

WELCOME TO SELAH

סלה

Enter the season of light, the season after the Epiphany.

It s really good to have you here. Thanks for coming.

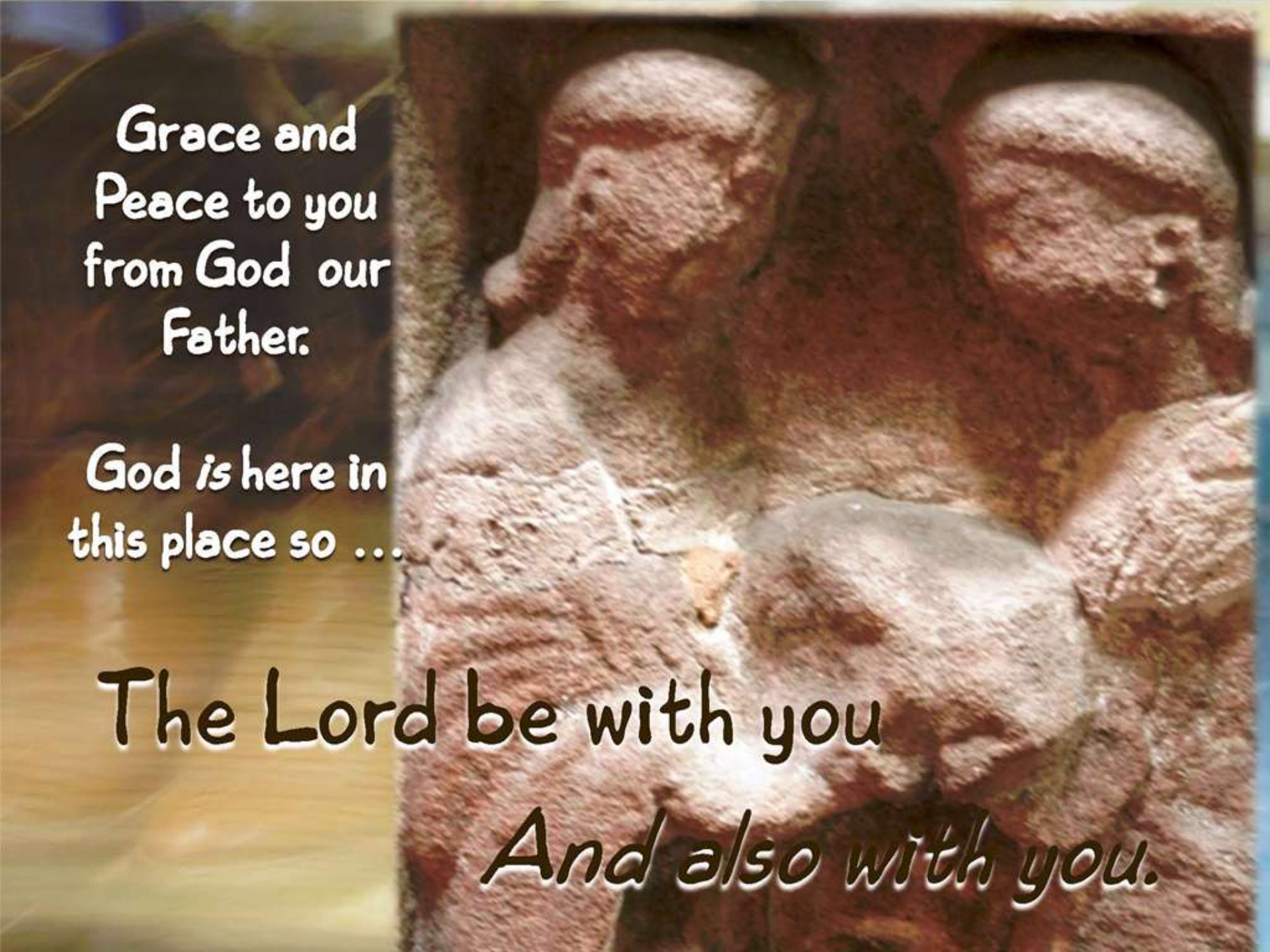


The Carnival Season

Trying to *be* the church as we learn to live life with God in this world.



LIVING ON THE EDGE *Of heaven and earth*




Grace and
Peace to you
from God our
Father.

God is here in
this place so ...

The Lord be with you

And also with you.



The Lord be with you
And Also with you.

Christ has come.
Christ is here.



Light from Light,
True God from true God.

God revealed to us.
God present in our world.

All that I speak
Be blessed to me O God.

All that I hear
Be blessed to me O God.

All that I see
Be blessed to me O God.

All that I touch
Be blessed to me O God.

All that I taste
Be blessed to me O God.

All that I find
Be blessed to me O God.





THE INVITATORY

Worship:

*Anything that
brings delight
to God.*

*Anything that
says to God:
I love you, too.*

A wooden picnic table stands in the center of a forest floor covered in fallen autumn leaves. The trees are mostly bare, with some green foliage visible in the background. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting an overcast day or late afternoon. The text "Being the church:" is positioned above "Gathering around the table:", which is in a larger font. The text "Give thanks for each other being here." is at the bottom of the image.

Being the church:
Gathering around the table:

Give thanks for each other being here.

Being Thankful

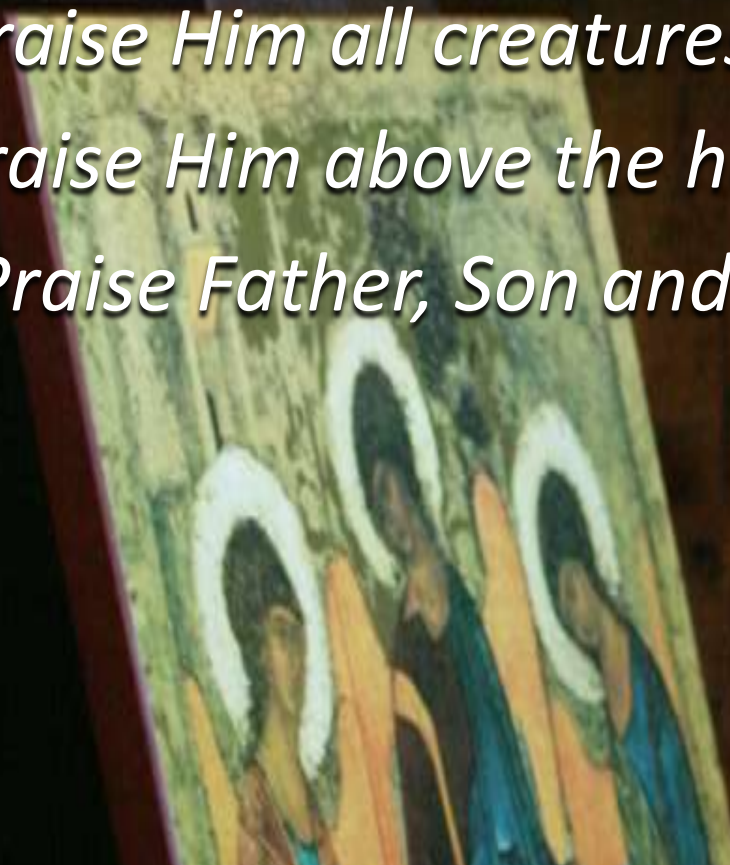
The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above the heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.



are marked in the Bible.

WHO IS IT THAT WE SEEK?
WE SEEK THE LORD OUR GOD.

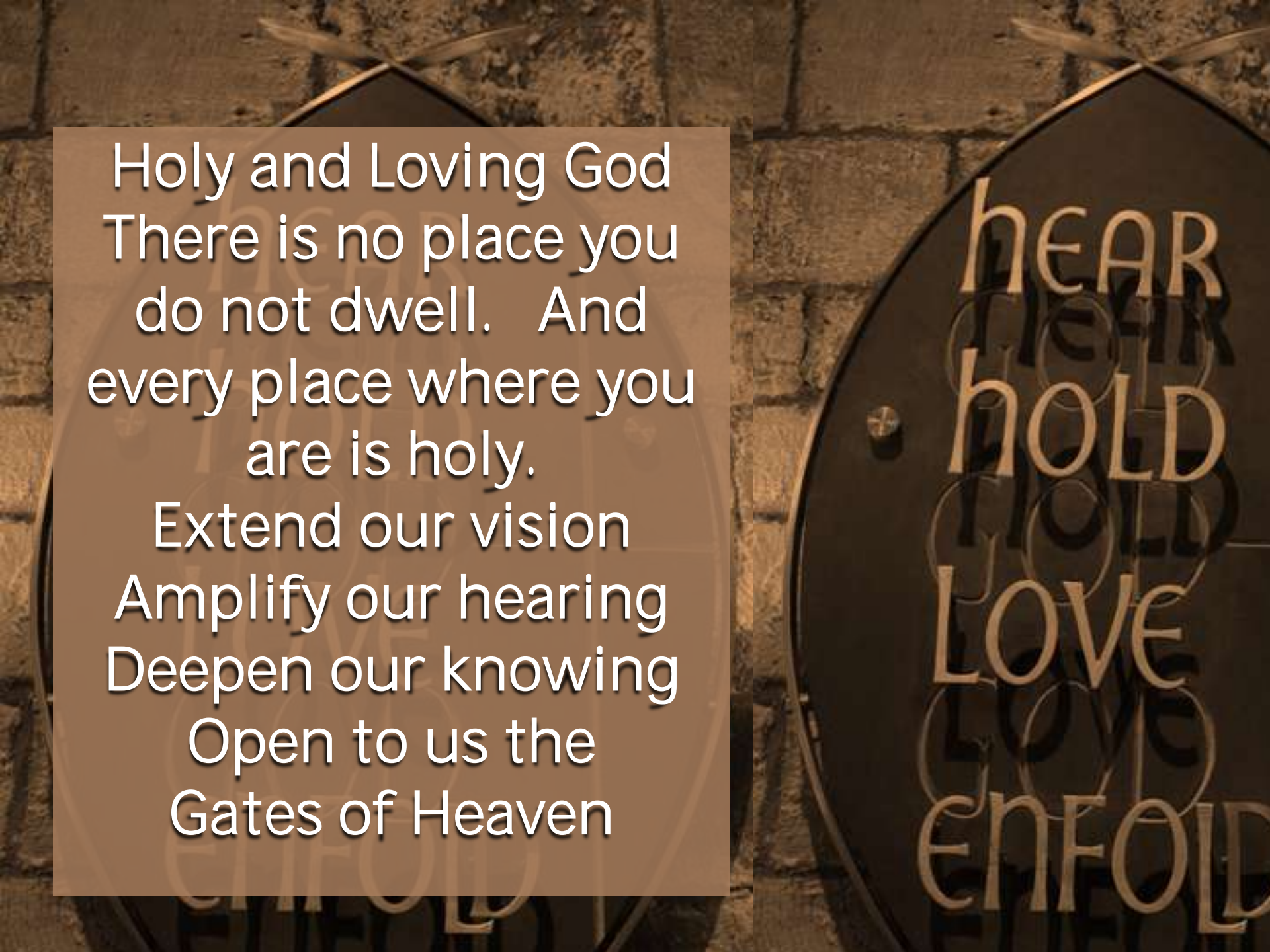
WE SEEK YOU WITH ALL OF OUR HEART.
COME HOLY SPIRIT COME.

WE SEEK YOU WITH ALL OF OUR MIND
COME HOLY SPIRIT COME

WE SEEK YOU WITH ALL OF OUR STRENGTH
COME HOLY SPIRIT COME

WE SEEK YOU WITH ALL OF OUR SOUL
COME HOLY SPIRIT COME





Holy and Loving God
There is no place you
do not dwell. And
every place where you
are is holy.

Extend our vision
Amplify our hearing
Deepen our knowing
Open to us the
Gates of Heaven

HEAR
HOLD
LOVE
ENFOLD

The Invitatory





the Searching


Hear God's invitation to seek, to search, to look, to see, to listen, to reason, to know
To find and to be found, because

*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).*

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

SHARE
THE
ROAD





*Keep your eyes open for GOD, watch
for his works; be alert for signs of his
presence. Remember the world of
wonders he has made, his miracles, and
the verdicts he's rendered*

*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 (ESV & Message)

SANCTUARY



Lord prepare me
To be a sanctuary
Pure and Holy
Tried and true
With thanksgiving
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

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

From the prophet Isaiah, Ch 1.

IN SEARCH OF: EKKLESSIA.



THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

- Author: Luke
- Written: 63-65 AD
- Audience: Theophilus
- Purpose:
 - Reassure and Encourage
 - Historical record

“Supernatural intervention, astounding miracles, powerful preaching, breathtaking Escapes, harrowing journeys, life and death decisions, courtroom dramas, thrilling Rescues, action, mystery adventure.”

This is the life that Jesus came to bring us; the life that Jesus calls us too.



– GROUNDED, COMMUNAL, OPEN-ENDED, ALIVE

IT'S NOT JUST THEIR STORY, IT'S OUR STORY

IT DIDN'T JUST HAPPEN, IT STILL HAPPENS.

– HOLY GROUND – A MEETING PLACE -- AN EDGE.

– HELPS US MAKE SENSE OF THE STORY WE'RE LIVING IN.

WHY SCRIPTURE?

Ekklesia

"Where the church today finds itself stagnant, unattractive, humdrum and shrinking...it's time to read Acts 2:42-47 again, get down on our knees and ask what isn't happening that should be happening. The gospel hasn't changed. God's power hasn't diminished. People still need rescuing. What are we doing about it?"

Nothing to Hide

GOOD POSTURE?

¹⁻⁴While Peter and John were addressing the people, the priests, the chief of the Temple police, and some Sadducees came up, indignant that these upstart apostles were instructing the people and proclaiming that the resurrection from the dead had taken place in Jesus. They arrested them and threw them in jail until morning, for by now it was late in the evening. But many of those who listened had already believed the Message—in round numbers about five thousand! ⁵⁻⁷The next day a meeting was called in Jerusalem. The rulers, religious leaders, religion scholars, Annas the Chief Priest, Caiaphas, John, Alexander—everybody who was anybody was there. They stood Peter and John in the middle of the room and grilled them: "Who put you in charge here? What business do you have doing this?"

⁸⁻¹²With that, Peter, full of the Holy Spirit, let loose: "Rulers and leaders of the people, if we have been brought to trial today for helping a sick man, put under investigation regarding this healing, I'll be completely frank with you—we have nothing to hide. By the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the One you killed on a cross, the One God raised from the dead, by means of his name this man stands before you healthy and whole. Jesus is 'the stone you masons threw out, which is now the cornerstone.' Salvation comes no other way; no other name has been or will be given to us by which we can be saved, only this one."

Many Signs and Wonders Done

¹²Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. ¹³None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, ¹⁵ so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. ¹⁶The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

The Apostles Arrested and Freed

¹⁷But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy ¹⁸they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. ¹⁹But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, ²⁰"Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." ²¹And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

From the Acts of the Apostles, Ch 5

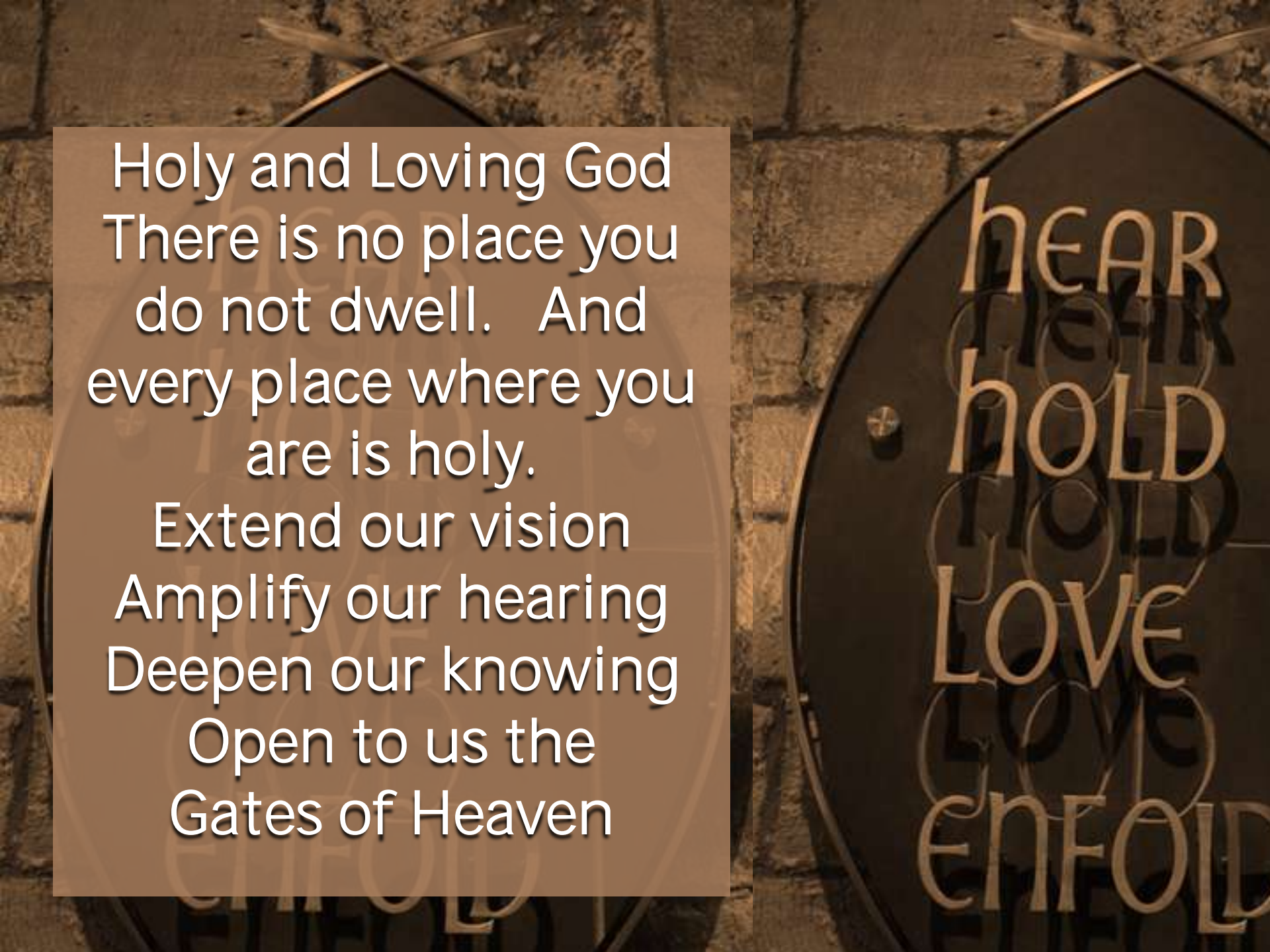
Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council and all the senate of the people of Israel and sent to the prison to have them brought. ²²But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, ²³"We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside." ²⁴Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. ²⁵And someone came and told them, "Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people." ²⁶Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

²⁷And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

³³When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. ³⁴But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while. ³⁵And he said to them, "Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. ³⁶For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered. ³⁸So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; ³⁹but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice, ⁴⁰and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴²And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

Our Response to God





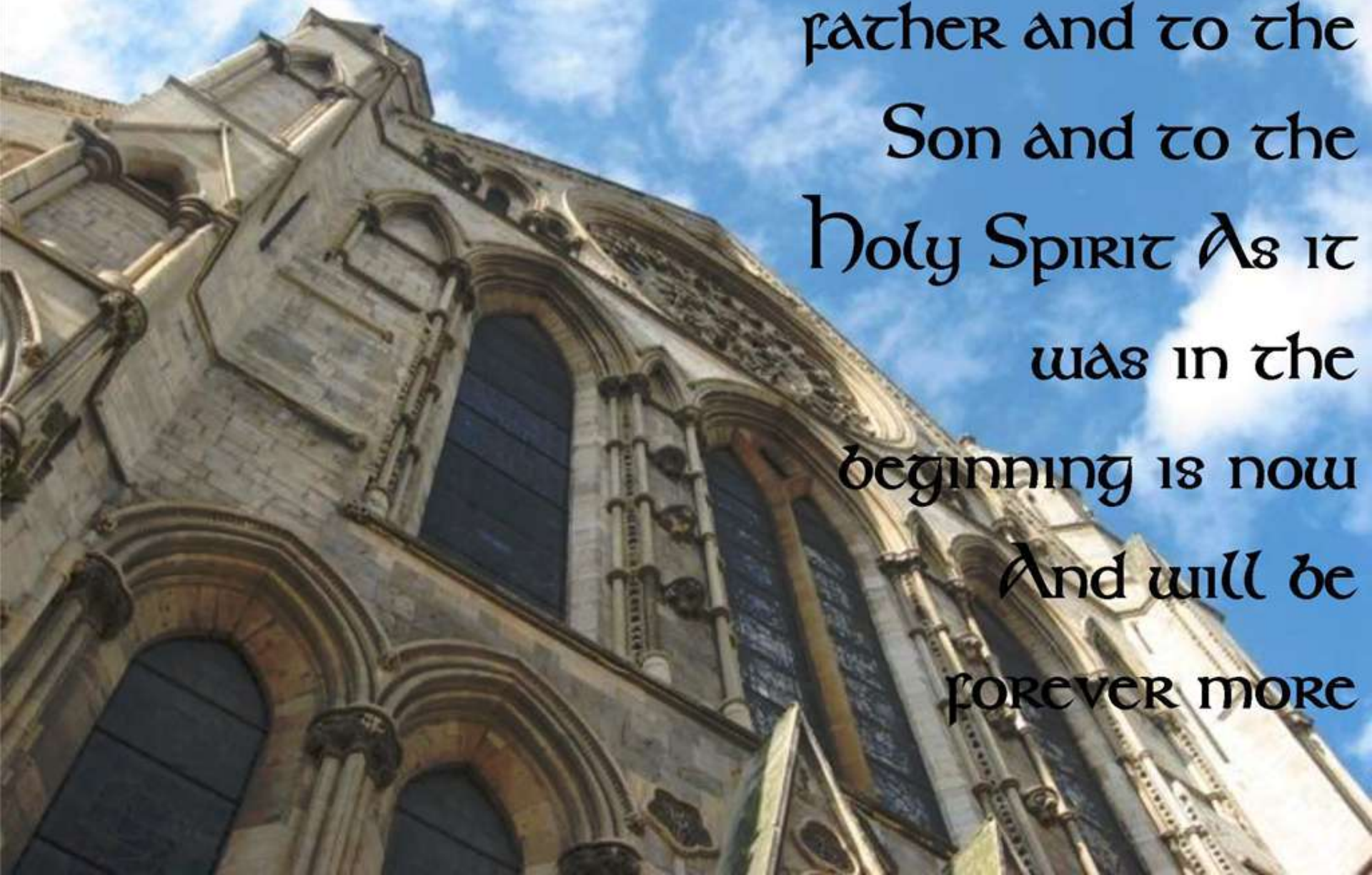
Holy and Loving God
There is no place you
do not dwell. And
every place where you
are is holy.

Extend our vision
Amplify our hearing
Deepen our knowing
Open to us the
Gates of Heaven

hear
hold
love
enfold

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





Conversations: Our response to God

THE OFFERING

Because we don't want to just talk about it, we want to work it into the details of our everyday lives.

And because ***WE'RE IN THIS THING TOGETHER.***

Announcements:

- **Superbowl Tailgate at the Woodruffs.**
 - **Sally's back next Sunday**
- **Re-dreaming the Famine ... wanna be part of something new??? Let us know.**

THE OFFERING.



The Blessing

The background of the image is a reproduction of Michelangelo's famous fresco, "The Creation of Adam," from the Sistine Chapel. It depicts the hands of God and Adam reaching towards each other, with a small gap between them. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark grey band containing text.

May you go from here with the strength and joy to *be* the church out there in the world.

The PEACE OF THE LORD be always with you!