

# WELCOME TO SELAH סלה

Come in.  
Sit down.  
Grab a drink  
Play a game.  
Do the puzzle.  
Meet someone new  
Catch up with a friend.

*Relax. Rest. Breathe.  
For the next two hours  
nothing else matters but  
you, us, & God.*

*It's still the  
season of light,  
the season after  
the Epiphany.*





# The Carnival Season

*A reminder not only of our invitation  
this year but for the Famine.*

Come and See...

-Jesus

*& 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**

# *The Invitatory*

Blow the ram's horn, God is here...

*The Lord be with you.  
And Also with you.*

God is revealed to us through Jesus, the Christ.  
*God is present in our world.*



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

-----CLOSE YOUR EYES AND TAKE A DEEP BREATH.  
PRAY. GOD IS NEAR ---

God you are in the midst of us.  
*and we are called by your name.*  
Be near to us, Lord.

Encircle and shield us, saving One.  
*Guide and heal us, redeeming One.*

Glory this night 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.*

*The Versicle: a little sound bite from God.*

Psalm 86:11

Teach me your way, O LORD,  
and I will walk in your truth;  
knit my heart to you  
that I may fear your Name.



STEP OUT OF THE TRAFFIC...

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



*Step out of the traffic & take a long loving look at God*



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

# The lighting of the candles



A close-up photograph of a lit candle in a glass holder. The candle is lit, with a bright yellow and orange flame. The background is a blurred, warm-toned red fabric, possibly a curtain or a piece of clothing. The overall lighting is soft and warm, creating a contemplative atmosphere.

Praying with the Church:

**Almighty God,  
give us wisdom to perceive you,  
intelligence to understand you,  
diligence to seek you,  
patience to wait for you,  
vision to behold you,  
a heart to meditate on you,  
a life to proclaim you;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and forever. Amen**



We are a thankful people.

We give thanks to God:

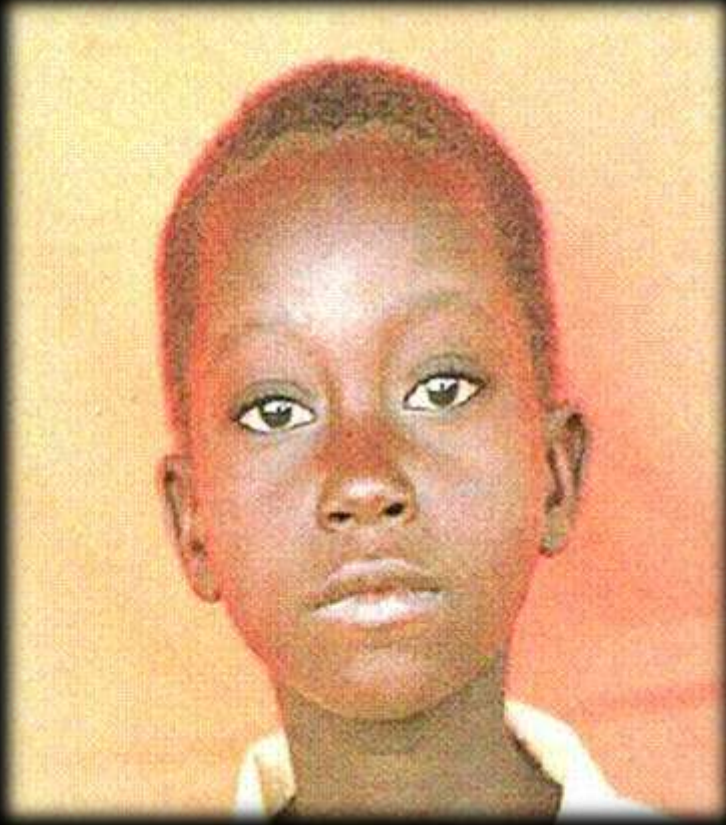
PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

PRAISE HIM ALL CREATURES HERE BELOW

PRAISE HIM ABOVE YE HEAVENLY HOSTS

PRAISE FATHER, SON AND HOLY GHOST.

We are a thankful people.



We pause to remember  
Our friend Affisu.

And we pause to remember  
the 852 million people  
of the world who will  
Not eat this evening.

And we give thanks for each other:



**LET'S EAT...**



# *the Searching*

Hear God's invitation

*God wishes to be seen, and He wishes to be sought,  
and He wishes to be expected, and He wishes to be trusted*

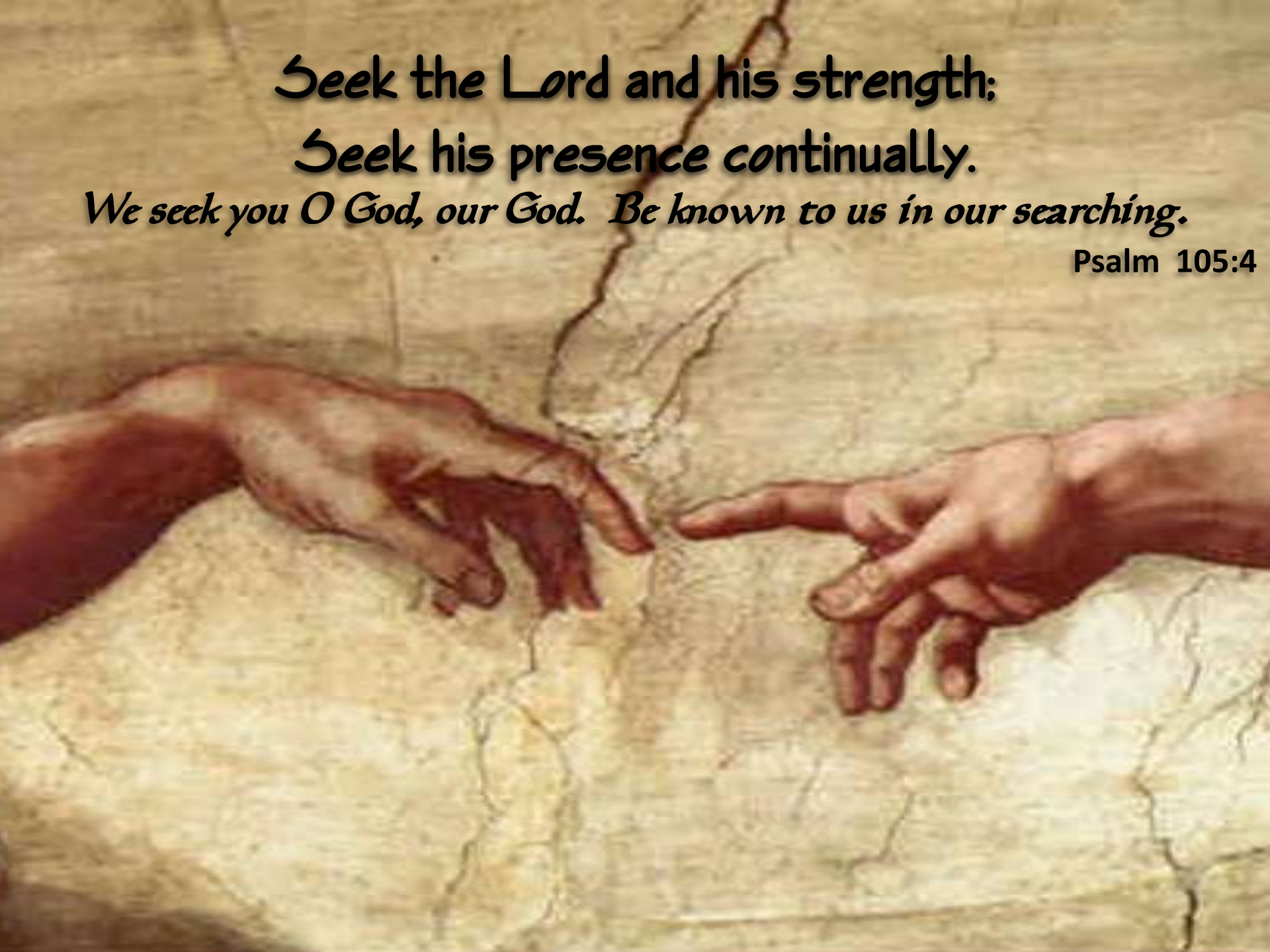
*(Julian of Norwich).*

*Seek the Lord and his strength;*

*Seek his presence continually.*

*We seek you O God, our God. Be known to us in our searching.*

**Psalm 105:4**





*The Practice.*





OPEN OUR EYES, O LORD

THAT WE MIGHT SEE YOUR FACE

OPEN OUR EARS O LORD

THAT WE MIGHT HEAR YOUR VOICE.

OPEN OUR MOUTHS O LORD

THAT WE MIGHT TELL OF YOUR KINGDOM

OPEN OUR MINDS O LORD

THAT WE MIGHT FIND YOUR WAY

OPEN OUR HEARTS O LORD

THAT WE MIGHT KNOW YOUR HEALING.

OPEN OUR LIVES O LORD

THAT WE MIGHT REVEAL YOUR GLORY

Americans make up 5% of the world but we  
consume 50% of the world's resources.

Think about that.

David A. Livermore

The poorest 60% of the world's  
population own only 6% of the world's  
wealth, and the richest 20% own 85% of  
the world's income.

Miguel A. De La Torre



Are we really

Serious?

*You are the generation  
That has the power to  
eradicate extreme poverty.*

Americans make up 5% of the world but we  
consume 50% of the world's resources.

Think about that.

David A. Livermore

The poorest 60% of the world's  
population own only 6% of the world's  
wealth, and the richest 20% own 85% of  
the world's income.

Miguel A. De La Torre

What then must change if we are to be serious about making poverty history?

What will you change?  
How will you live?

*Contrary to how we live:*

*We don't need what we have and we already have what we need*

Seriously.

# PRAISE TO THE LORD

Praise to the Lord, The Almighty,

The King of Creation.

O my soul, praise Him, for he is  
thy health and salvation.

Join the great throng, Psaltery,  
organ and song,

Sounding in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, over all things  
he gloriously reigneth.

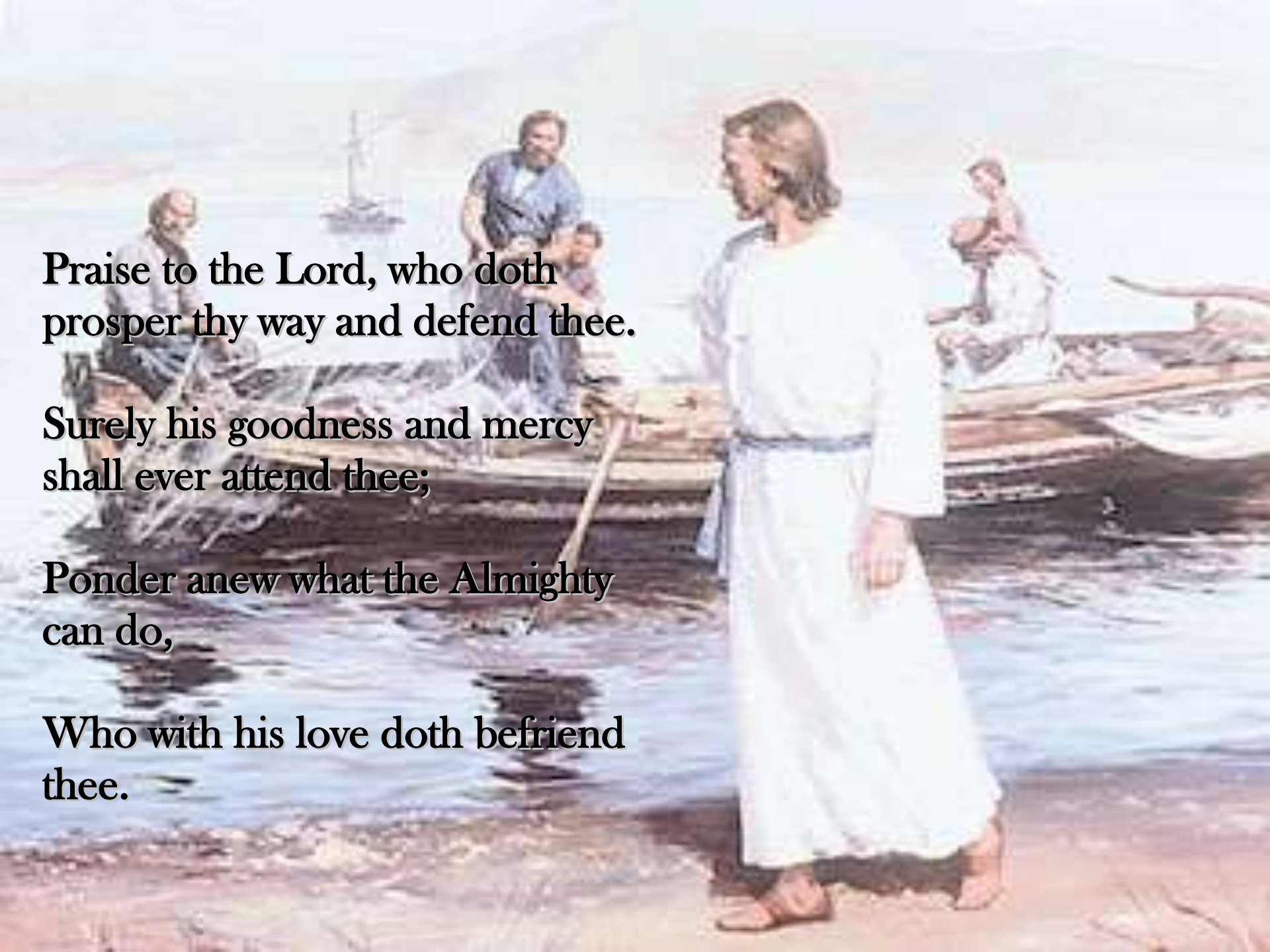
Borne as on eagle wings,  
safely his saints he sustaineth.

Hast thou not seen,  
how all thou needest hath been,

Granted in what he ordaineth.





A painting depicting Jesus walking on a sandy beach towards a group of fishermen. Jesus is in the foreground, wearing a white robe and sandals, looking back over his shoulder. In the background, several men are on a wooden boat, some handling fishing gear. The scene is set on a calm body of water with a hazy, mountainous background.

**Praise to the Lord, who doth  
prosper thy way and defend thee.**

**Surely his goodness and mercy  
shall ever attend thee;**

**Ponder anew what the Almighty  
can do,**

**Who with his love doth befriend  
thee.**

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is  
in me adore Him.

All that hath life and breath come  
now with praises before him.



THE GRACE  
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST  
BE WITH YOU ALL.

**AMEN.**

Let the amen, sound from his  
people again;

REVELATION 22:21 KJV

Gladly forever adore thee.

## Psalm 19 *(from The Message)*

1-2 God's glory is on tour in the skies, God-craft on exhibit across the horizon.

Madame Day holds classes every morning,  
Professor Night lectures each evening.

3-4 Their words aren't heard,  
their voices aren't recorded,  
But their silence fills the earth:  
unspoken truth is spoken everywhere...

6 That's how God's Word vaults across the skies  
from sunrise to sunset,  
Melting ice, scorching deserts,  
warming hearts to faith.

7-9 The revelation of GOD is whole  
and pulls our lives together.  
The signposts of GOD are clear  
and point out the right road.  
The life-maps of GOD are right,  
showing the way to joy.  
The directions of GOD are plain  
and easy on the eyes.  
GOD's reputation is twenty-four-carat gold,

with a lifetime guarantee.

The decisions of GOD are accurate  
down to the nth degree.

10 God's Word is better than a diamond,  
better than a diamond set between emeralds.  
You'll like it better than strawberries in spring,  
better than red, ripe strawberries.

11-14 There's more: God's Word warns us of danger  
and directs us to hidden treasure.  
Otherwise how will we find our way?  
Or know when we play the fool?  
Clean the slate, God, so we can start the day fresh!  
Keep me from stupid sins,  
from thinking I can take over your work;  
Then I can start this day sun-washed,  
scrubbed clean of the grime of sin.  
These are the words in my mouth;  
these are what I chew on and pray.  
Accept them when I place them  
on the morning altar,  
O God, my Altar-Rock,  
God, Priest-of-My-Altar.



*The Practice: making it more than words we read.*



A little song

Surely God is in this place  
Holy Ground.  
Surely God is in this place  
Holy Ground



Behold Bless the Lord

Behold bless the Lord

All you servants of the Lord

Who stand by night,

In the house of the Lord



**Lift up your hands**

**In the sanctuary**

**And bless the Lord**

**May the Lord**

**Bless you from Zion**

**He who made**

**Heaven and Earth**



A photograph of a dimly lit, ancient stone sanctuary. The interior features a series of arches and pillars, creating a sense of depth and grandeur. Warm, golden light emanates from small, recessed fixtures and a central opening in the distance, casting long shadows and highlighting the textures of the stone. The overall atmosphere is solemn and reverent.

Lift up your hands

In the sanctuary

And bless the Lord





**“Come let us reason together,” says the Lord.**  
*-Isaiah 1:18*

## The Bible.

- The map of God's reality.
- A compass to help us through this world.
- Not a code of behavior, a list of do's and don'ts.
- Helps us return to the created order.
- Points us to the way life was intended to be.
- The story contained within the scriptures help us to make sense of the story we live in today.
- The point isn't the story itself, the point is God and God's work in this world and in our lives.

- **Grounded**
- **Communal**
- **Open Ended**
- **Alive**



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.*



## About the Letter of James

- James was Bishop in Jerusalem
- Written to Jewish Christian house churches outside of Palestine
- James was martyred 62 AD
- We think the letter was written mid 40's
- Conflict with the world and conflict within the church
- Basic theme: living the faith versus knowing the faith.
- Doesn't have the format of an "epistle" but rather is a collection of wisdom sayings.

# The Letter from James

## Chapter 1

**1**James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:  
Greetings.



### *Trials and Temptations*

**2**Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,  
**3**because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.  
**4**Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete,  
not lacking anything. **5**If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives  
generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. **6**But when  
he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave  
of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. **7**That man should not think he will  
receive anything from the Lord; **8**he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he  
does. **9**The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high  
position. **10**But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position,  
because he will pass away like a wild flower. **11**For the sun rises with scorching  
heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the  
same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business.

# The Letter from James



**12**Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

**13**When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; **14**but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. **15**Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

**16**Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. **17**Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. **18**He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

# The Letter from James



## *Listening and Doing*

**19**My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, **20**for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. **21**Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. **22**Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. **23**Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror **24**and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. **25**But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

**26**If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. **27**Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.





A Practice:  
Listening and Responding to God

# CONVERSATIONS

Because *WE'RE IN THIS THING 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.***



Are we Serious?

Are we really  
Serious?

Do we really pray? Do we really mean?

*Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth...*

## Benediction:

May you this week, remember that God is good  
and God wants only good things for you.

May you not get in the way of God's goodness.

May you continue to learn what it is to actually *be*  
the church

And may you continue to be serious this week  
about making God's way on earth real.

Go in peace .. And heal your world.

SHALOM



Peace Be Unto You