

WELCOME TO SE*LAH

הלה

*Come in. Sit down. Catch your
breath. Breath deep.*

We're really, really glad you are here.



It's Easter!!

How many days left in the season?

& a reminder of who we are and why we are here.

We are a community of seekers trying to live with God in this world

come and see...

-jesus



The Invitatory

Ring the bells. Blow the ram's horn,
God is not only here...



But our God is alive
and risen again

A lit candle is the central focus, surrounded by several white lilies and green leaves. The scene is softly lit, creating a warm and reverent atmosphere. The candle's flame is visible, and the petals of the lilies are in sharp focus in the foreground.

The Lord be with you *And Also with you.*
Alleluia Christ is Risen *The Lord has risen indeed Alleluia.*

**MAY YOUR UNFAILING LOVE REST UPON US, O LORD,
EVEN AS WE PUT OUR HOPE IN YOU.**

Loving and Living God

We worship what we give our hearts to

Lead us this night to worship not just with our hearts but with our minds, bodies and souls as well.

Let your living and risen presence be known to us this evening.

Lord instill in our hearts a desire to know you and love you more each day.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

*As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever.
Amen.*

*Risen Lord, we love you and we
bless you.*

For through your holy cross,
you have redeemed the world.

*Risen Lord, we love you and we
bless you.*

For through this sacred sign, you
have restored life to this world.



INHO
GVLA
NOVI
DITVR

CSIN
RISIG
TARED
MVNDO



LET US PRAY WITH ONE HEART AND ONE MIND THAT THIS EVENING
MAY BE HOLY, GOOD AND PEACEFUL.


CLOSE YOUR EYES AND TAKE ANOTHER DEEP BREATH AND PRAY.

A Sound bite from God: a versicle.

But let all who take refuge in you be glad;
let them ever sing for joy.
Spread your protection over them,
that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

Psalm 5:11

POUR

A person with long hair, wearing a blue shirt, is sitting on a wooden bench in a forest. The person is viewed from behind, looking towards a paved road that winds through the trees. The foreground is filled with out-of-focus tree branches and leaves, creating a sense of being in a natural, secluded environment. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and quiet.

COME.
STEP OUT OF THE TRAFFIC...

FOR TWO HOURS STEP AWAY FROM... FOR TWO HOURS STEP OUT OF...
FOR TWO HOURS LEAVE BEHIND...

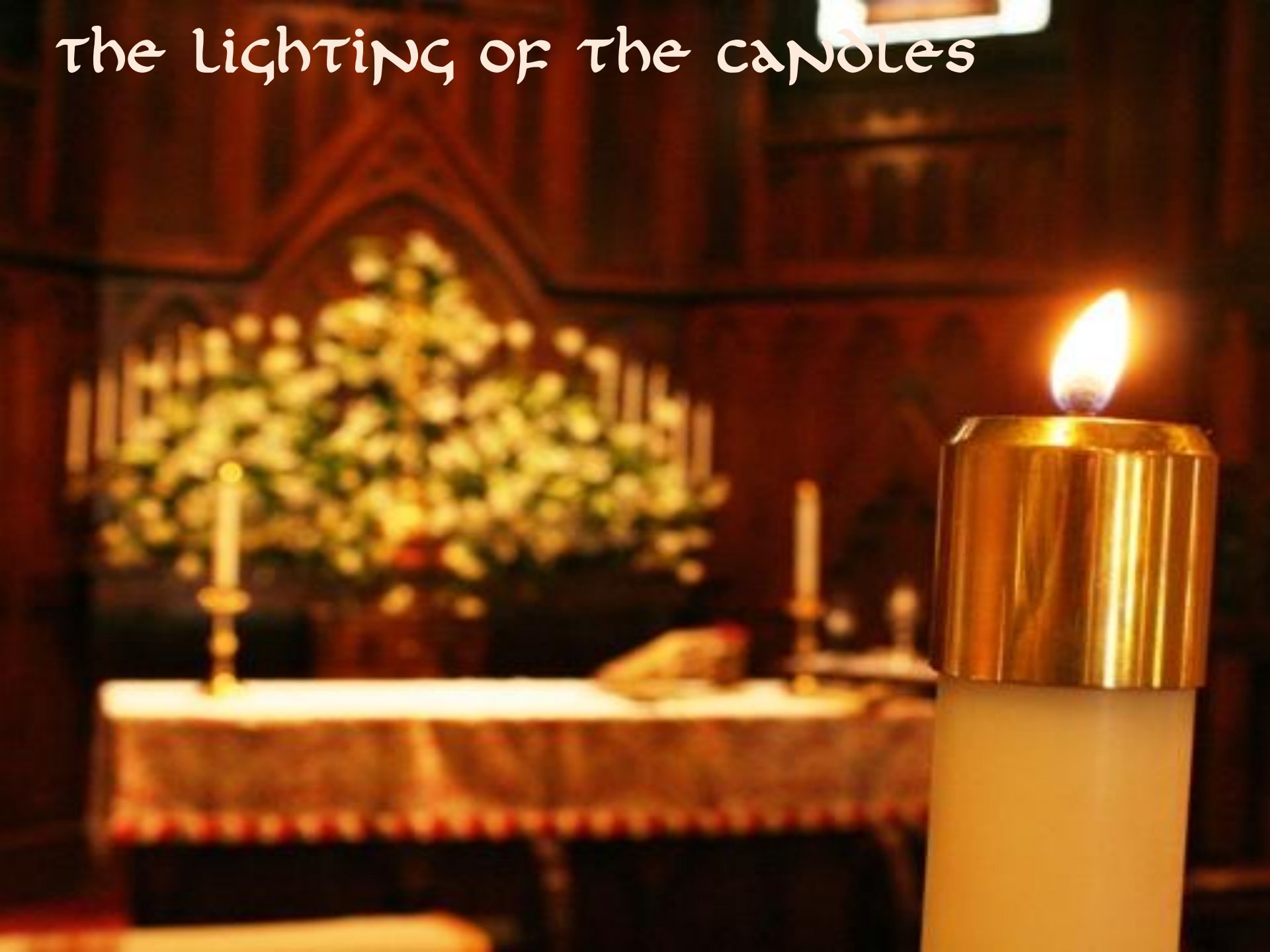
SO WE CAN REMEMBER WHAT LIFE IS REALLY ALL ABOUT.

*Step out of the traffic & take a long loving look at God
Who calls you to life again.*



Be here. Be with each other. Be with God.

The lighting of the candles





Praying with the Church:

O' joyous light, pure brightness of the ever living Father in Heaven, O Jesus Christ holy and blessed. Now as we come to the setting of the sun and our eyes behold the Vesper light, we sing your praises O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O' Son of God, O' Giver of Life and to be glorified through all the worlds.

Greek, 3rd century lamp lighting prayer

Being Thankful:

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Let's Easter...





the Searching

*Hear God's invitation
Hear God's call*

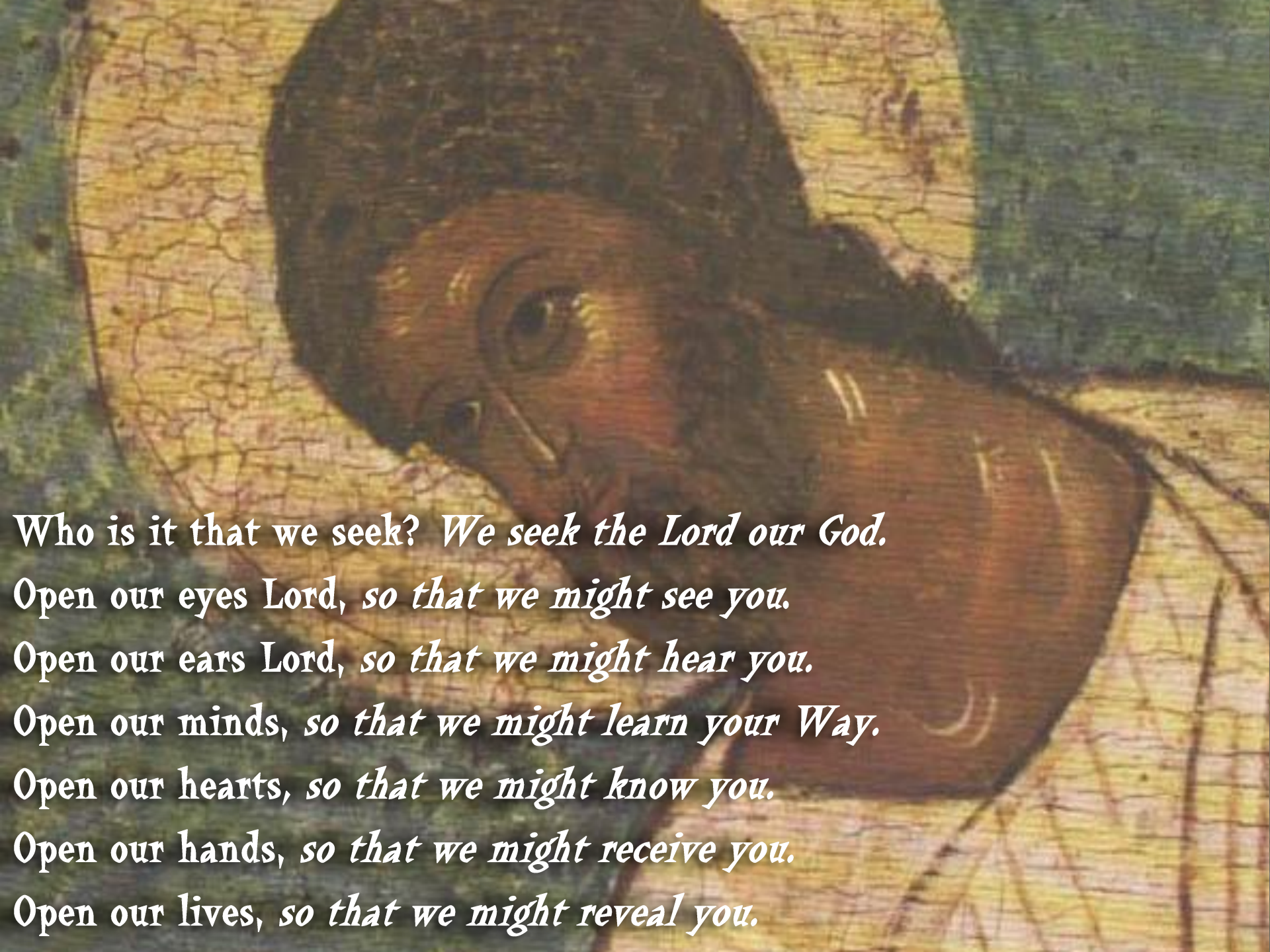
*You will seek me and
find me when you
seek me with all
your heart.*

-the prophet Jeremiah, ch 29; vs 13

An Easter Practice:

They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"

The Gospel of Luke, Ch 24:32



Who is it that we seek? *We seek the Lord our God.*
Open our eyes Lord, *so that we might see you.*
Open our ears Lord, *so that we might hear you.*
Open our minds, *so that we might learn your Way.*
Open our hearts, *so that we might know you.*
Open our hands, *so that we might receive you.*
Open our lives, *so that we might reveal you.*



An Easter Practice:

**God has raised this Jesus to life,
and we are all witnesses of the fact**

They said to each other, "Did not our hearts
burn within us while he talked to us on the
road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"

The Gospel of Luke, Ch 24:32

O God of compassion, we commit ourselves to you, for in you we are, we live, and we know. Be the goal of our pilgrimage, and our rest on the way. Let our souls take refuge from the struggles of this life under the shadow of your wings. Let our hearts, which are forever restless, find peace in you. You, who are the giver of all good gifts, give food to refresh us, set our souls in tune with yours, and release us from our captivity. We stand at your door and knock. Open it, Lord, so that we may enter.



A landscape photograph showing a wide, turbulent river with brown, muddy water in the foreground. In the middle ground, there is a single, large, green tree. The background consists of rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky.

Alleluia Sing to Jesus
His the scepter, His the throne

Alleluia his the triumph, His the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion thunder
like a mighty flood.

Jesus out of every nation

Hath redeemed us by his blood.



Alleluia not as orphans
Are we left in sorrow now.

Alleluia he is near us, faith believes, nor
questions how.

Though the cloud from sight received him,
when the forty days were o'er

Shall our hearts forget his promise

“I am with you evermore?”



Alleluia Bread of Heaven,
Thou on earth our food, our stay.

Alleluia, here the sinful flee to thee from day
to day

Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's
Redeemer, plead for me.

Where the songs of all the sinless sweep
across the crystal sea.



Alleluia, King eternal,
Thee the Lord of lords we own.

Alleluia, born of Mary, earth thy footstool,
heaven thy throne.

Thou with-in the veil has entered, robed in
flesh our great High Priest.

Thou on earth both Priest and Victim, in the
Eucharistic feast

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A butterfly with brown and white wings and dark spots, perched on a green plant with small purple flowers.

Sing Alleluia

All creatures of our God and King,

Lift up your voice and with us sing,

**Sun, moon, and stars rejoice on
high,**

Praise to the Lord of light divine!!!

A pair of hands is raised in prayer, palms facing up, against a dark background. The hands are positioned on the left and right sides of the frame, with fingers slightly spread. The lighting is soft, highlighting the contours of the hands.

**Sing Alleluia, Sing Alleluia
(Alleluia)**

Praise the Father above, sing Alleluia,

**Sing Alleluia, sing Alleluia,
(Alleluia)**

For His infinite love, sing Alleluia.



Praise to the giver of good things

Merciful Father, Holy King

Join with the angels sing out loud,

Praise Him who reigns above the clouds!



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(Alleluia)**

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Lift up your voice and let us sing!!!

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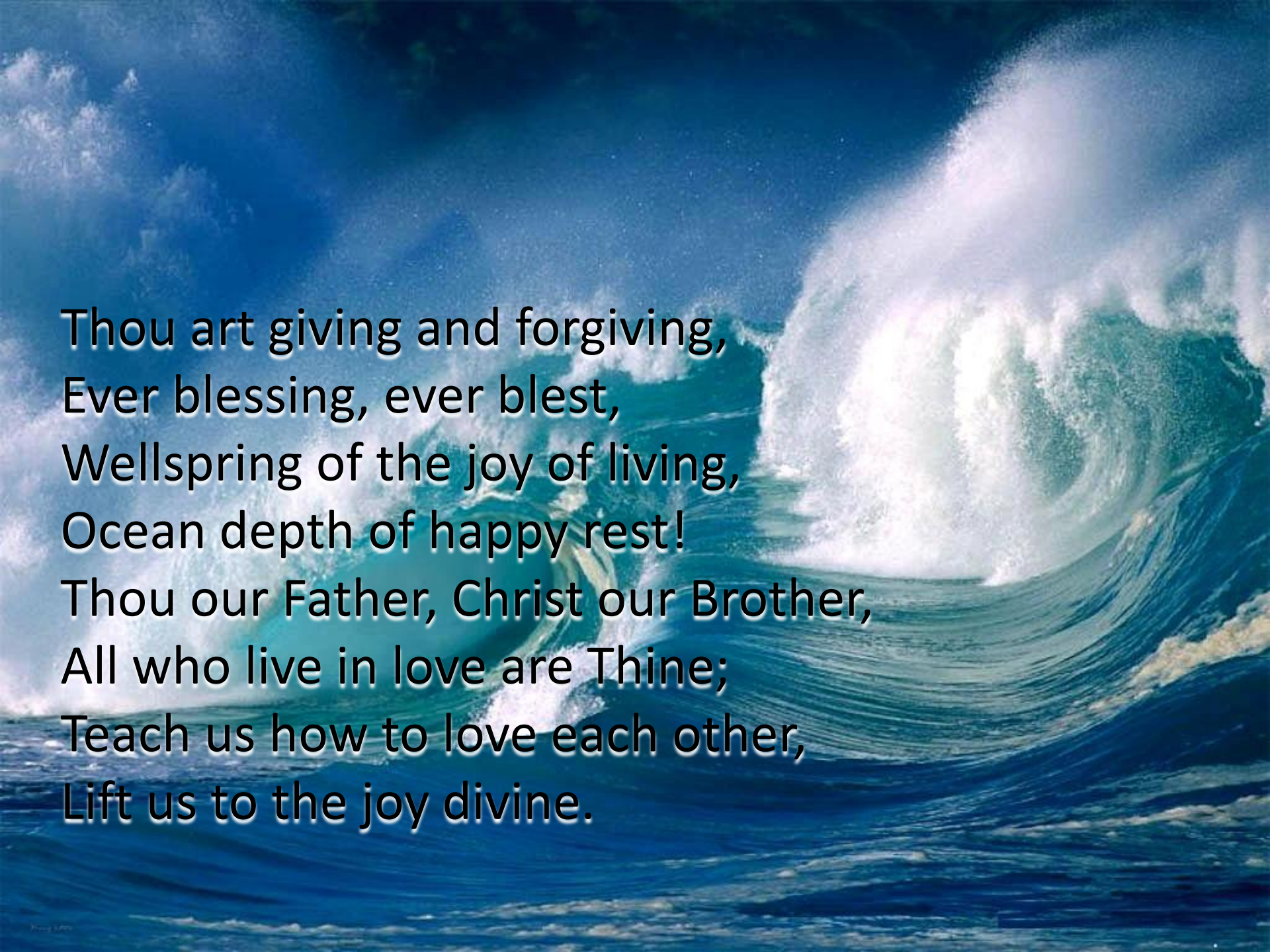


Joyful, Joyful

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!



All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Blooming meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.



Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

Psalm 131 A Pilgrim Song

¹ GOD, I'm not trying to rule the roost, I
don't want to be king of the mountain.

I haven't meddled where I have no
business
or fantasized grandiose plans.

² I've kept my feet on the ground,
I've cultivated a quiet heart.
Like a baby content in its mother's
arms,
my soul is a baby content.

³ Wait, Israel, for GOD. Wait with hope.
Hope now; hope always!

Psalm 133 A Pilgrim Song of David

¹⁻³ How wonderful, how beautiful, when
brothers and sisters get along!

It's like costly anointing oil
flowing down head and beard,
Flowing down Aaron's beard,
flowing down the collar of his
priestly robes.

It's like the dew on Mount Hermon
flowing down the slopes of Zion.
Yes, that's where GOD commands the
blessing, ordains eternal life.

GOD IS BIGGER THAN THE AIR I BREATHE . THE WORLD WE'LL
LEAVE,
AND GOD WILL SAVE THE DAY. ALL WILL SAY

MY GLORIOUS



Offering together *the Song of the Church:*

GLORY TO THE
FATHER AND TO THE
SON AND TO THE
HOLY SPIRIT AS IT
WAS IN THE
BEGINNING IS NOW
AND WILL BE
FOREVER MORE





“Come let
us reason
together.”
says the
Lord.

*-through the
Prophet Isaiah
chapter 1:18*



Why do we
center
our
conversations
around the
Bible?

Isn't this the carpenter? The son of Mary and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And aren't his sisters here with us?



The letter of James *the Just*, the brother of Jesus.
One of the three pillars of the early church.
The “Adelphotheos” in Greek.

The letter to the church from James, Ch 4

NIV

¹¹Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. ¹²There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

Boasting About Tomorrow

¹³Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." ¹⁴Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

The letter to the church from James, Ch 4

The Message

11-12 Don't bad-mouth each other, friends. It's God's Word, his Message, his Royal Rule, that takes a beating in that kind of talk. You're supposed to be honoring the Message, not writing graffiti all over it. God is in charge of deciding human destiny. Who do you think you are to meddle in the destiny of others?

Nothing but a Wisp of Fog

13-15 And now I have a word for you who brashly announce, "Today—at the latest, tomorrow—we're off to such and such a city for the year. We're going to start a business and make a lot of money." You don't know the first thing about tomorrow. You're nothing but a wisp of fog, catching a brief bit of sun before disappearing. Instead, make it a habit to say, "If the Master wills it and we're still alive, we'll do this or that." **16-17** As it is, you are full of your grandiose selves. All such vaunting self-importance is evil. In fact, if you know the right thing to do and don't do it, that, for you, is evil.

The letter to the church from James, Ch 5

NIV

Warning to Rich Oppressors

¹Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. ²Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. ³Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. ⁴Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. ⁵You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. ⁶You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you.

Patience in Suffering

⁷Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

The letter to the church from James, Ch 5

NIV

¹⁰Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

¹²Above all, my brothers, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, or you will be condemned.

The letter to the church from James, Ch 5

The Message

Destroying Your Life from Within

¹⁻³ And a final word to you arrogant rich: Take some lessons in lament. You'll need buckets for the tears when the crash comes upon you. Your money is corrupt and your fine clothes stink. Your greedy luxuries are a cancer in your gut, destroying your life from within. You thought you were piling up wealth. What you've piled up is judgment.

⁴⁻⁶ All the workers you've exploited and cheated cry out for judgment. The groans of the workers you used and abused are a roar in the ears of the Master Avenger. You've looted the earth and lived it up. But all you'll have to show for it is a fatter than usual corpse. In fact, what you've done is condemn and murder perfectly good persons, who stand there and take it.

⁷⁻⁸ Meanwhile, friends, wait patiently for the Master's Arrival. You see farmers do this all the time, waiting for their valuable crops to mature, patiently letting the rain do its slow but sure work. Be patient like that. Stay steady and strong. The Master could arrive at any time.

⁹ Friends, don't complain about each other. A far greater complaint could be lodged against you, you know. The Judge is standing just around the corner.

The letter to the church from James, Ch 5

The Message

10-11 Take the old prophets as your mentors. They put up with anything, went through everything, and never once quit, all the time honoring God. What a gift life is to those who stay the course! You've heard, of course, of Job's staying power, and you know how God brought it all together for him at the end. That's because God cares, cares right down to the last detail.

12 And since you know that he cares, let your language show it. Don't add words like "I swear to God" to your own words. Don't show your impatience by concocting oaths to hurry up God. Just say yes or no. Just say what is true. That way, your language can't be used against you.

Listening and Responding to
What God is trying to us
and to you

Encouragement? A Reminder?
Redirection?
A Prayer?
*as we continue to try to live life
with God in this world.*





CONVERSATIONS

Because *WE'RE IN this TOGETHER*

And we don't want to just talk about it but we want
To work this out into the details of our everyday life.

The Blessing:



May you go from here unafraid and with strength. May
you hold tight the hands within whom you share this
way. And may God who conquered darkness with light
Give peace to you.

May God who conquered death with life
Give peace to you.

And may God who conquered loneliness with Love
Give peace to you.

Open in this peace and heal your world!

SHALOM



Peace · Be · Unto · You