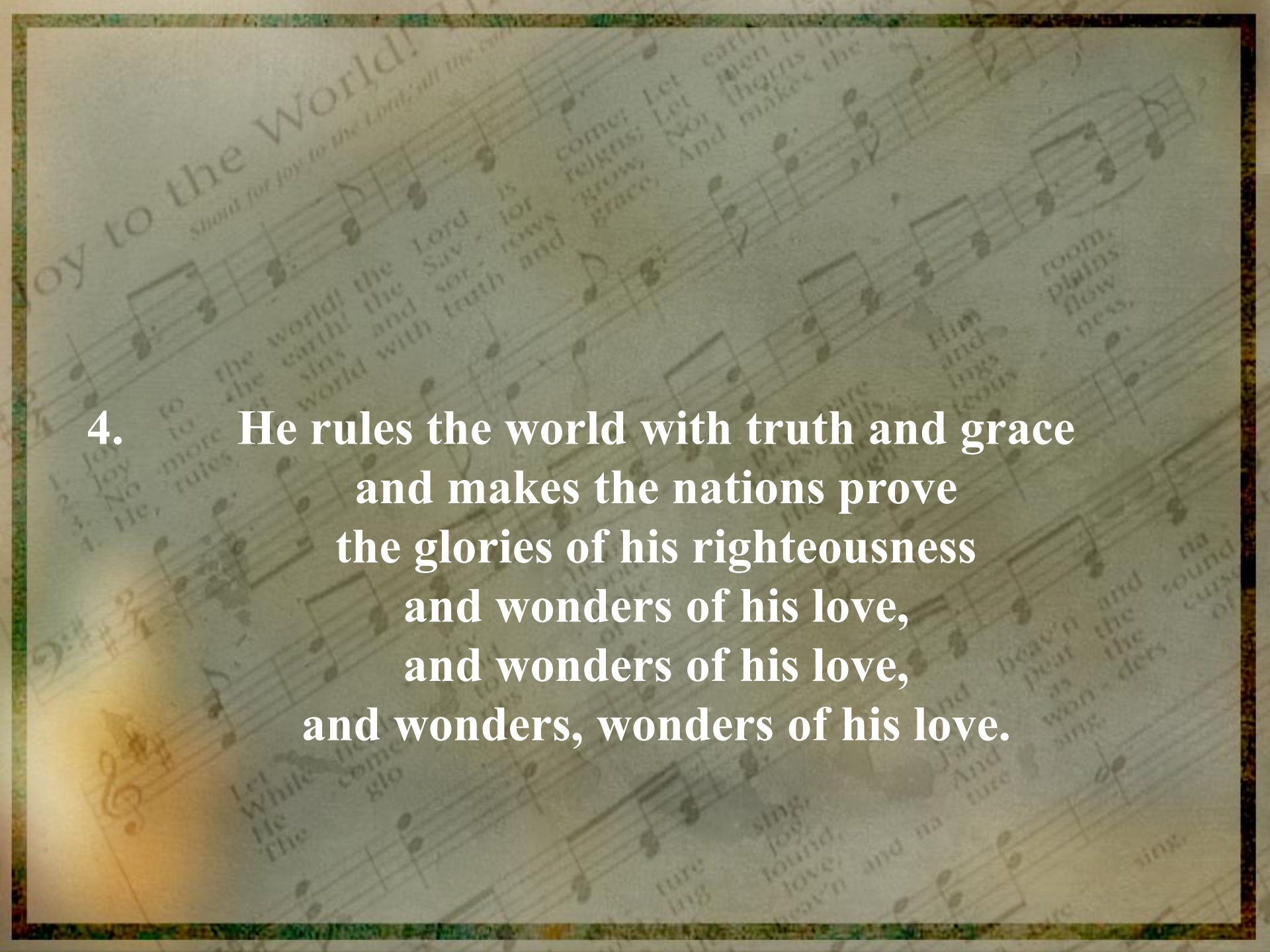
1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.



2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods,  
rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

The background of the image is a faded, sepia-toned musical score. The lyrics are written in a cursive script and are partially obscured by the musical notation and the text overlay. The visible lyrics include "Joy to the World!", "Shout for joy to the Lord; all the earth", "comes; Let earth be glad", "rejoice; Let men", "grow; And thorns", "grace; And make the", "to the world! the Lord is", "the earth; let sin", "let the world with truth and", "Sav - for sor - rows", "room, plains flow", "ness.", "bare hills, deep", "And the", "sing, joy found, love, and na", "ture log", "Heaven and na", "sing.", "Let while", "He", "The", "And", "Re", "And", "Heaven", "Dear", "as", "won", "sing.", "And", "the", "singers", "na", "sound", "of", "the", "curse", "of".

3. No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.



4. He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.



## *Dismissal*

L: Glory to God in the highest!

C: **And peace to God's people on earth!**

L: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Thank you  
for worshipping  
with us!*

*God bless you!*

