



Welcome to Worship at Zion Lutheran Church

*Sunday, January 4, 2026
9:00 am*

Photo by John Taylor



Welcome and Announcements

Come and join us for a meal before worship!



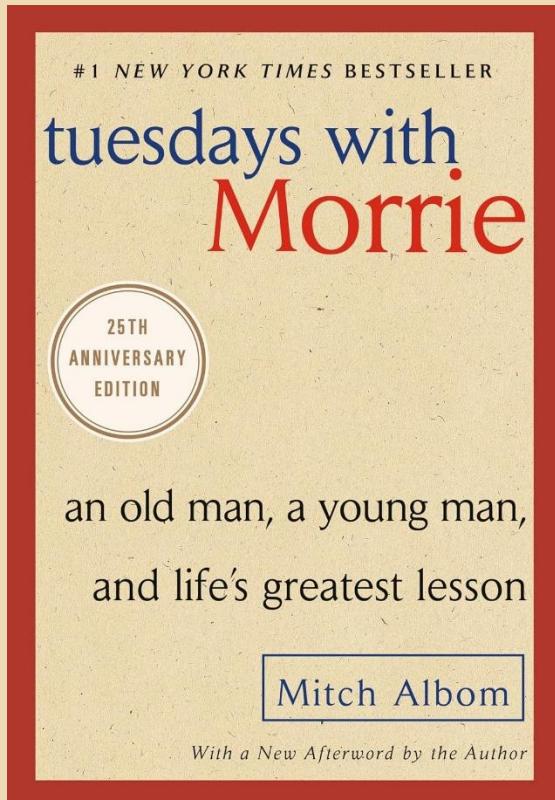
Starting January 7:

Meals will be served
at 5:00 pm before the
Wednesday night
worship services!

Worship will follow in the
Sanctuary at 5:45 pm.

*Come join us as we eat together and
enjoy fellowship with one another!*

Let's start the new year reading!



Join Kamarra Brunelle for a book club on her favorite book, *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom.

The first meeting will take place on Sunday, January 11 at 12:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

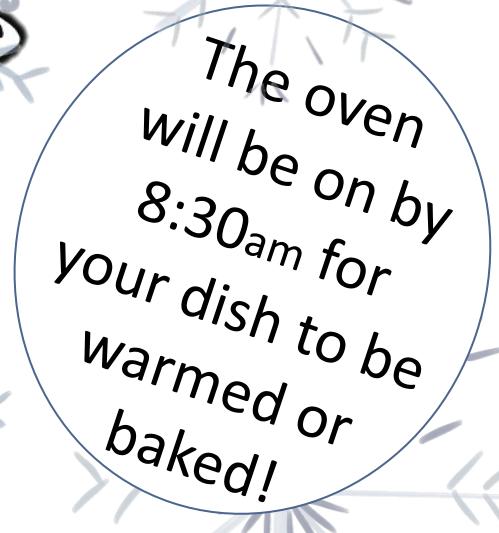
All are welcome to join, whether you've never read the book or have read it hundreds of times! Come join in on the discussion.

Congregational Potluck Brunch

Sunday, January 11
following worship



Bring your
favorite
brunch dish
to share!



The oven
will be on by
8:30am for
your dish to be
warmed or
baked!

Hosted by the Worship & Music Committee

Sanctuary Seating Survey

Now is the time to share your thoughts!

An **online** survey form is available:

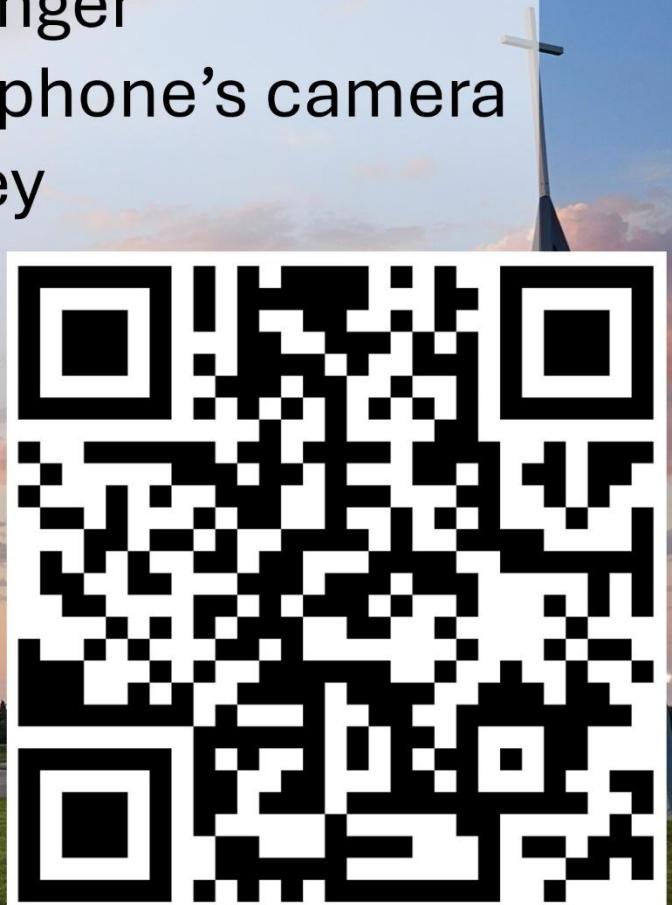
- Click the link in the e-Messenger
- Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to complete the online survey

or

Pick up a **paper** survey
in the Gathering Space



Surveys are due tomorrow!



Would you like to support your friends, neighbors, and coworkers when they're struggling, but don't know how?



FREE 2-hour training at Zion

Monday, January 26

6:00 pm

A light supper will be provided by the Congregational Care Committee at 5:30 pm.

Pre-registration
is required.
Space is limited.

COMET helps people take the next step after noticing someone might be struggling. This training teaches simple tools to reach out to help someone to shift their mental health path to a place of wellness and away from mental health crisis. This training doesn't expect community members to "fix it," but instead trains people to feel comfortable initiating a supportive conversation.

Sharing the Peace

Brightest and Best of the Stars

ELW #303

Words by Reginald Heber. Music by James P. Harding. Public Domain

1.

**Brightest and best of the
stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness
and lend us your aid.**

**Star of the east,
the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant
redeemer is laid.**

2. **Cold on his cradle**
 the dewdrops are shining;
 low lies his head
 with the beasts of the stall;
 angels adore him
 in slumber reclining,
 maker and monarch
 and savior of all.

3.

**What shall we give him,
in costly devotion?
Shall we bring incense
and off'rings divine,
gems of the mountain
and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest
or gold from the mine?**

4. **Vainly we offer
each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would
his favor secure;
richer by far is the
heart's adoration,
dearer to God
are the prayers of the poor.**

5.

**Brightest and best of the
stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness
and lend us your aid.**

**Star of the east,
the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant
redeemer is laid.**

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.

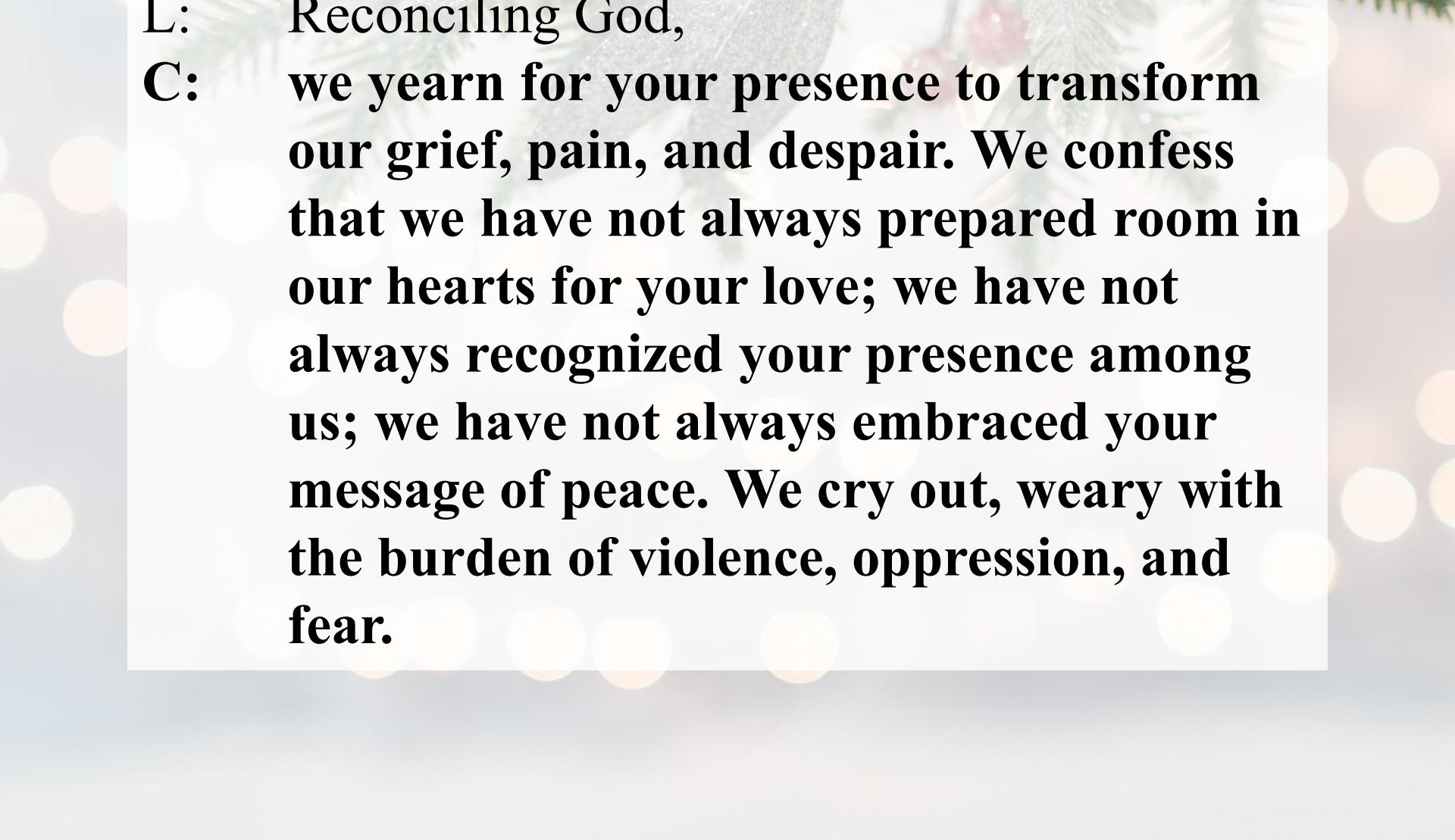
C: Amen.

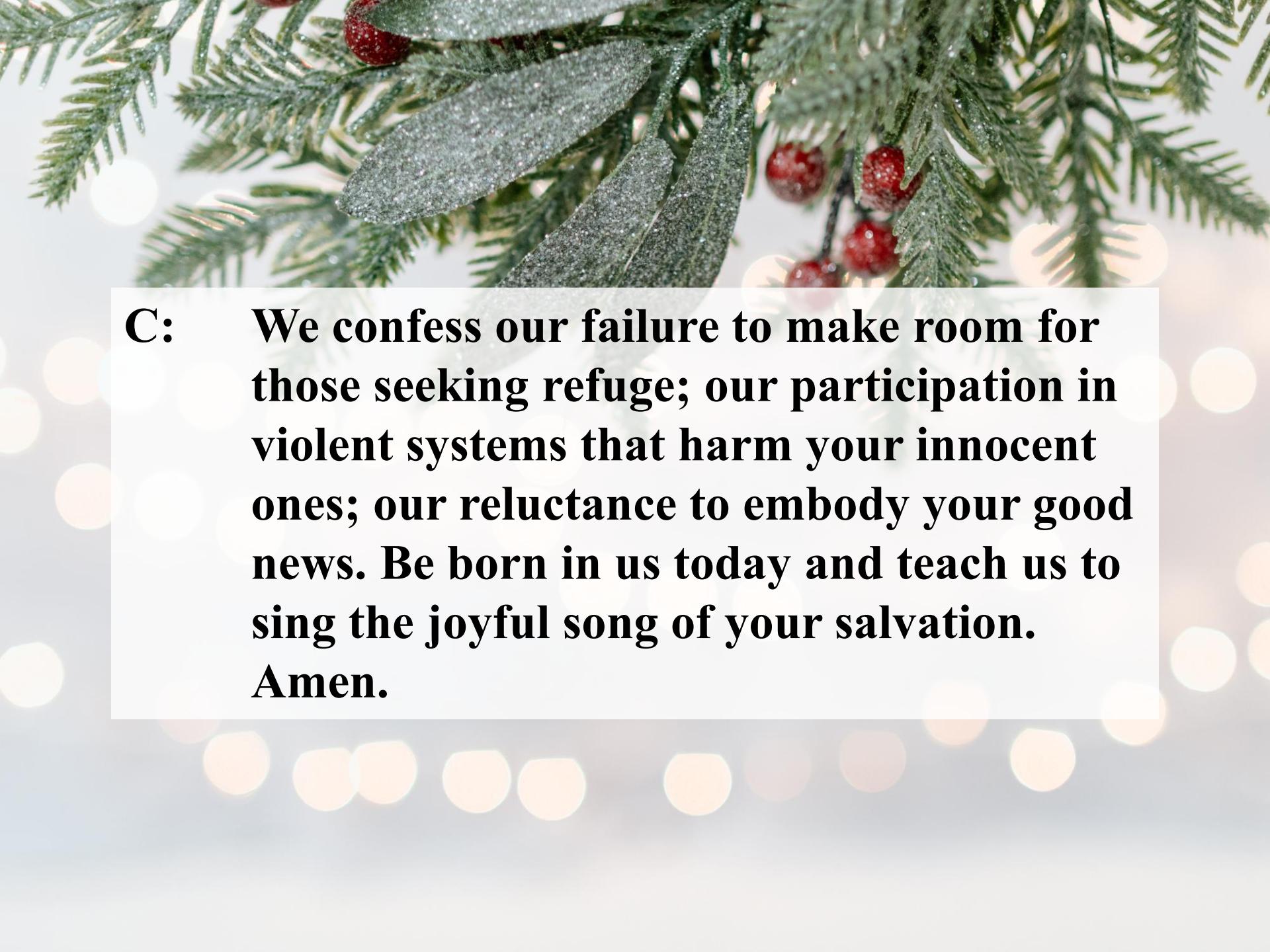
L: Trusting in God's steadfast love and
faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection



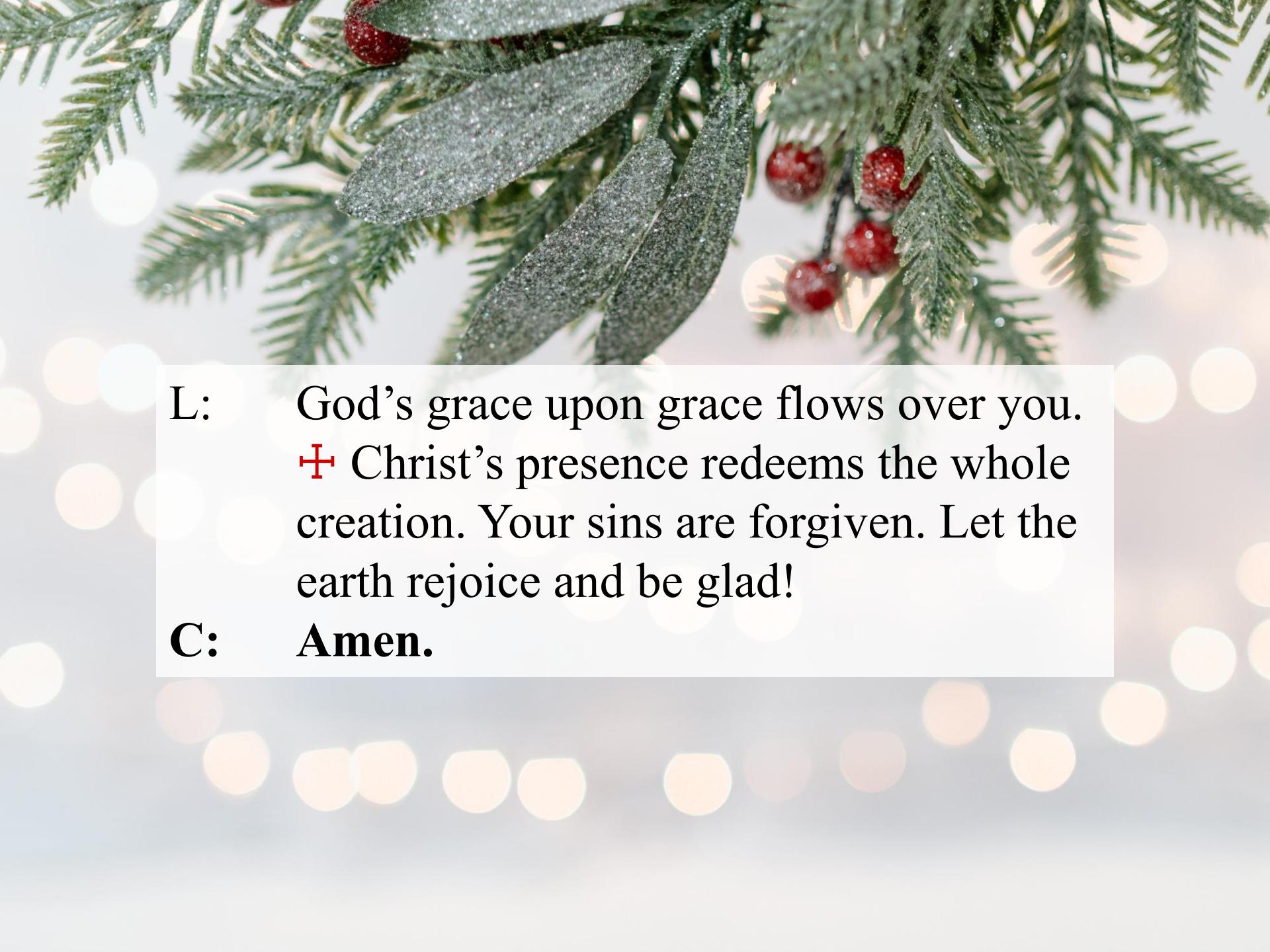
L: Reconciling God,
C: **we yearn for your presence to transform
our grief, pain, and despair. We confess
that we have not always prepared room in
our hearts for your love; we have not
always recognized your presence among
us; we have not always embraced your
message of peace. We cry out, weary with
the burden of violence, oppression, and
fear.**





C: We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.

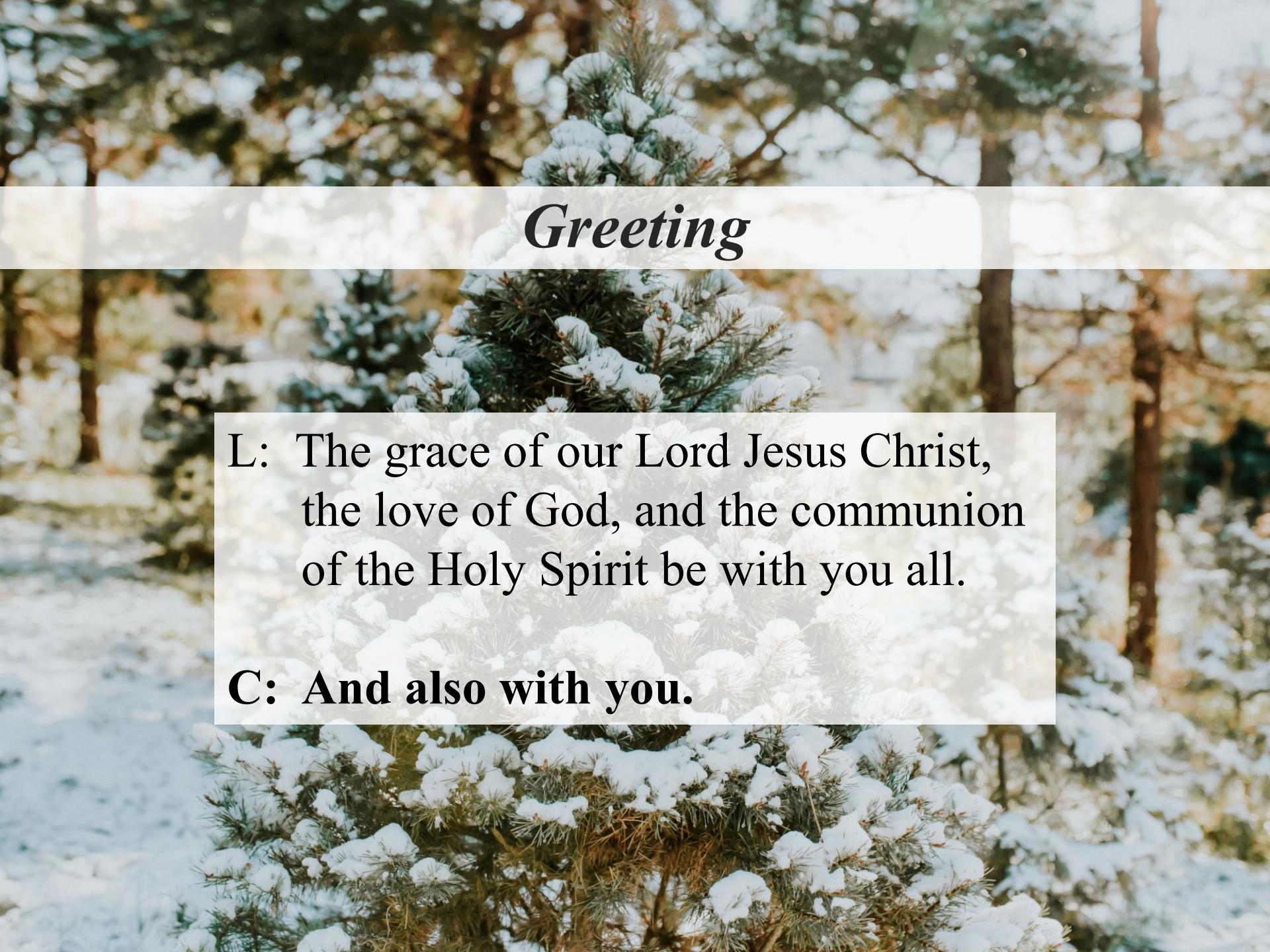
Amen.



L: God's grace upon grace flows over you.

✚ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

C: Amen.



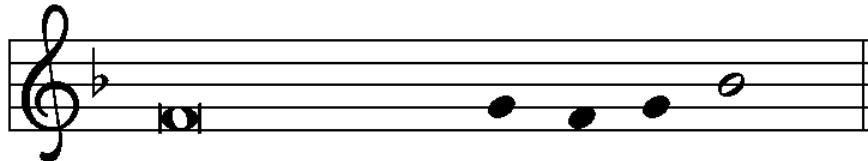
Greeting

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

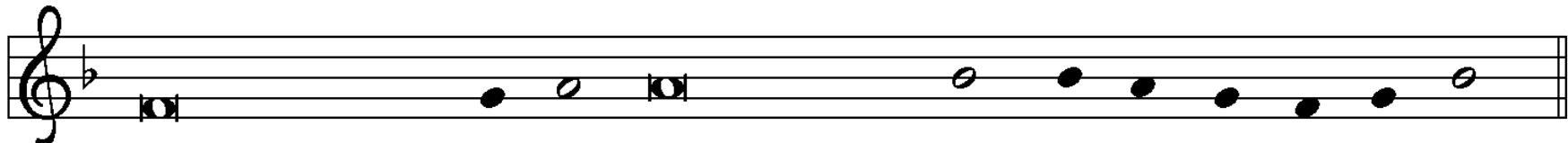
p. 165



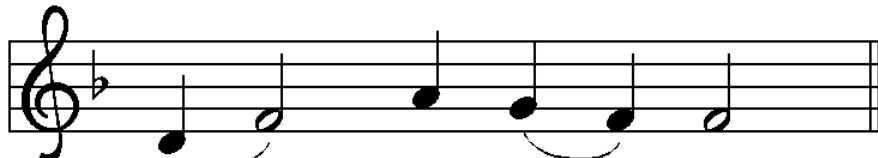
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



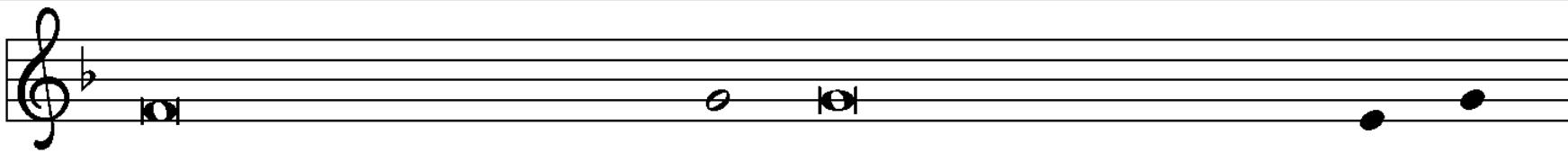
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



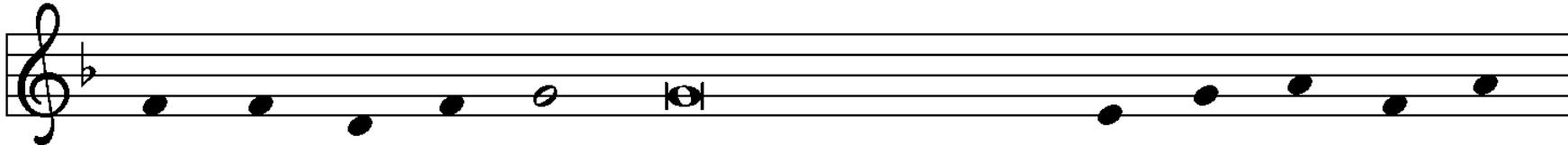
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



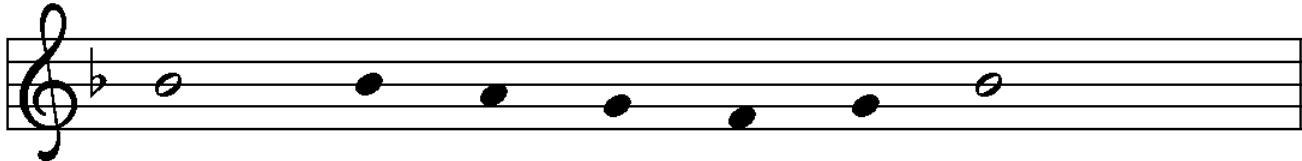
God, and for the uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



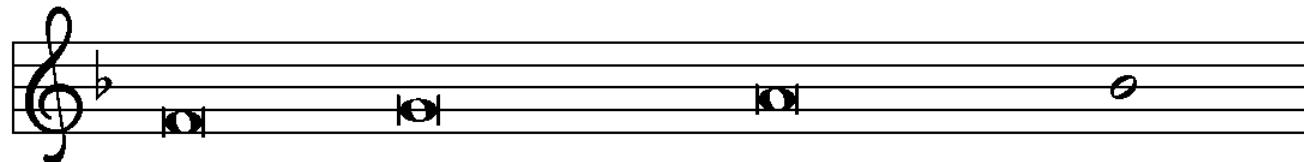
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



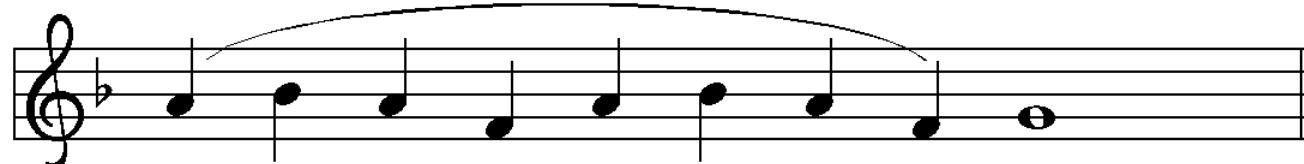
praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

Hymn of Praise

p. 169

Refrain



This is the feast of victory for our God.



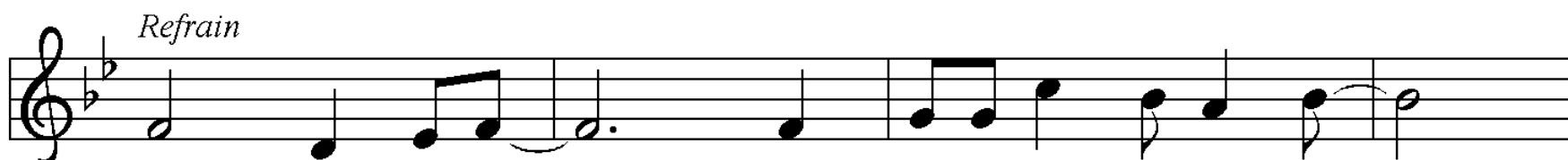
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose

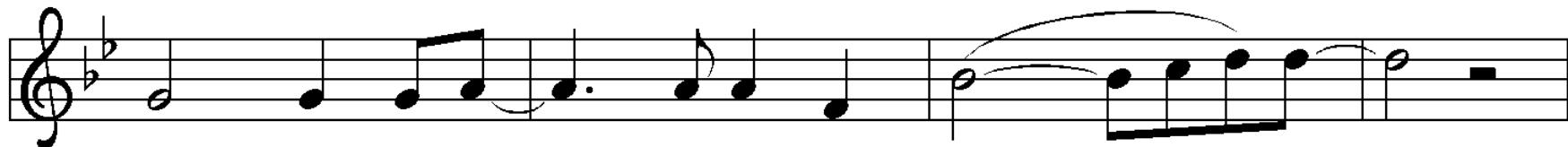


blood set us free to be people of God.





2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to

Refrain



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



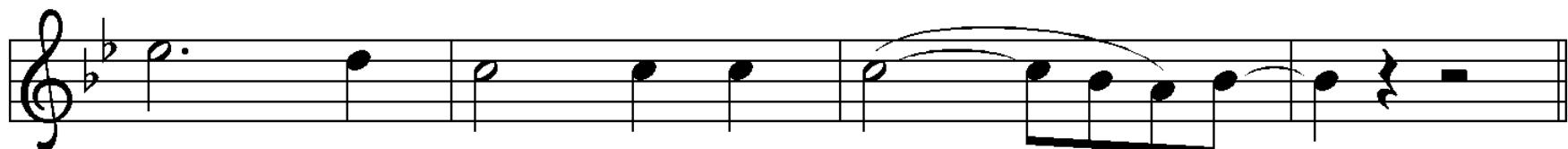
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



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



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

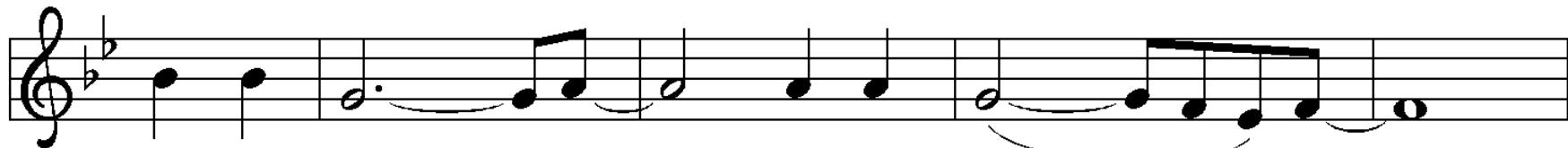


gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

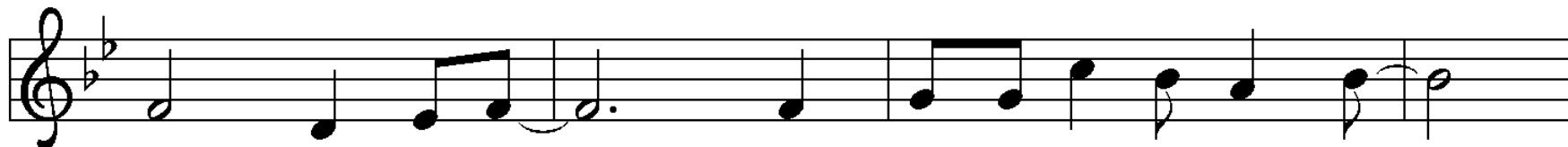
Final refrain



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: Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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





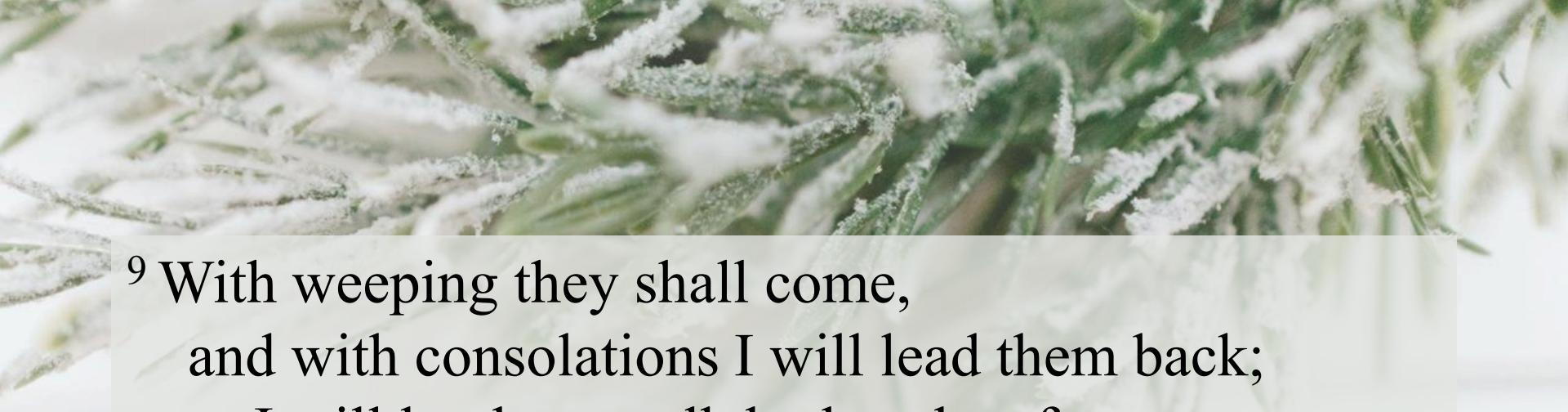
First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock.

Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

⁷ Thus says the LORD:
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the
land of the north
and gather them from the farthest
parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor together;
a great company, they shall return here.



⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back;
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.”



11 For the LORD has ransomed Jacob
and has redeemed him from hands
too strong for him.

12 They shall come and sing aloud on the
height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the
goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.



13 Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy;
I will comfort them and give them
gladness for sorrow.

14 I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.



L: The Word of the Lord.

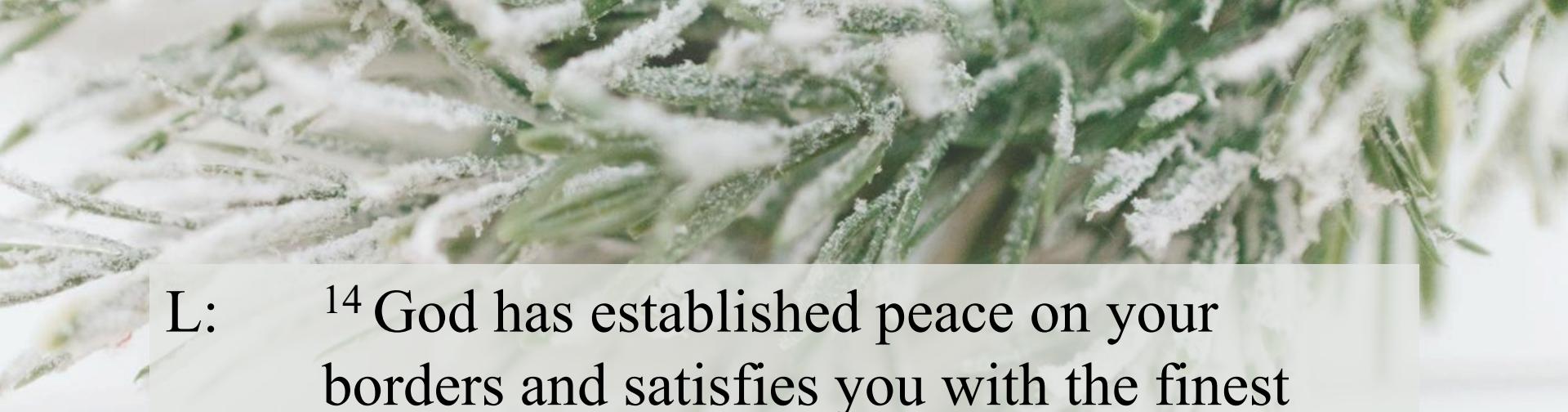
C: Thanks be to God.



Psalm 147:12-20

L: ¹² Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion,

C: ¹³ **who has strengthened the bars of your
gates and has blessed your children
within you.**



L: ¹⁴ God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

C: ¹⁵ **God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.**

L: ¹⁶ God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

C: ¹⁷ **God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?**



L: 18 The LORD sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.

C: 19 **God declares the word to Jacob,
statutes and judgments to Israel.**

L: 20 The LORD has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments.
Hallelujah!

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.

⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.



L: The Word of the Lord.

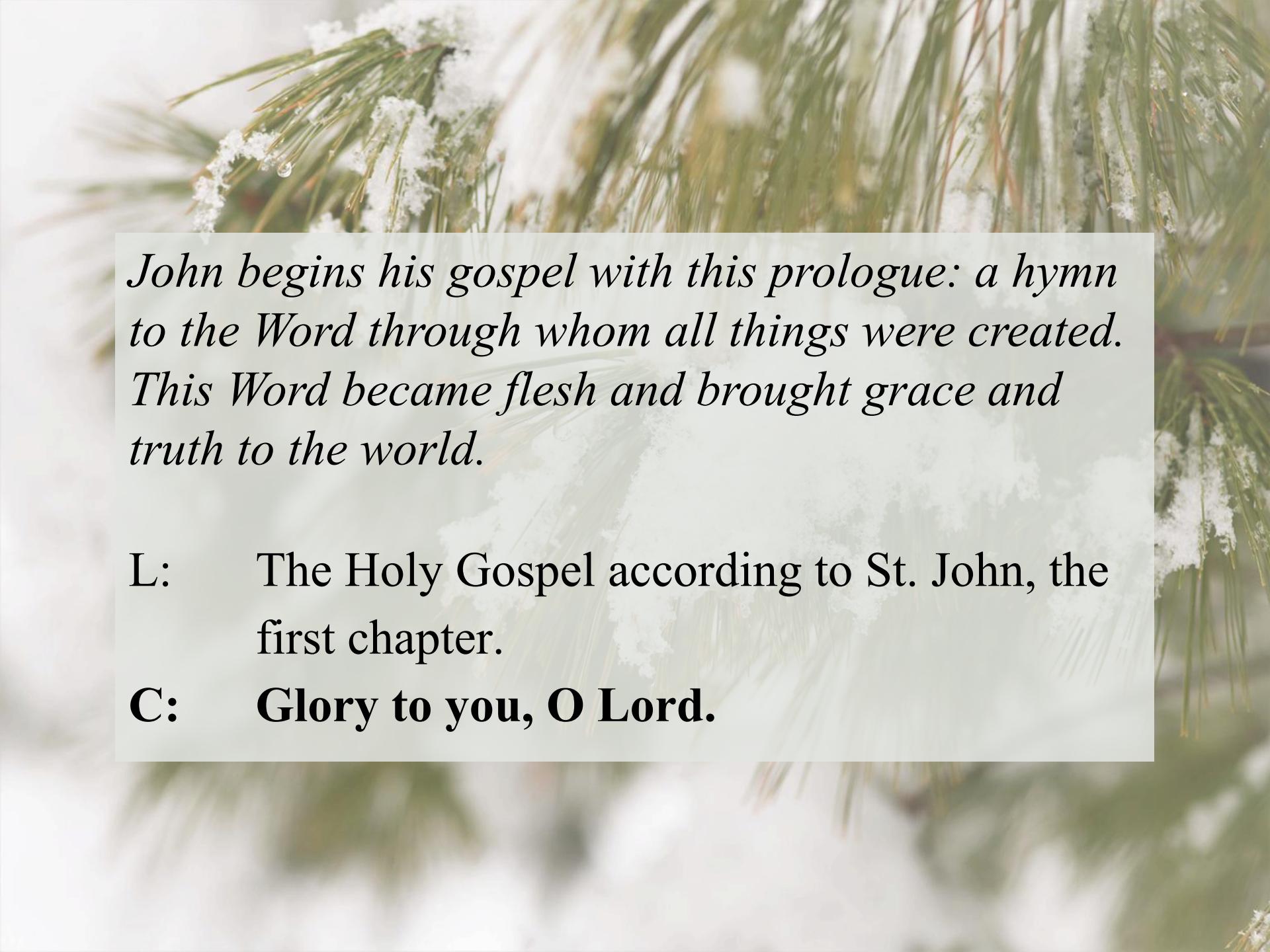
C: Thanks be to God.

What Child is This

ELW #296 v. 3

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

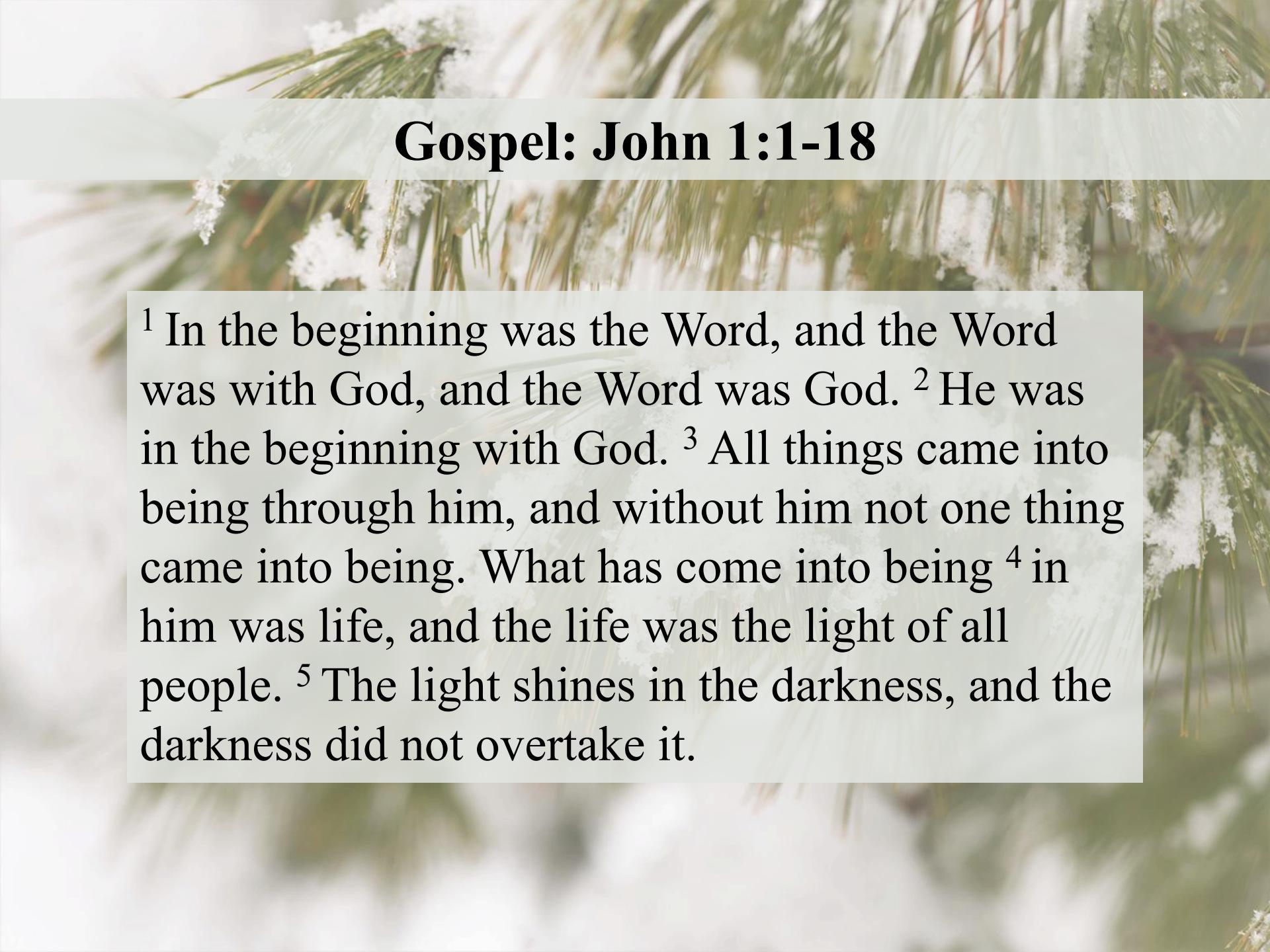
3. **So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!**



John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

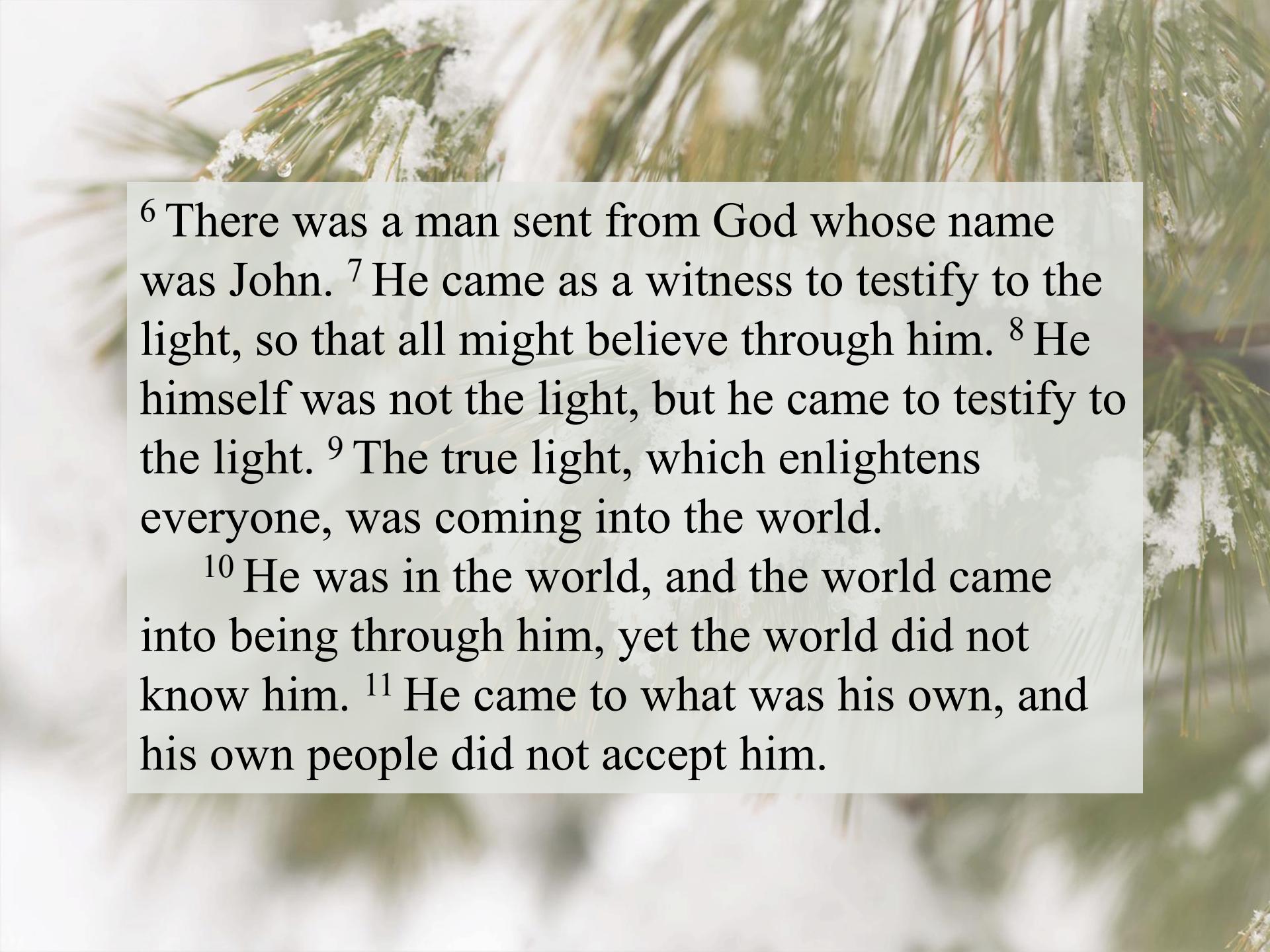
L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

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



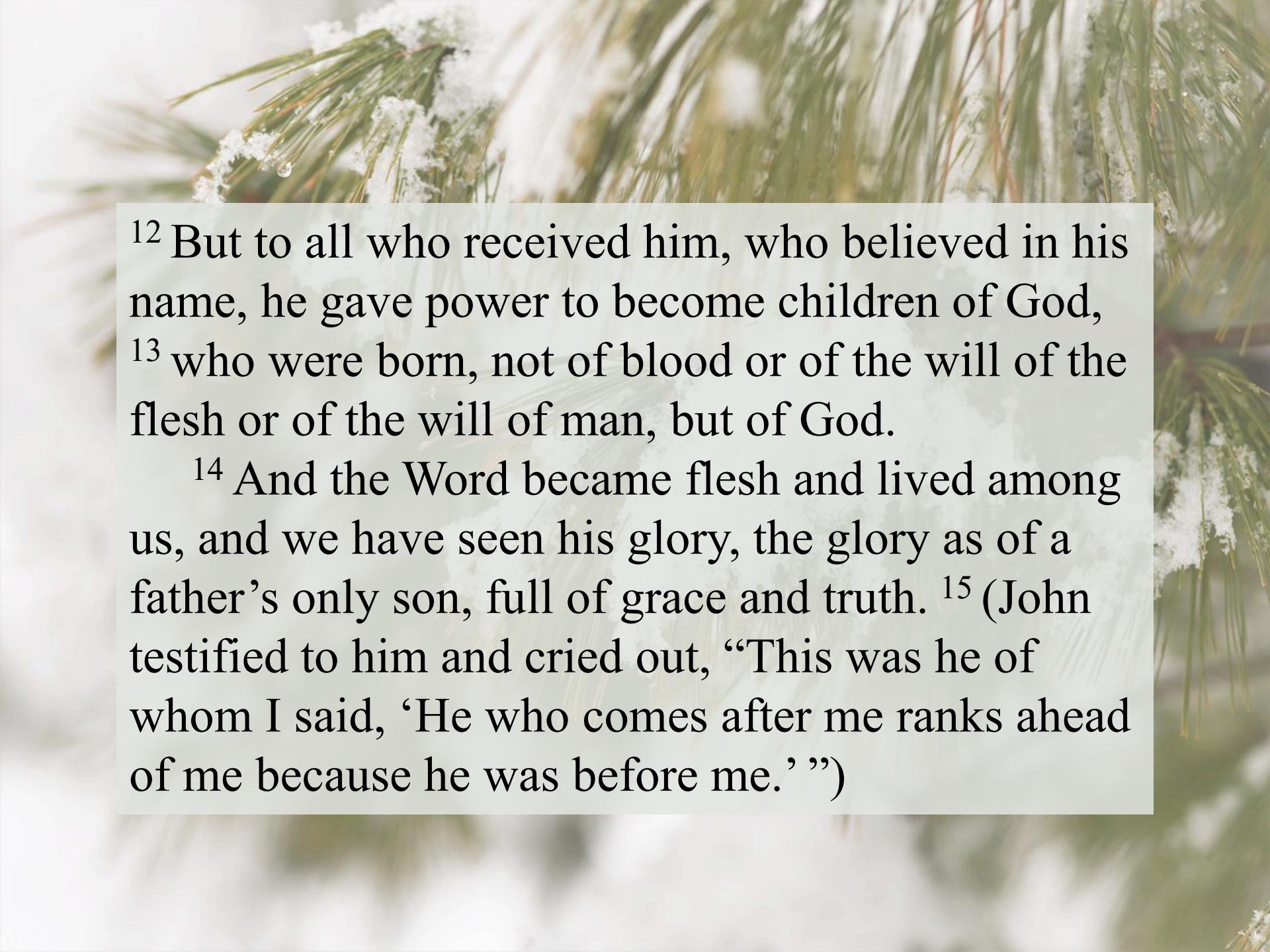
Gospel: John 1:1-18

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.



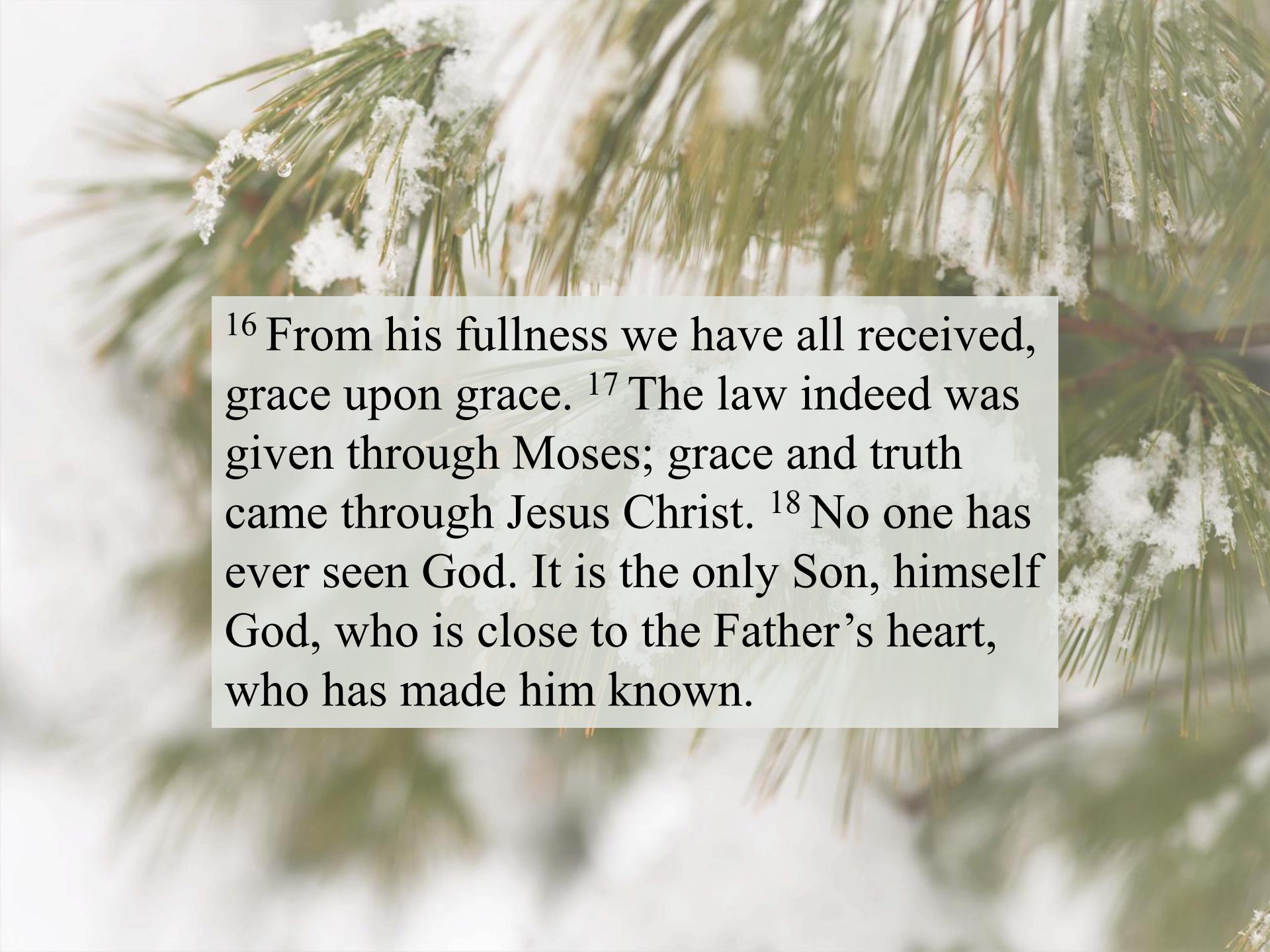
⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

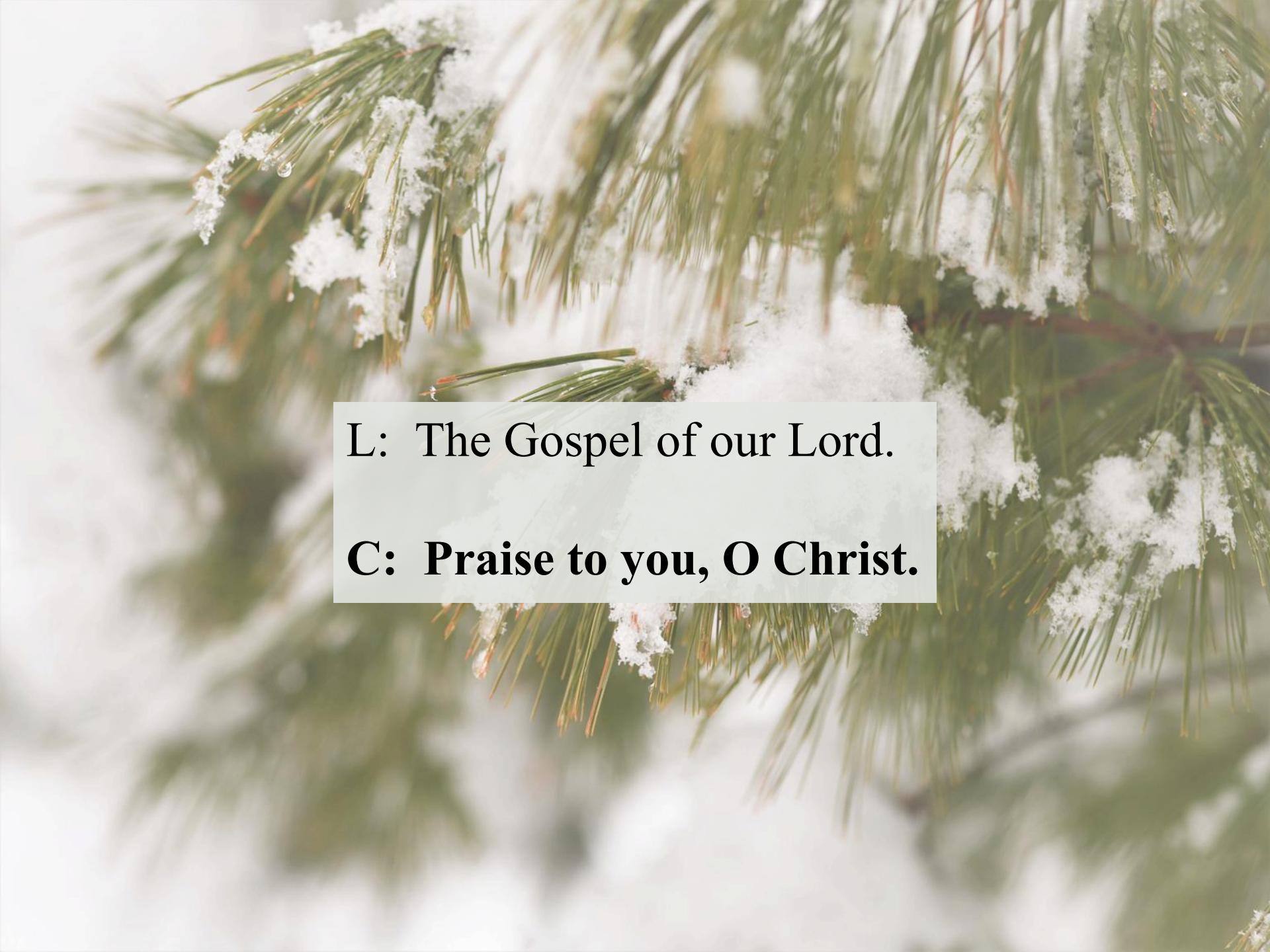


¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,
¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'")



¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.



L: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message



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.**





3.

**Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worshiping God Most High.**





**O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**





4.

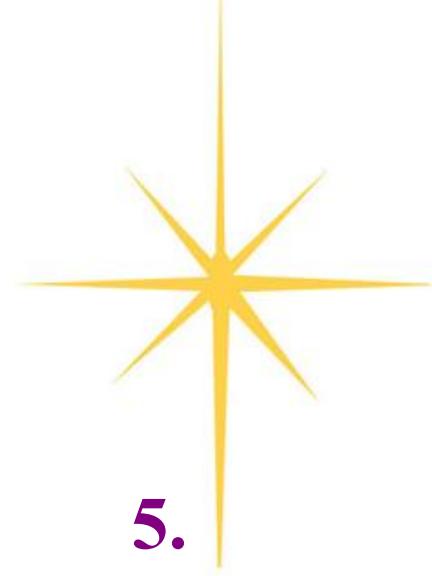
**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.**





**O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**





5.

**Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
heav'n sings alleluia:
alleluia the earth replies.**





**O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**



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.

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

Love Has Come

ELW #292

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950. Music: F. Seguin, *Recueil de noels composés en langue provençale*, 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 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



Eucharistic Prayer

L: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

L: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

L: Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: **Come, Holy Spirit.**

L: All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

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.**

Holy Communion

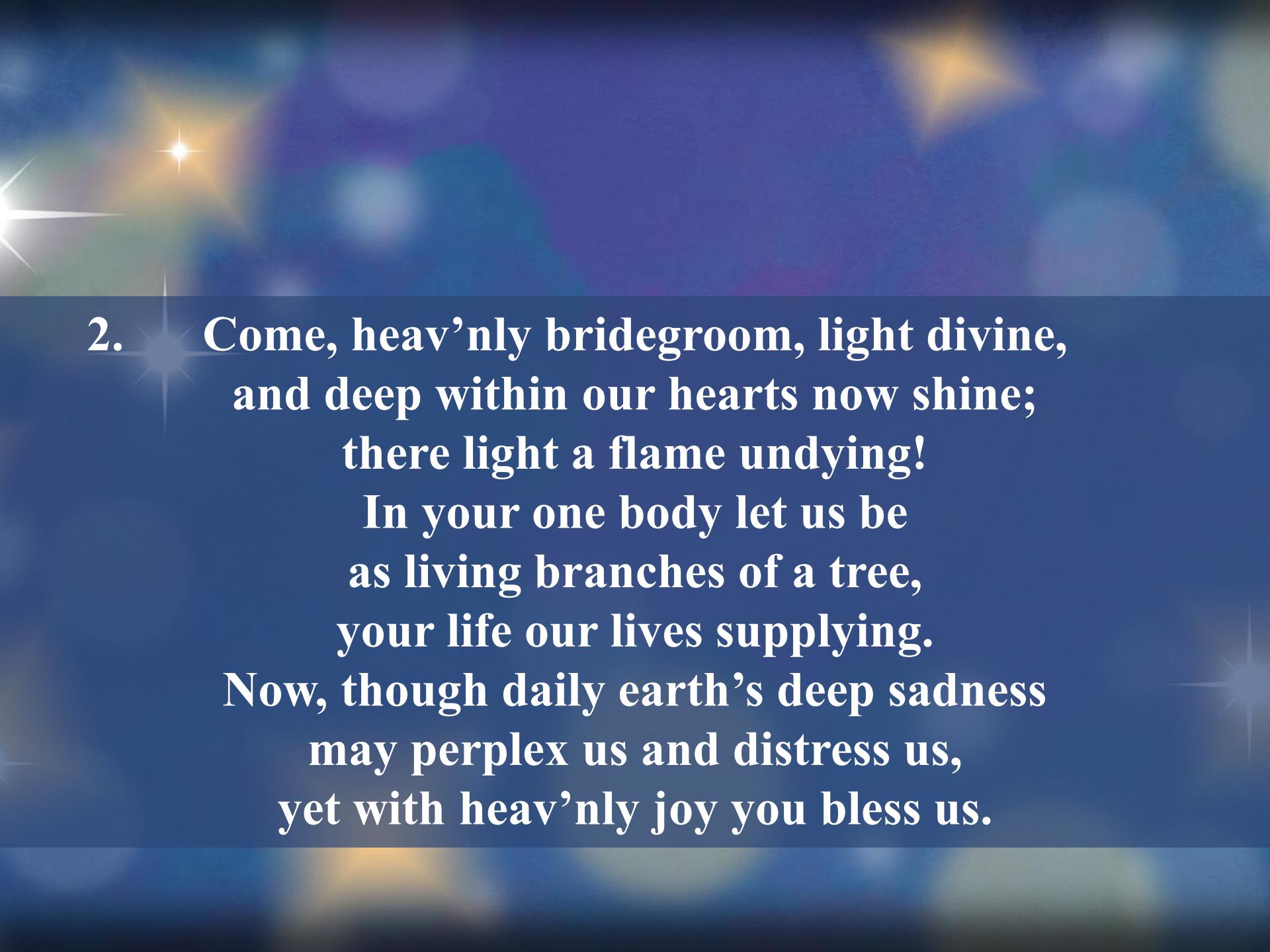
*An usher will guide you forward.
Wafers or gluten-free bread and
wine or juice will be offered. You
will be served a wafer unless you
indicate otherwise. Please take the
wine or juice from the tray yourself.*



O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

Text/Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
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1. **O Morning Star, how fair and bright!
You shine with God's own truth and light,
 aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's race, King David's Son,
our Lord and master, you have won
 our hearts to serve you only!
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious,
 all victorious, rich in blessing!
Rule and might o'er all possessing!**



2. Come, heav'nly bridegroom, light divine,
and deep within our hearts now shine;
there light a flame undying!
In your one body let us be
as living branches of a tree,
your life our lives supplying.
Now, though daily earth's deep sadness
may perplex us and distress us,
yet with heav'nly joy you bless us.

3.

**Lord, when you look on us in love,
at once there falls from God above
a ray of purest pleasure.**

**Your word and Spirit, flesh and blood
refresh our souls with heav'nly food.**

You are our dearest treasure!

**Let your mercy warm and cheer us!
Oh, draw near us! For you teach us
God's own love through you has reached us.**

4.

Almighty Father, in your son
you loved us, when not yet begun
was this old earth's foundation!
Your son has ransomed us in love
to live in him here and above:
this is your great salvation.
Alleluia! Christ the living,
to us giving life forever,
keeps us yours and fails us never!

5. **What joy to know, when life is past,
the Lord we love is first and last,
the end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
transport us to that happy place
beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!
Crown of gladness!
We are yearning
for the day of your returning.**

6. **Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!**
 Our joy be all with music crowned,
 our voices gaily blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way--
 today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
 His love is never ending!
 Sing out! Ring out!
 Jubilation! Exultation!
 Tell the story!
Great is he, the King of Glory!

The Only Son from Heaven

ELW #309

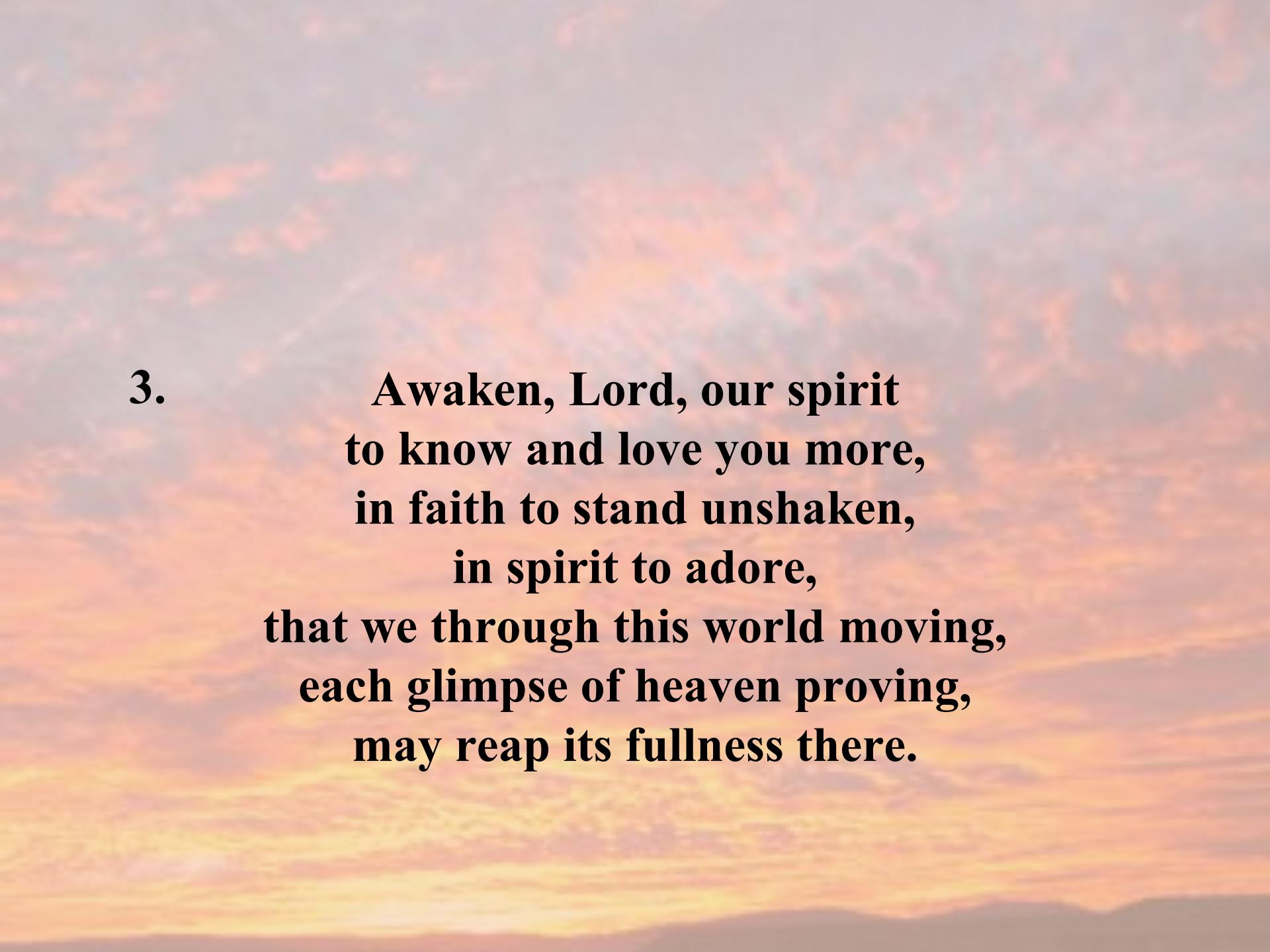
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1.

**The only Son from heaven,
foretold by ancient seers,
by God the Father given,
in human form appears.
No sphere his light confining,
no star so brightly shining as he,
our Morning Star.**

2.

**Oh, time of God appointed,
oh, bright and holy morn!
He comes, the king anointed,
the Christ, the virgin born,
grim death to vanquish for us,
to open heav'n before us
and bring us life again.**



3. **Awaken, Lord, our spirit**
 to know and love you more,
 in faith to stand unshaken,
 in spirit to adore,
 that we through this world moving,
 each glimpse of heaven proving,
 may reap its fullness there.

4.

**O Father, here before you
with God the Holy Ghost,
and Jesus, we adore you,
O pride of angel host:
before you mortals lowly cry,
“Holy, holy, holy,
O blessed Trinity!”**

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.**

Blessing

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

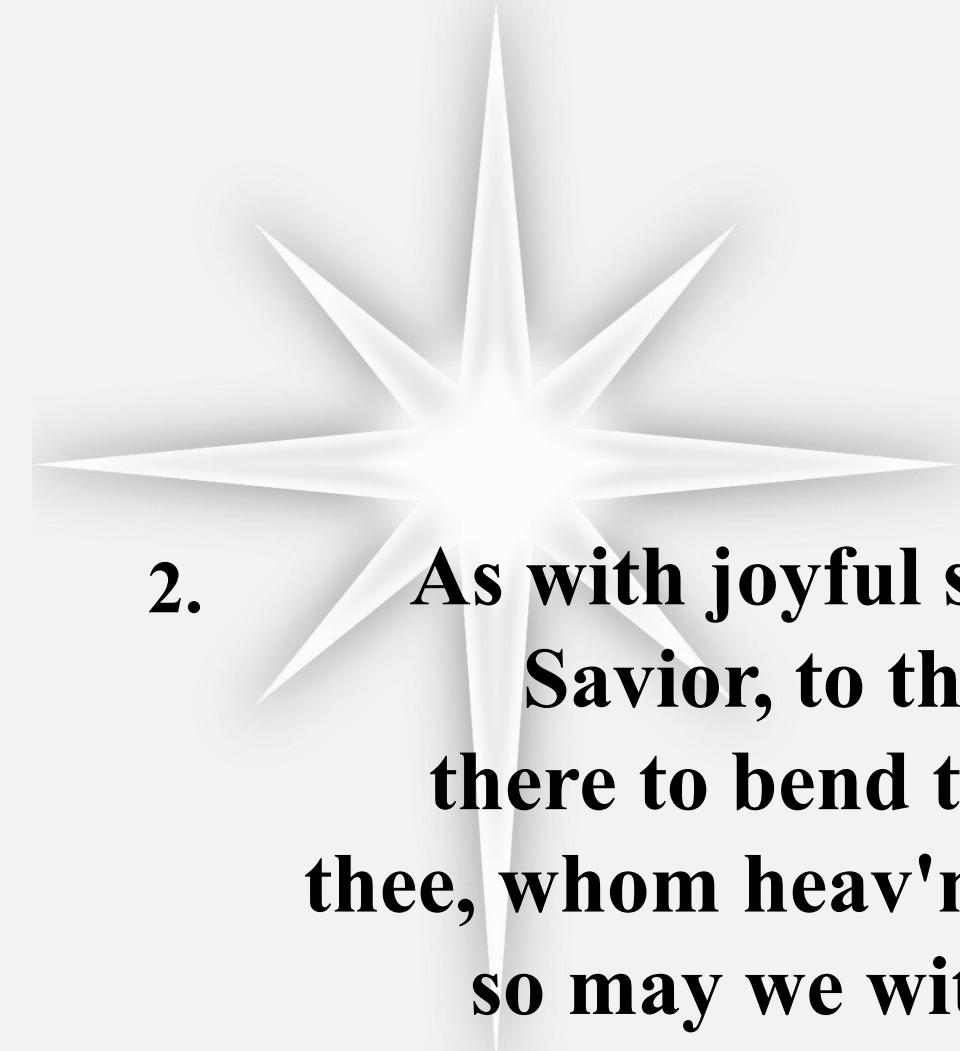
C: **Amen!**

As With Gladness Men of Old

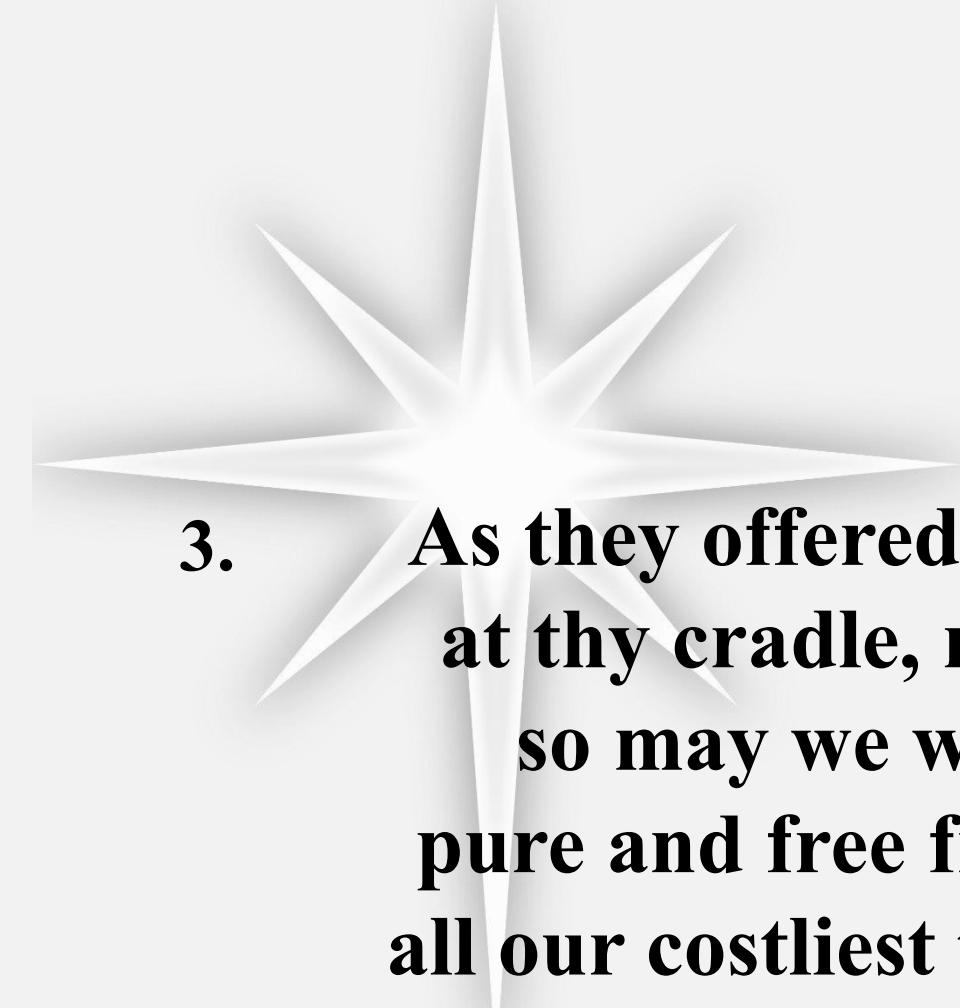
ELW #302

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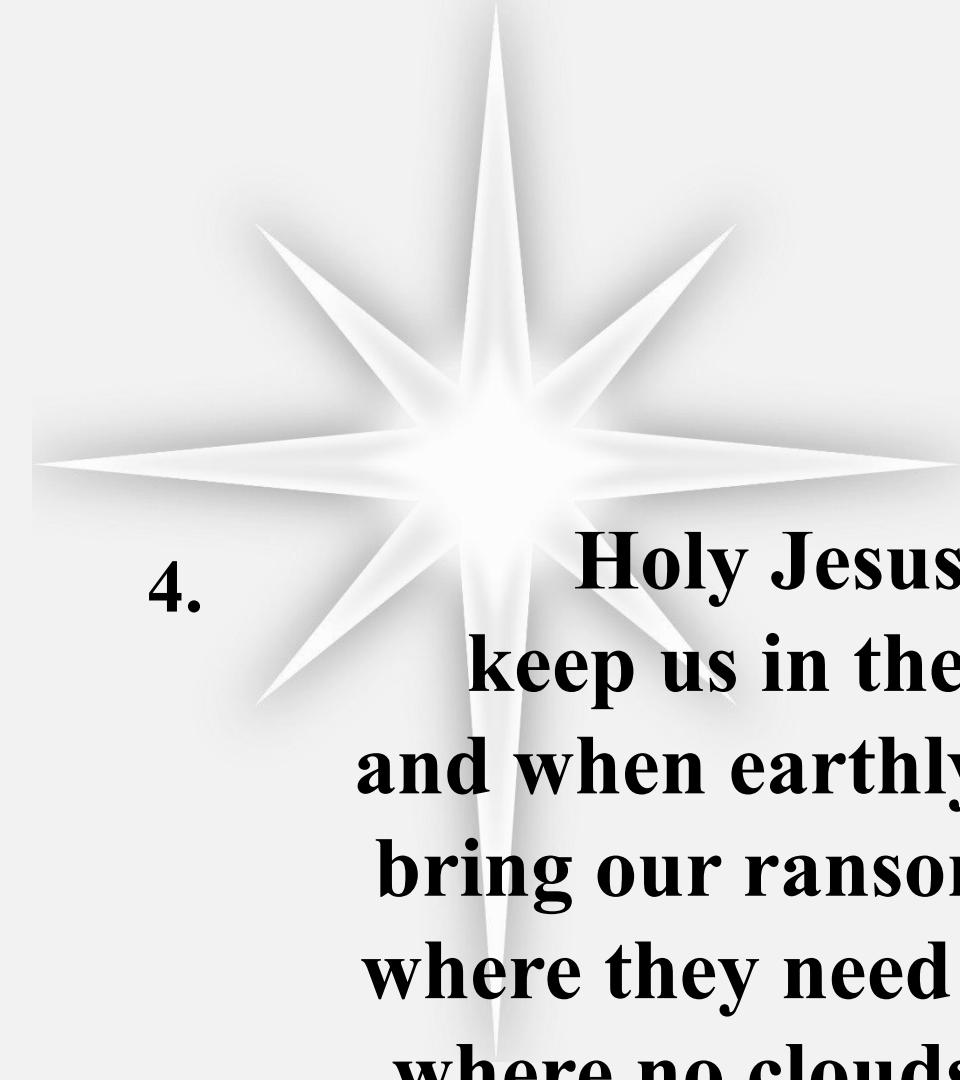
1. As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore be led by thee.



2. As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy seat.

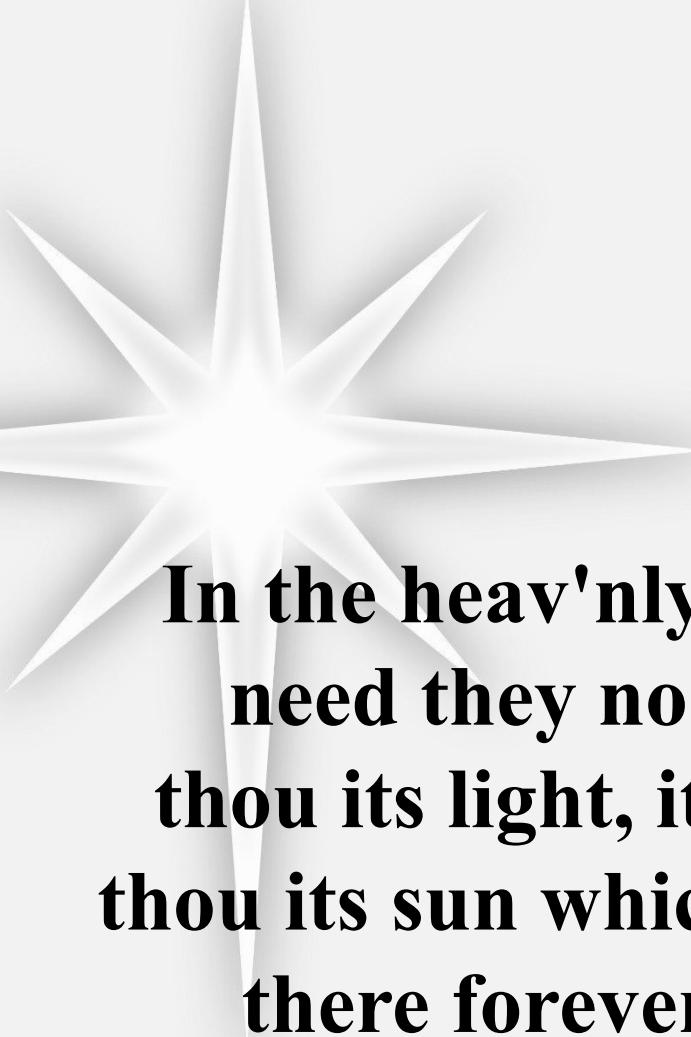


3. **As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle, rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.**



4.

**Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds thy glory hide.**



5. In the heav'nly country bright
need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing
alleluias to our king.

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!