

Welcome

to

Se*lah

הלל

COME IN. SIT DOWN. RELAX.

BREATHE SLOWER.

PLAY A GAME.

COLOR A PICTURE.

LIGHT SOME CANDLES.

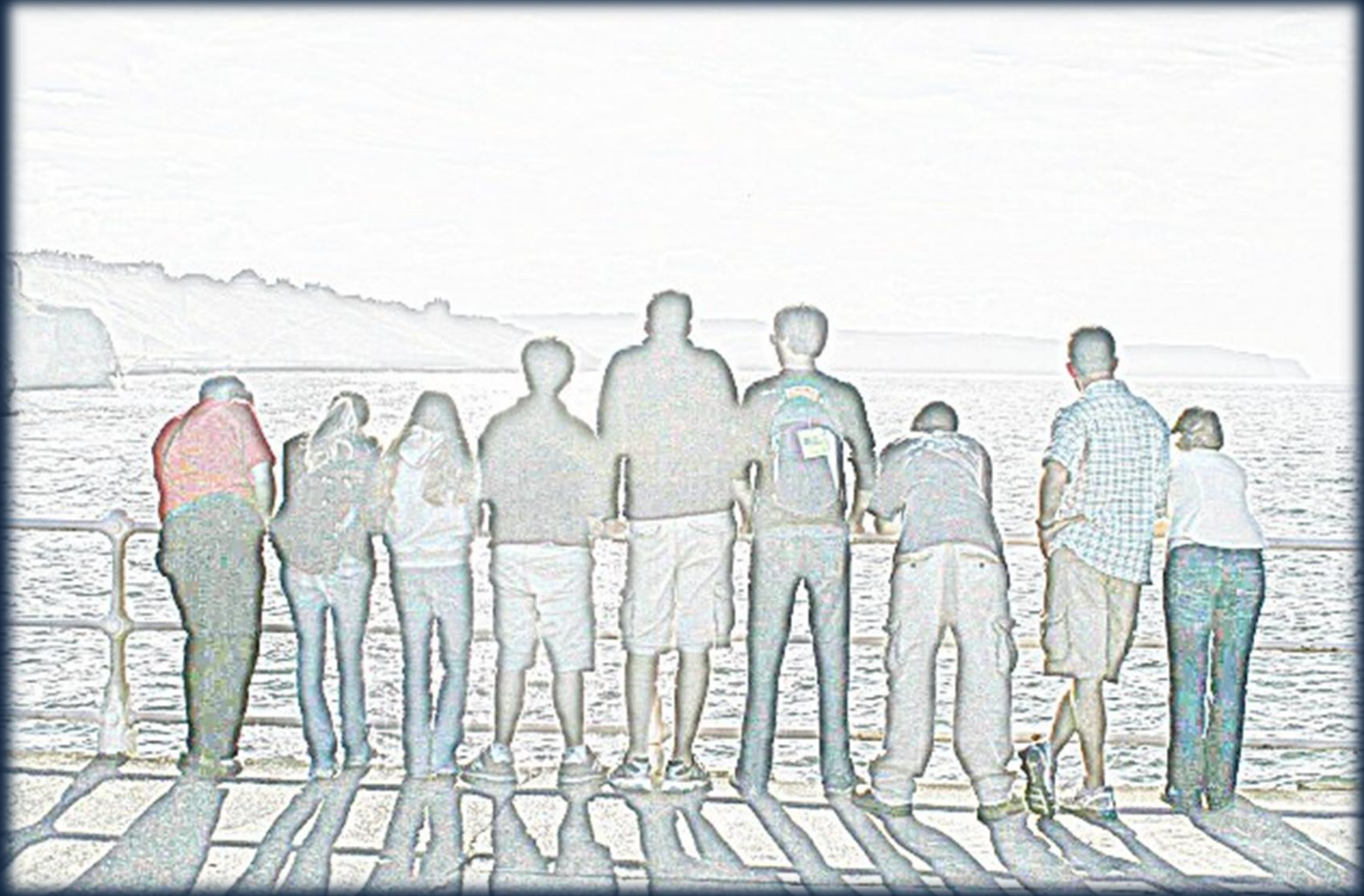
PLAY SOME 9 SQUARE.

HANG ON THE COUCH.

YOU'RE HERE. THIS IS GOOD.

THIS IS YOUR HOLY PAUSE.

Living on the Edge of Heaven and Earth.

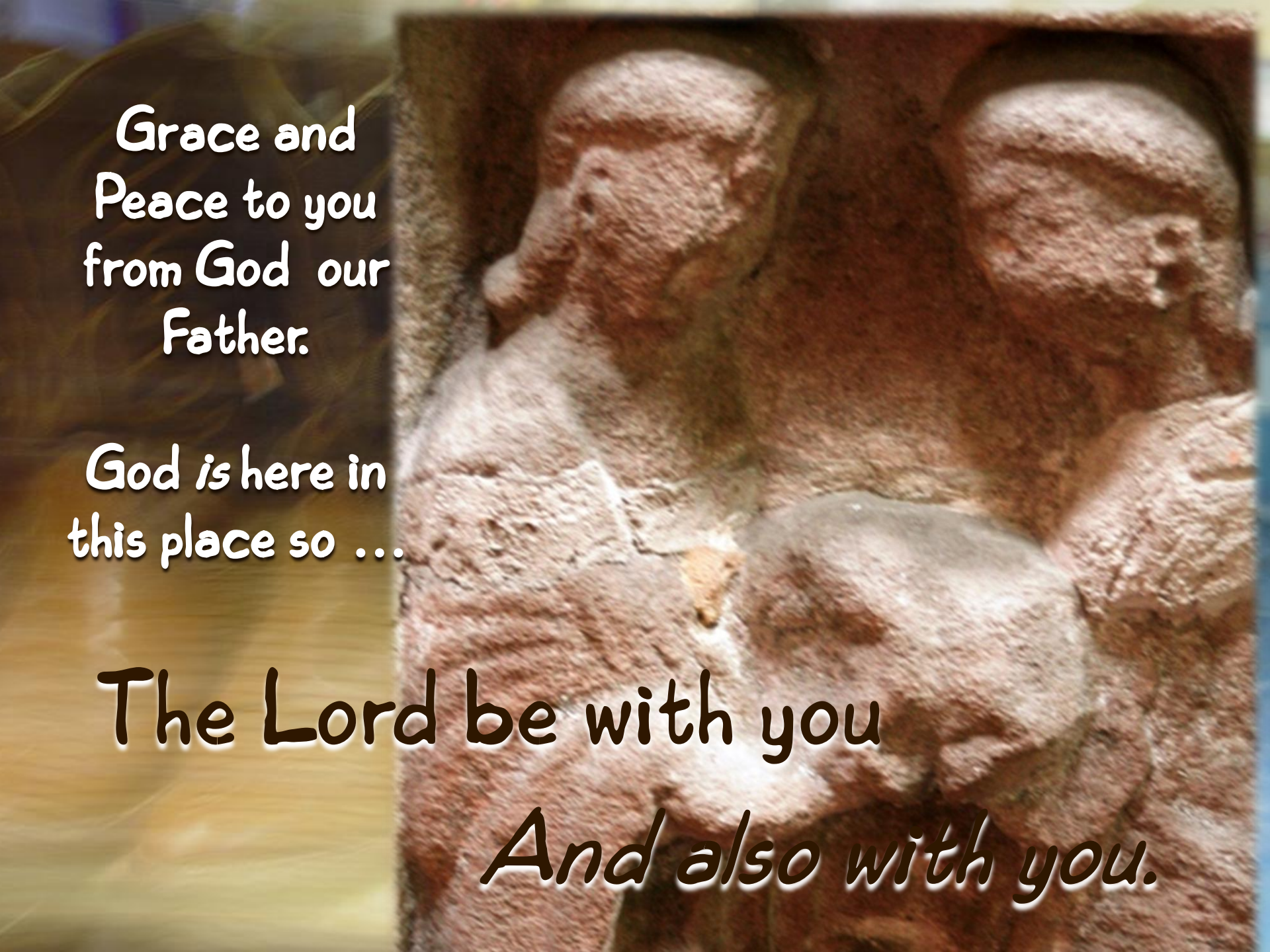


We are a community of seekers trying live life *with* God in this world
Through unlocking the gates of Heaven.

A stone archway with a green wreath on top, framing a view of autumn trees. The archway is made of dark grey and brown stones. The wreath is made of green leaves and branches. The view through the archway shows a landscape with trees in various shades of red, orange, and yellow, suggesting autumn. The sky is not visible.

The Invitatory:

Come on through. - God



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.

*Praying with
St. Chad (England)
& St. Ninian (Scotland)
Who Lived on the Edge.*

**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.***





Together Pray:

Jesus, be waiting for us in our eating, our laughing, our talking, our seeking and our praying. Let us find you hidden in every room, in every person, in every minute, in every slide, in every word and in every touch. Bring us to the edge of heaven and earth so that we might dwell in its gate and be circled by your joy, your peace, and your presence.

A Sound bite from God: *letting God speak early on in the evening.*

A Versicle:

*I have loved you with an
everlasting love; therefore
I have continued my
faithfulness to you. Again
I will build you...
For I am a father to Israel.
-YHWH*

From the Prophet Jeremiah, Ch 31.

STEP OUT OF THE TRAFFIC,

A scenic view of a beach with three white lounge chairs on a paved deck, framed by a palm tree and a concrete pillar. The ocean is visible in the background under a clear blue sky.

A holy habit that's essential to living life on the edge ...
living life with God ... living life as it should be.



***STEP AWAY FROM
THOSE THINGS THAT
KEEP US FROM STEPPING
OF THE TRAFFIC***

***(Things like cell phones,
iPods, homework etc..)***

***WHAT OTHER THINGS MIGHT YOU
PUT IN THE BASKET WITH
YOUR GADGETS?***

***AND WHAT IS IT YOU NEED TO STEP
TOWARDS?***

GO AHEAD AND ASK GOD FOR IT.

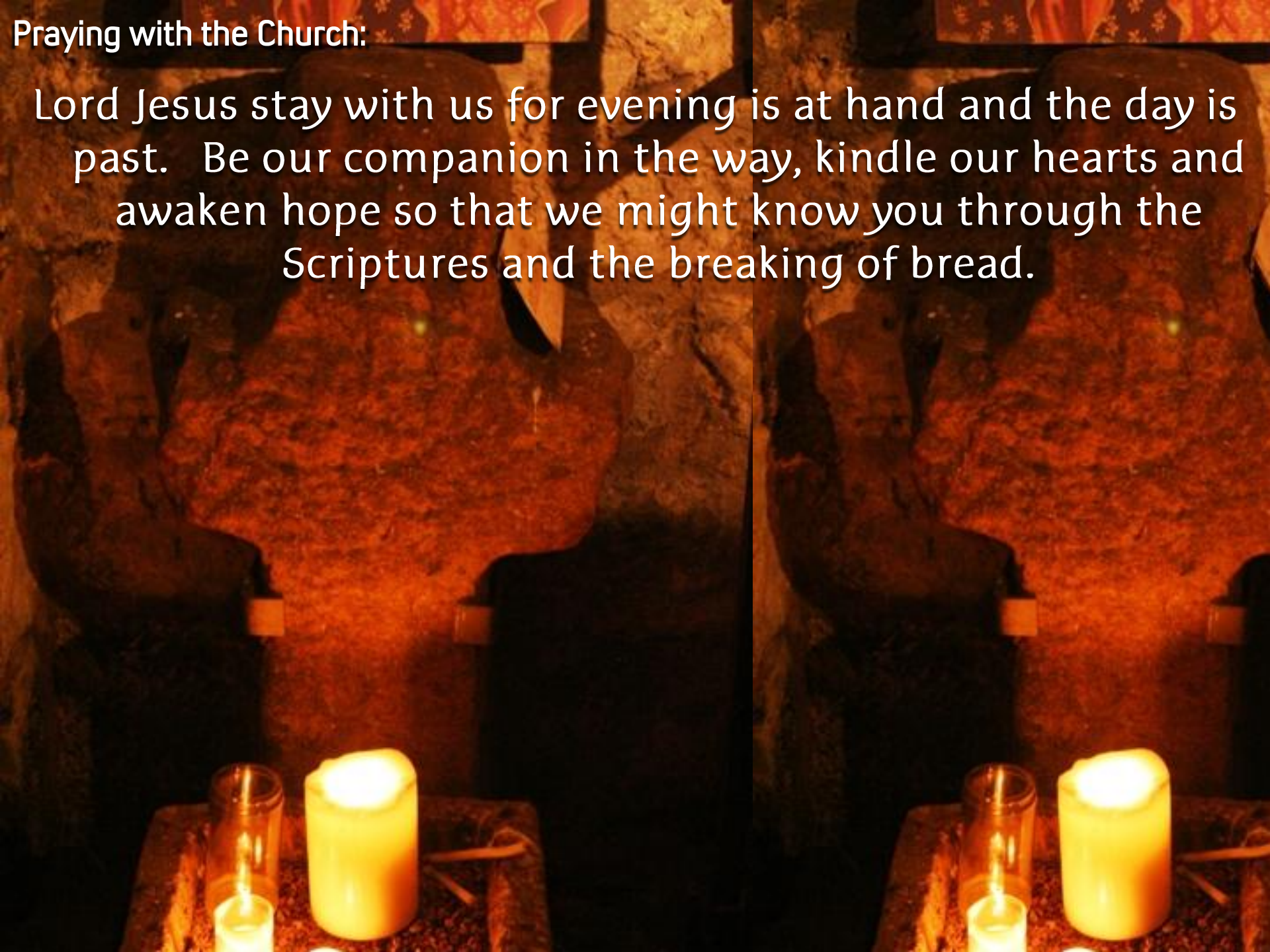




THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Praying with the Church:

Lord Jesus stay with us for evening is at hand and the day is past. Be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope so that we might know you through the Scriptures and the breaking of bread.



Being Thankful...

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above the heavenly hosts.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

...Being Thankful for each other

LET'S EAT...



THE SEARCHING

**THE LORD IS WITH YOU WHEN YOU ARE WITH HIM.
IF YOU SEEK HIM, HE WILL BE FOUND BY YOU.**

FROM 2 CHRONICLES 15:2

Living on the Edge: The Practice

Invited to Sing or Sit in quiet in the pillow room or Repeat
The Jesus Prayer as we search.

“Jesus Christ Son of God have mercy on me.”

HEAR
hold
LOVE
ENFOLD

Color
Clay
Window Paint
Beads
Candles
Affisu
Wood?

HEAR
hold
LOVE
ENFOLD

MY HEART SAYS OF YOU, "SEEK HIS FACE!"
YOUR FACE, LORD, I WILL SEEK... WAIT FOR THE LORD; BE
STRONG AND TAKE HEART AND WAIT FOR THE LORD

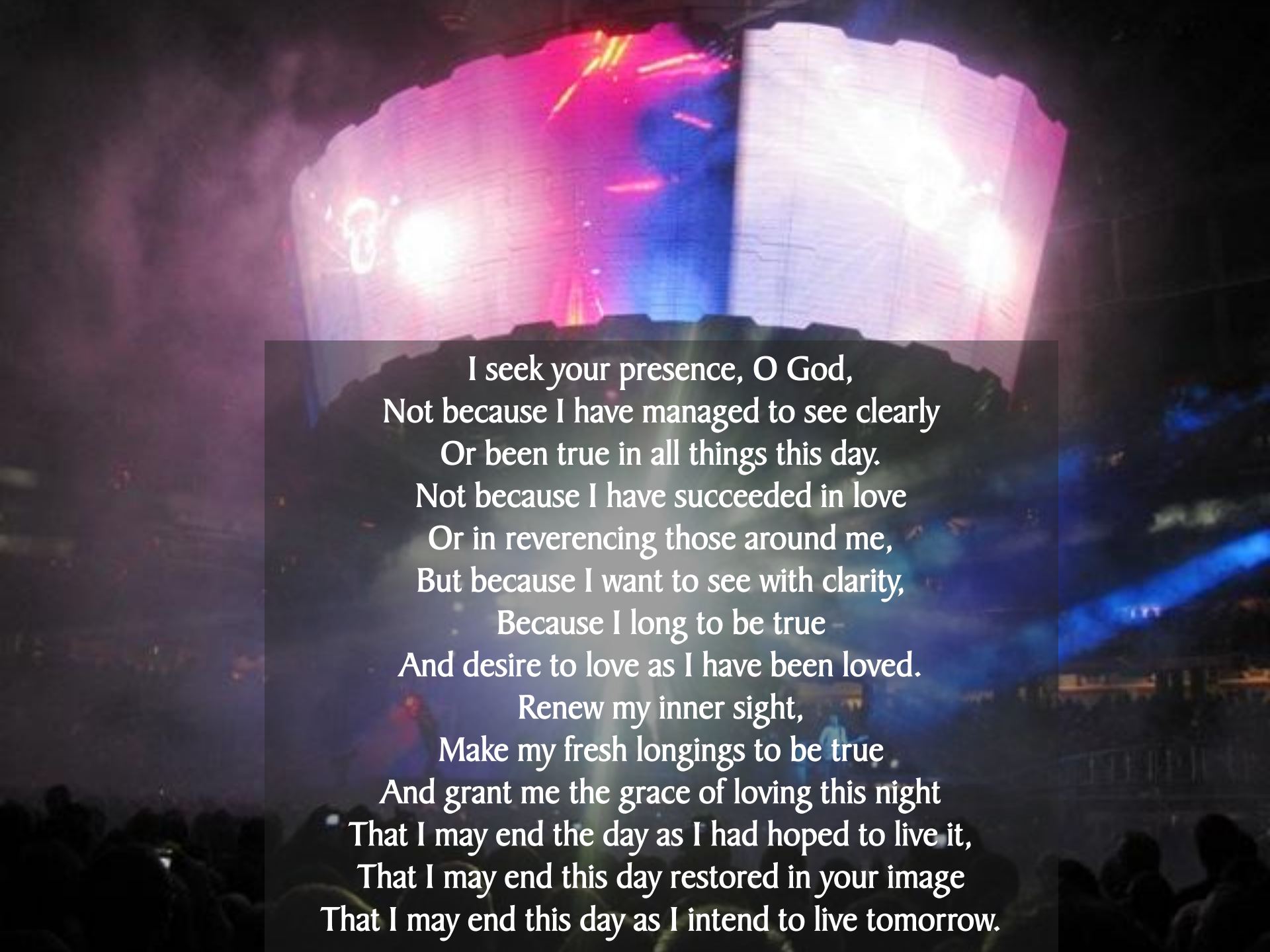
PS 27



**We stand at the gate..
*Holy Spirit come and open it so that we may enter.***



LIVING ON
THE EDGE:
A PRACTICE



I seek your presence, O God,
Not because I have managed to see clearly
Or been true in all things this day.
Not because I have succeeded in love
Or in reverencing those around me,
But because I want to see with clarity,
Because I long to be true
And desire to love as I have been loved.
Renew my inner sight,
Make my fresh longings to be true
And grant me the grace of loving this night
That I may end the day as I had hoped to live it,
That I may end this day restored in your image
That I may end this day as I intend to live tomorrow.

Open my eyes...
Release my mind...
Clear my ears...
Fill my mouth...
Stretch my hands...
Ground my body...
Stir my life...



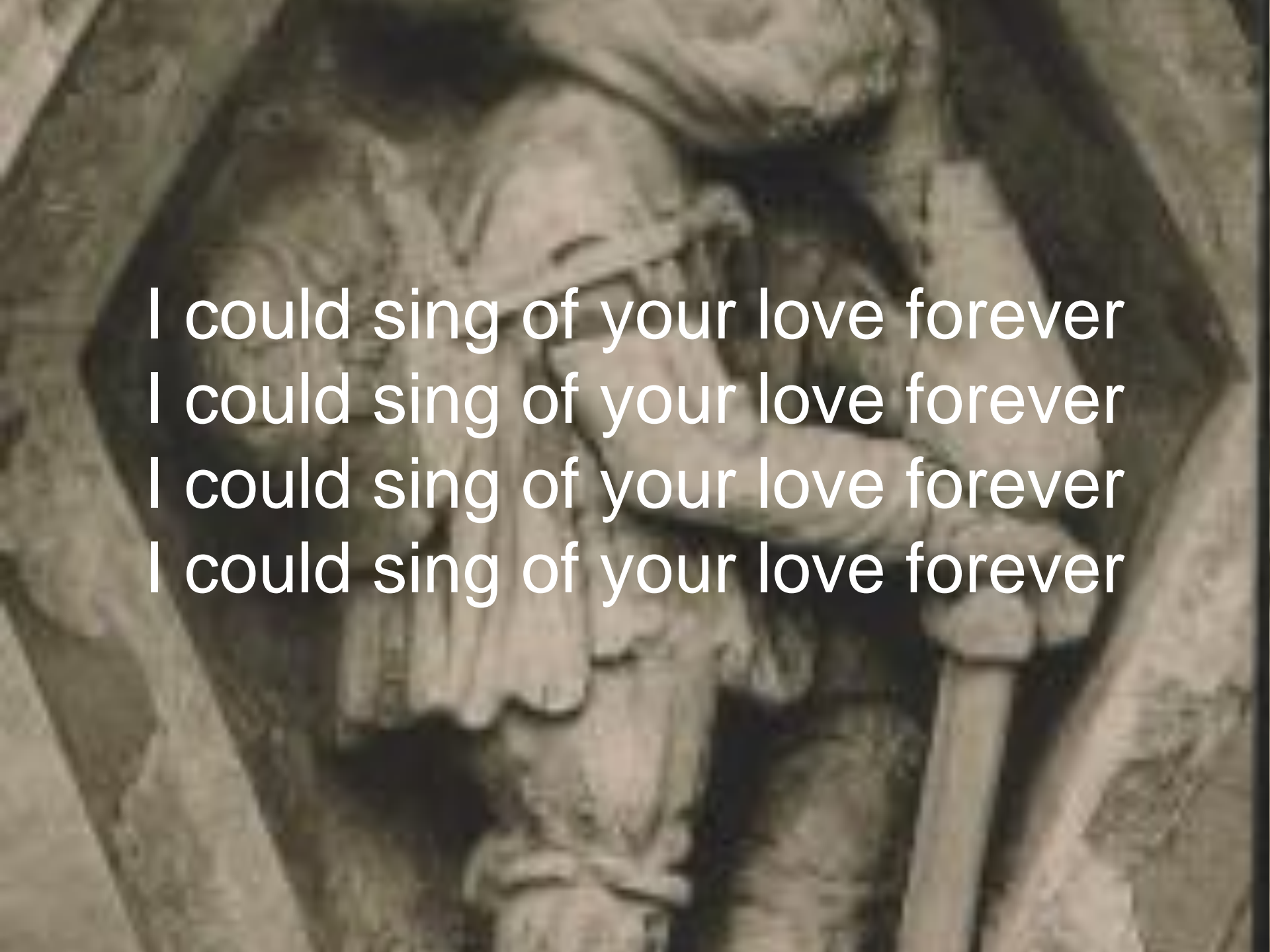
Interceding

A stained glass window with a grid pattern of colored panes in shades of red, green, and yellow. The window is set in a dark frame and is the central focus of the image.

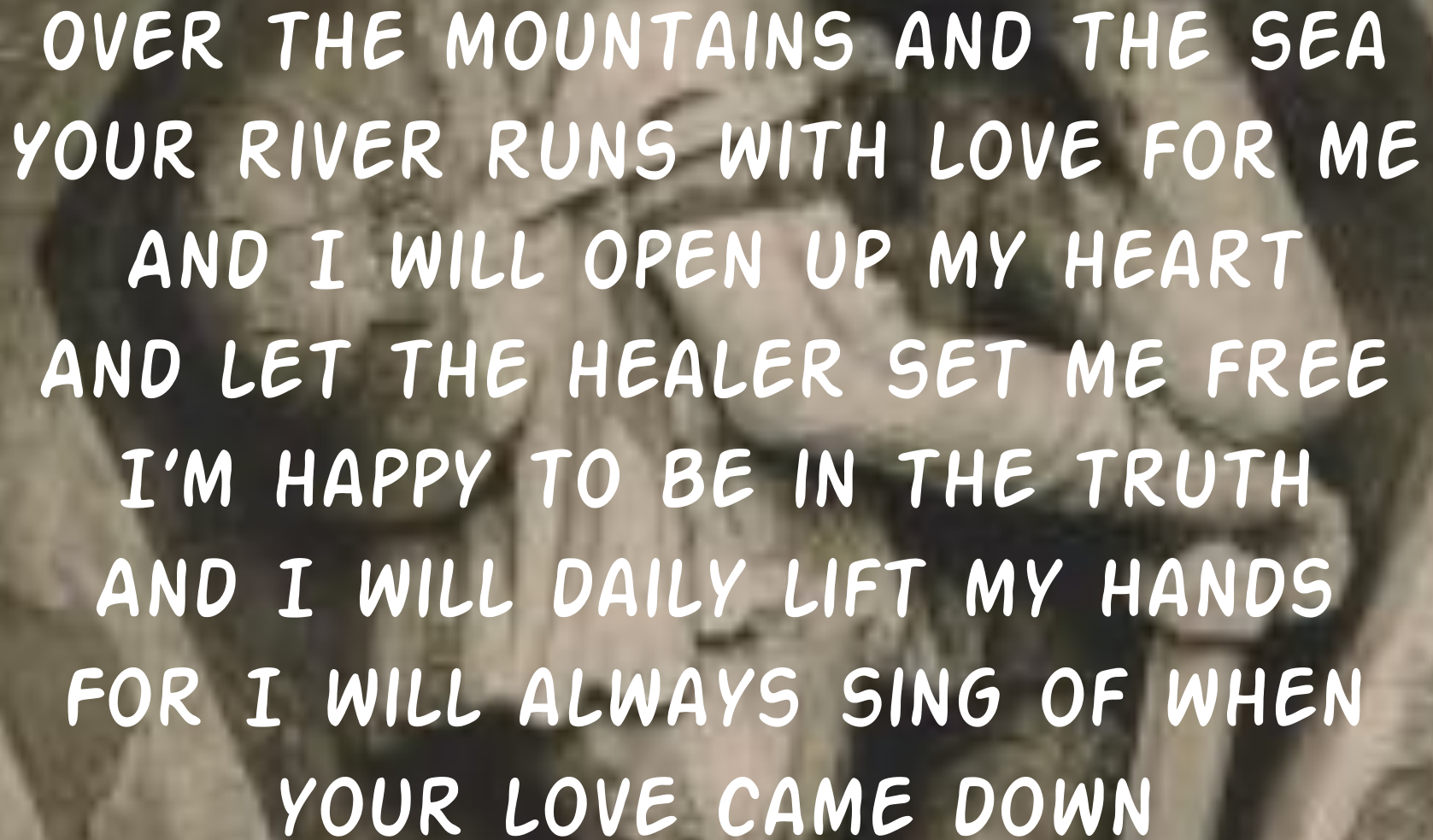
Praying for
Each other
Carrying those
people and
those things
through the
gate and into
God's presence.

I Could Sing Of Your Love Forever

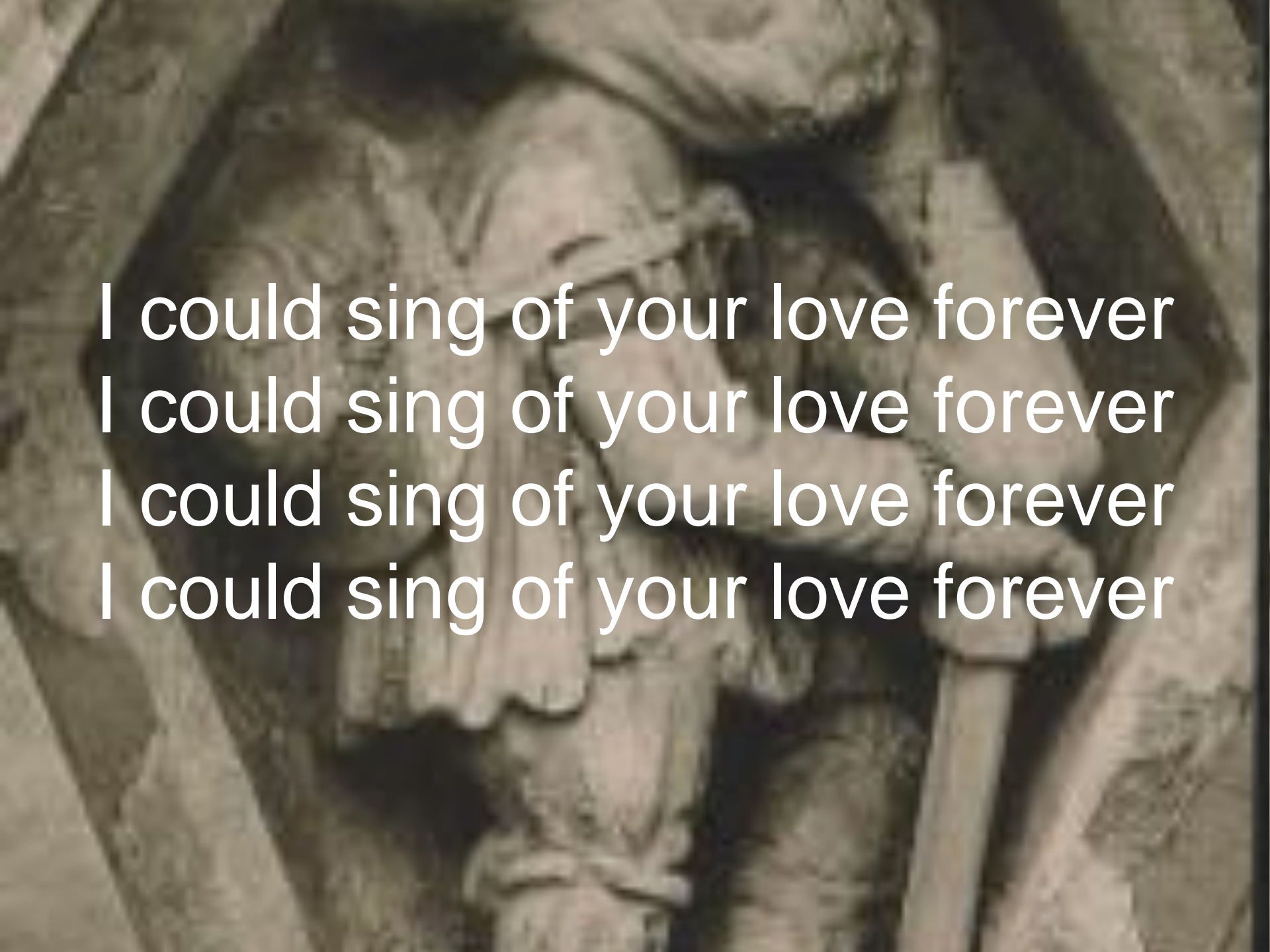
OVER THE MOUNTAINS AND THE SEA
YOUR RIVER RUNS WITH LOVE FOR ME
AND I WILL OPEN UP MY HEART
AND LET THE HEALER SET ME FREE
I'M HAPPY TO BE IN THE TRUTH
AND I WILL DAILY LIFT MY HANDS
FOR I WILL ALWAYS SING OF WHEN YOUR
LOVE CAME DOWN



I could sing of your love forever
I could sing of your love forever
I could sing of your love forever
I could sing of your love forever

A black and white photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer, with the text overlaid. The hands are positioned in the center, with fingers interlaced. The background is a textured, slightly blurred surface, possibly a wall or a piece of fabric. The text is written in a white, hand-drawn, sans-serif font, centered over the image.

OVER THE MOUNTAINS AND THE SEA
YOUR RIVER RUNS WITH LOVE FOR ME
AND I WILL OPEN UP MY HEART
AND LET THE HEALER SET ME FREE
I'M HAPPY TO BE IN THE TRUTH
AND I WILL DAILY LIFT MY HANDS
FOR I WILL ALWAYS SING OF WHEN
YOUR LOVE CAME DOWN

A sepia-toned photograph of a couple in a romantic embrace, serving as a background for the text. The man is on the left, wearing a dark suit and a white shirt with a bow tie. The woman is on the right, wearing a light-colored, possibly white, dress with a high collar and long sleeves. They are both looking towards the camera with soft expressions. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting an indoor setting with architectural elements like a doorway or a window frame.

I could sing of your love forever
I could sing of your love forever
I could sing of your love forever
I could sing of your love forever

Holy is the Lord

We stand and lift up our hands

For the joy of the Lord is our strength

We bow down, and worship him now

How great, how awesome is He.

And together we sing...



Holy is the Lord, God Almighty

The earth is filled with His glory

Holy is the Lord, God Almighty

The earth is filled with His glory

The earth is filled with His glory



We stand and lift up our hands

For the joy of the Lord is our strength

We bow down, and worship him now

How great, how awesome is He.

And together we sing...



Holy is the Lord, God Almighty

The earth is filled with His glory

Holy is the Lord, God Almighty

The earth is filled with His glory

The earth is filled with His glory



It's the rising up, all around

It's the anthem of the Lord's renown

It's the rising up, all around

It's the anthem of the Lord's renown

And together we sing...

Everyone sing....



Holy is the Lord, God Almighty

The earth is filled with His glory

Holy is the Lord, God Almighty

The earth is filled with His glory

The earth is filled with His glory

SANCTUARY



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

PSALM 123

• 1-4 I LOOK TO YOU, HEAVEN-DWELLING
GOD, LOOK UP TO YOU FOR HELP.

LIKE SERVANTS, ALERT TO THEIR
MASTER'S COMMANDS,
LIKE A MAIDEN ATTENDING HER
LADY,

WE'RE WATCHING AND WAITING,
HOLDING OUR BREATH,
AWAITING YOUR WORD OF MERCY.
MERCY, GOD, MERCY!

WE'VE BEEN KICKED AROUND
LONG ENOUGH,
KICKED IN THE TEETH BY
COMPLACENT RICH MEN,
KICKED WHEN WE'RE DOWN BY
ARROGANT BRUTES.

• (THE MESSAGE)

1 TO YOU I LIFT UP MY EYES,
O YOU WHO ARE ENTHRONED IN THE
HEAVENS!

2 BEHOLD, AS THE EYES OF SERVANTS
LOOK TO THE HAND OF THEIR MASTER,
AS THE EYES OF A MAIDSERVANT
TO THE HAND OF HER MISTRESS,
SO OUR EYES LOOK TO THE LORD OUR GOD,
TILL HE HAS MERCY UPON US. 3 HAVE
MERCY UPON US, O LORD, HAVE MERCY UPON
US,

FOR WE HAVE HAD MORE THAN ENOUGH OF
CONTEMPT.

4 OUR SOUL HAS HAD MORE THAN ENOUGH
OF THE SCORN OF THOSE WHO ARE AT
EASE,
OF THE CONTEMPT OF THE PROUD.

(ESV)

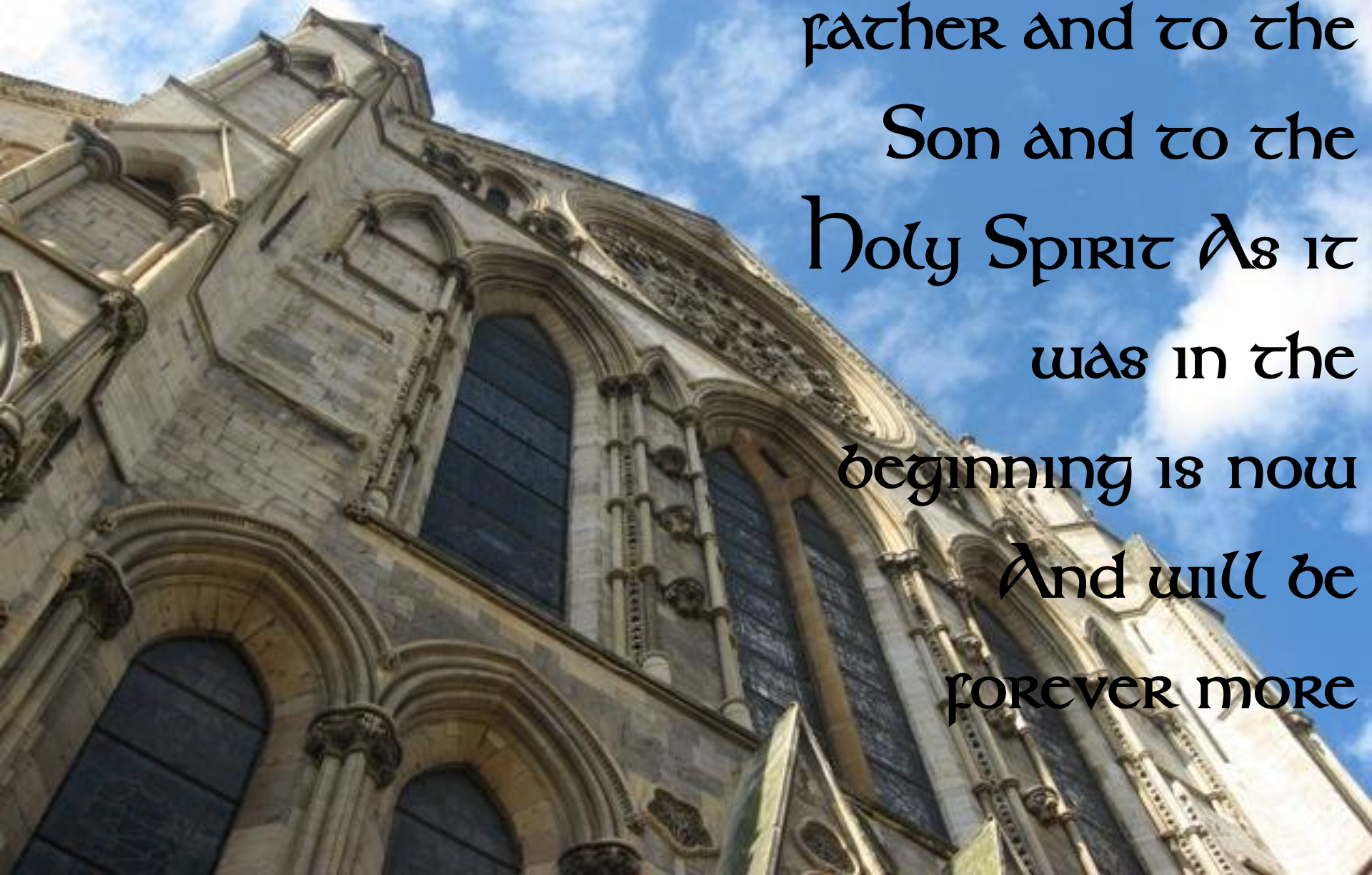
PEACE BE STILL

A silhouette of a person with their arms outstretched, standing on a rocky outcrop overlooking the ocean. The background is a dramatic sunset sky with vibrant colors of orange, red, and purple. The person's silhouette is dark against the bright, colorful sky.

**Peace be still,
Peace be still,
The storm rages
Peace, be still.**

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.

-Isaiah 1:18

IN SEARCH OF: THE RESCUE

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Handwritten text in an ancient script, likely Syriac, with several lines of text in red ink (rubrication). The text is arranged in approximately 15 horizontal lines across the page. The script is dense and characteristic of early Christian manuscripts. The red ink highlights specific words or phrases, possibly indicating titles or important events. The background of the parchment is aged and yellowed.



– 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.

ACTS

WHY SCRIPTURE?

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.

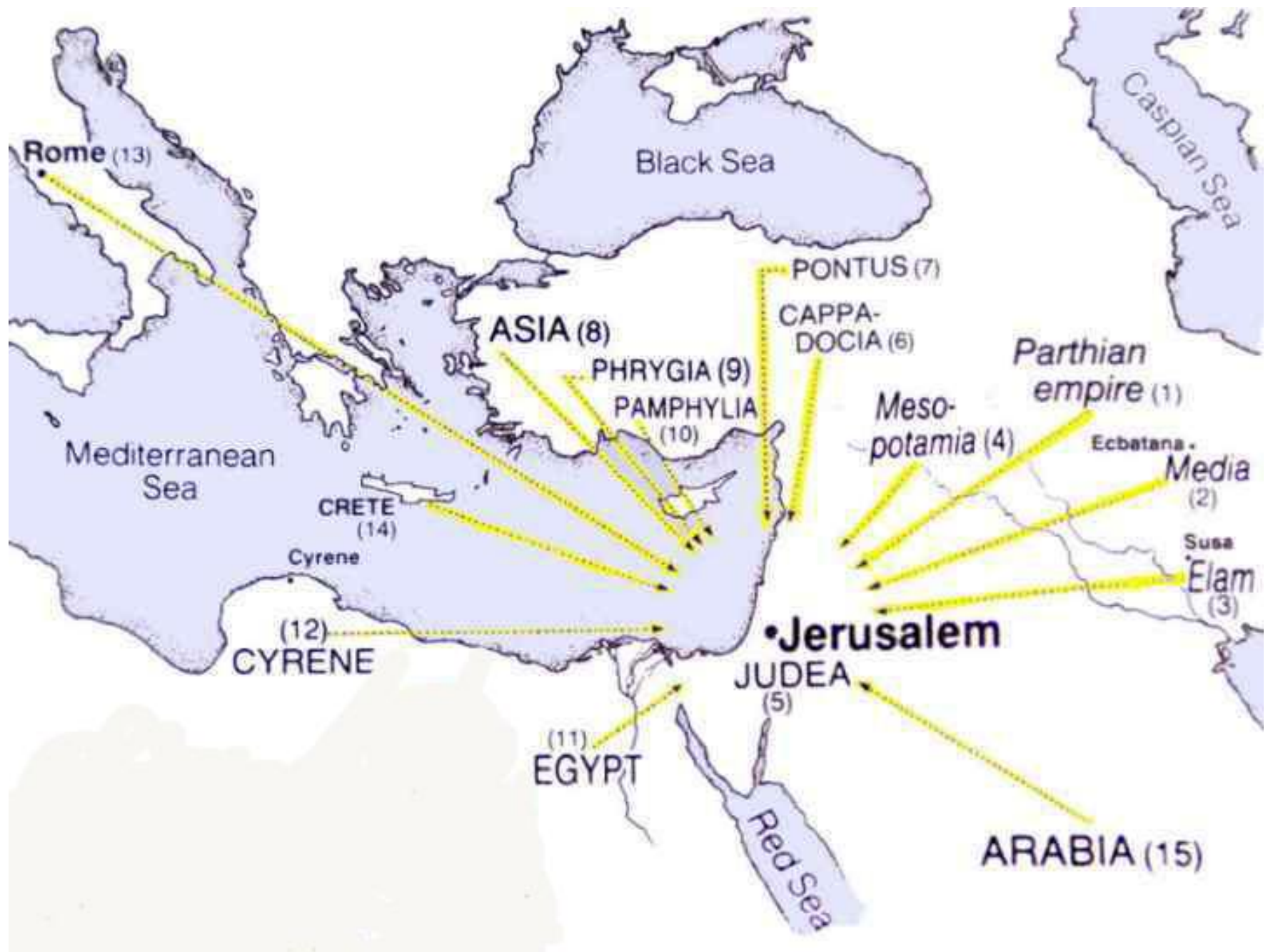
AN INTRO TO ACTS:

Because the story of Jesus is so impressive – God among us! God speaking a language we can understand! God acting in ways that heal and help and save us! There is a danger that we will be impressed, but only impressed. As the spectacular dimensions of this story slowly dawn upon us, we could easily become enthusiastic spectators and then let it go at that – become admirers of Jesus, generous with our oohs and ahs and in our better moments inspired to imitate him.

It is Luke's task to prevent us from becoming mere spectators to Jesus, fans of the Message...

The story of Jesus doesn't end with Jesus. It continues in the lives of those who believe in him. The supernatural does not stop with Jesus. Luke makes it perfectly clear that Christians he wrote about ... are in on the action of God, God acting in them, God living in them. Which means of course in us.

-Eugene Peterson, The Message





THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, CHAPTER 2, THE MESSAGE

A Sound Like a Strong Wind

¹⁻⁴ When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

⁵⁻¹¹ There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were thunderstruck. They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, "Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues?"

Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; Visitors from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene; Immigrants from Rome, both Jews and proselytes; Even Cretans and Arabs!

"They're speaking our languages, describing God's mighty works!"

¹² Their heads were spinning; they couldn't make head or tail of any of it. They talked back and forth, confused. "What's going on here?"

¹³ Others joked, "They're drunk on cheap wine."



The Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 2:14-21 The Message

14-21 That's when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency: "Fellow Jews, all of you who are visiting Jerusalem, listen carefully and get this story straight. These people aren't drunk as some of you suspect. They haven't had time to get drunk—it's only nine o'clock in the morning. This is what the prophet Joel announced would happen:

"In the Last Days," God says, I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people: Your sons will prophesy, also your daughters; Your young men will see visions, your old men dream dreams. When the time comes, I'll pour out my Spirit on those who serve me, men and women both, and they'll prophesy.

I'll set wonders in the sky above and signs on the earth below, Blood and fire and billowing smoke, the sun turning black and the moon blood-red,
Before the Day of the Lord arrives, the Day tremendous and marvelous;
And whoever calls out for help to me, God, will be saved."



THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, CHAPTER 2:14-21
ESV

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ "'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

¹⁸even on my male servants and female servants

in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke, ²⁰the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day, ²¹And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'



THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, CHAPTER 2
THE MESSAGE

ACTS 2:22-28

"Fellow Israelites, listen carefully to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man thoroughly accredited by God to you—the miracles and wonders and signs that God did through him are common knowledge—this Jesus, following the deliberate and well-thought-out plan of God, was betrayed by men who took the law into their own hands, and was handed over to you. And you pinned him to a cross and killed him. But God untied the death ropes and raised him up. Death was no match for him. David said it all:

I saw God before me for all time. Nothing can shake me; he's right by my side.

I'm glad from the inside out, ecstatic; I've pitched my tent in the land of hope.

I know you'll never dump me in Hades; I'll never even smell the stench of death.

You've got my feet on the life-path, with your face shining sun-joy all around.



ACTS OF THE APOSTLES CHAPTER 2
ESV
ACTS 2:22-28

²²"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— ²³this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

"I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;
²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
my flesh also will dwell in hope.
²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One see corruption.
²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'



ACTS OF THE APOSTLES CHAPTER 2
THE MESSAGE
ACTS 2:29-37

²⁹⁻³⁶"Dear friends, let me be completely frank with you. Our ancestor David is dead and buried—his tomb is in plain sight today. But being also a prophet and knowing that God had solemnly sworn that a descendant of his would rule his kingdom, seeing far ahead, he talked of the resurrection of the Messiah—'no trip to Hades, no stench of death.' This Jesus, God raised up. And every one of us here is a witness to it. Then, raised to the heights at the right hand of God and receiving the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, he poured out the Spirit he had just received. That is what you see and hear. For David himself did not ascend to heaven, but he did say,

God said to my Master, "Sit at my right hand
Until I make your enemies a stool for resting your feet."

"All Israel, then, know this: There's no longer room for doubt—God made him Master and Messiah, this Jesus whom you killed on a cross."

³⁷Cut to the quick, those who were there listening asked Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers! Brothers! So now what do we do?"



ACTS OF THE APOSTLES CHAPTER 2

ESV

ACTS 2:29-37

²⁹"Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³ Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

"The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand,
³⁵until I make your enemies your footstool.'

³⁶Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"



ACTS OF THE APOSTLES CHAPTER 2

THE MESSAGE

ACTS 2:38-47

³⁸⁻³⁹Peter said, "Change your life. Turn to God and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins are forgiven. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is targeted to you and your children, but also to all who are far away—whomever, in fact, our Master God invites."

⁴⁰He went on in this vein for a long time, urging them over and over, "Get out while you can; get out of this sick and stupid culture!"

⁴¹⁻⁴²That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up. They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.

⁴³⁻⁴⁵Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met.

⁴⁶⁻⁴⁷They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES CHAPTER 2

ESV

ACTS 2:38-47



³⁸And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." ⁴⁰And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." ⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

The Fellowship of the Believers

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

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?"



ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, CHAPTER 3
ESV

¹Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. ²And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. ³Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. ⁴And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." ⁵And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" ⁷And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹And all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.



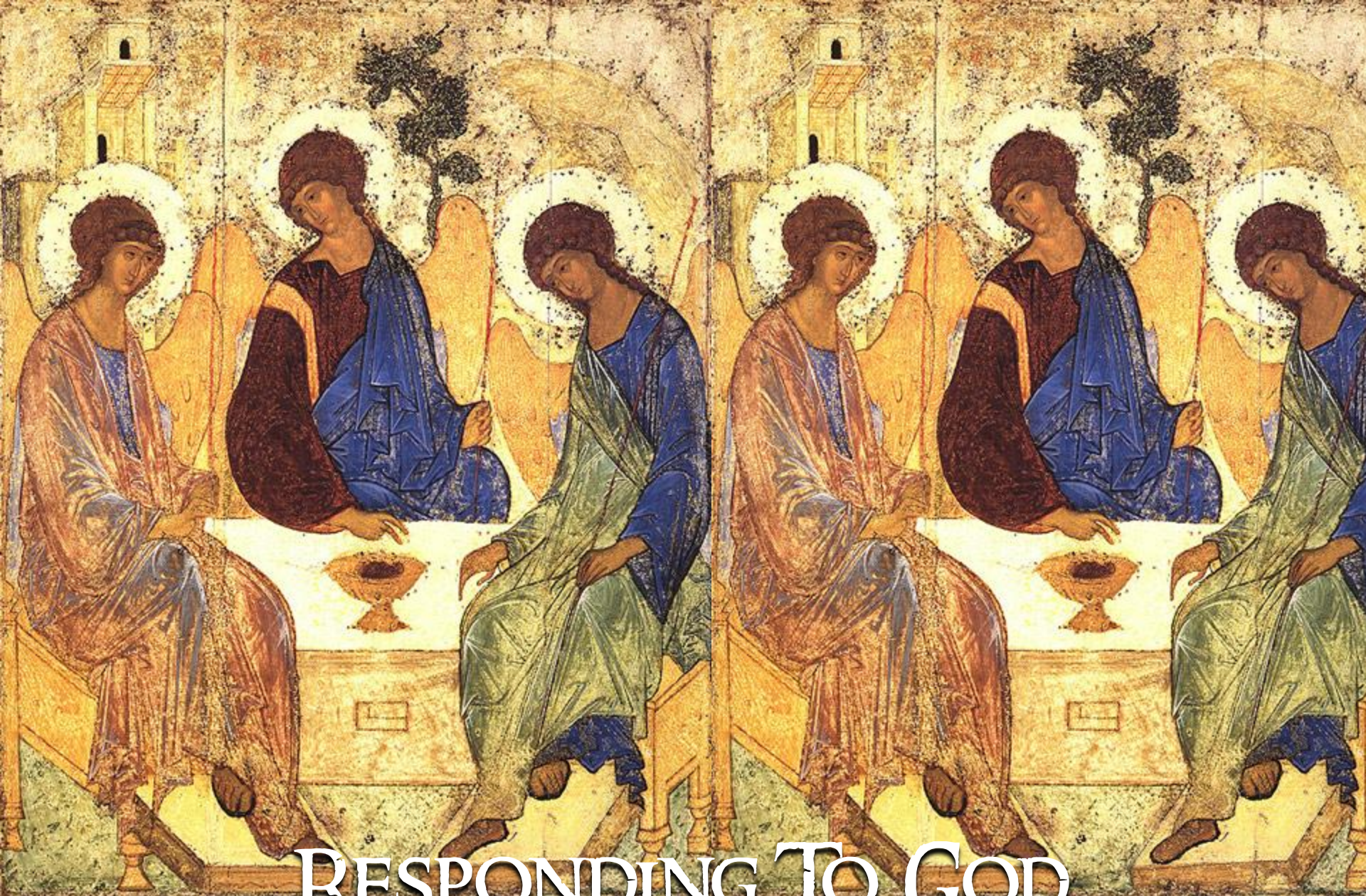
ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, CHAPTER 3
ESV

¹¹ While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. ¹²And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.



ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, CHAPTER 3
ESV

¹⁷"And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. ²²Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. ²³And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.' ²⁴And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. ²⁵ You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.'
²⁶ God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."



RESPONDING TO GOD



Conversations.

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



Next Sunday:
All Saints Day
Feast!!!

FALL RETREAT
SIGN UPS!!

The Blessing

May you go from here in peace and in joy

May you find new ways this week to remember God amidst your crazy busy days finding edges & gates & doors & windows to heaven everywhere.

May you intentionally take the time this week to be community – eating in each others homes and praying together.

And when people see you out in the world may the Spirit move in such a way that they call you THE CHURCH.

Go in peace in the power of the Spirit.