

# PRELUDE

Pastor:  
Jonathan Lamb

*Second Sunday of  
Lent*

February 24<sup>th</sup> ,  
2024

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3430384-01-1829





WELCOME,  
ANNOUNCEMENTS,  
and  
CELEBRATIONS



## Give Thanks

Let us quiet our minds, hearts, and spirits as we begin to focus on the presence of God as we bring the *Light of Christ* into our midst.



**Bringing In The Light of Christ**

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

# CONFESSION

A wooden cross is centered in the background. A purple sash is draped across the cross, and a green palm frond is visible at the bottom.

*Leader:* Lord Jesus Christ, you are  
the way of peace.

*People:* **Come into the brokenness  
of our lives and our land  
with your healing love.**

# CONFESSION



*Leader:* Help us to be willing to bow before you in true repentance,

*People:* **And to bow to one another in real forgiveness.**

# CONFESSION



*Leader:* By the fire of your Holy Spirit,  
melt our hard hearts

*People:* **And consume the pride and  
prejudice which separate  
us.**

# CONFESSION



*Leader:* Fill us, O Lord, with your perfect love, which casts out our fear

*People:* **And bind us together in that unity**



# CONFESSION

*Leader:*

Which you share with the  
Father and the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

*People:*

**Amen.**



*“Standing on the Promises”* UMH 374

WORDS and MUSIC: R. Kelso Carter, 1886

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



*“Standing on the Promises”* UMH 374

WORDS and MUSIC: R. Kelso Carter, 1886

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,  
through eternal ages let his praises ring;  
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,  
standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,  
standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
standing, standing,  
I'm standing on the promises of God.

*“Standing on the Promises”* UMH 374

WORDS and MUSIC: R. Kelso Carter, 1886

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,  
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,  
standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,  
standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
standing, standing,  
I'm standing on the promises of God.

*“Standing on the Promises”* UMH 374

WORDS and MUSIC: R. Kelso Carter, 1886

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,  
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,  
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,  
standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,  
standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
standing, standing,  
I'm standing on the promises of God.

*“Standing on the Promises”* UMH 374

WORDS and MUSIC: R. Kelso Carter, 1886

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,  
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,  
resting in my Savior as my all in all,  
standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,  
standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
standing, standing,  
I'm standing on the promises of God.

# OPENING PRAYER

**O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**



# DENY YOUR

A hand holding a white tablet. The tablet screen shows the word "Selfie" in a large, black, cursive font with a white outline, set against a green, textured background. The background of the entire image is a stylized landscape with green hills and a blue sky with sun rays.

Selfie

Young Disciples' Message  
"Deny Your Selfie"



# **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**O Wisdom on High, by you  
the meek are guided in  
judgment,  
And light rises up in  
darkness for the godly.  
Grant us, in all doubts and  
uncertainties,  
The grace to ask what you  
would have us do,**



# **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

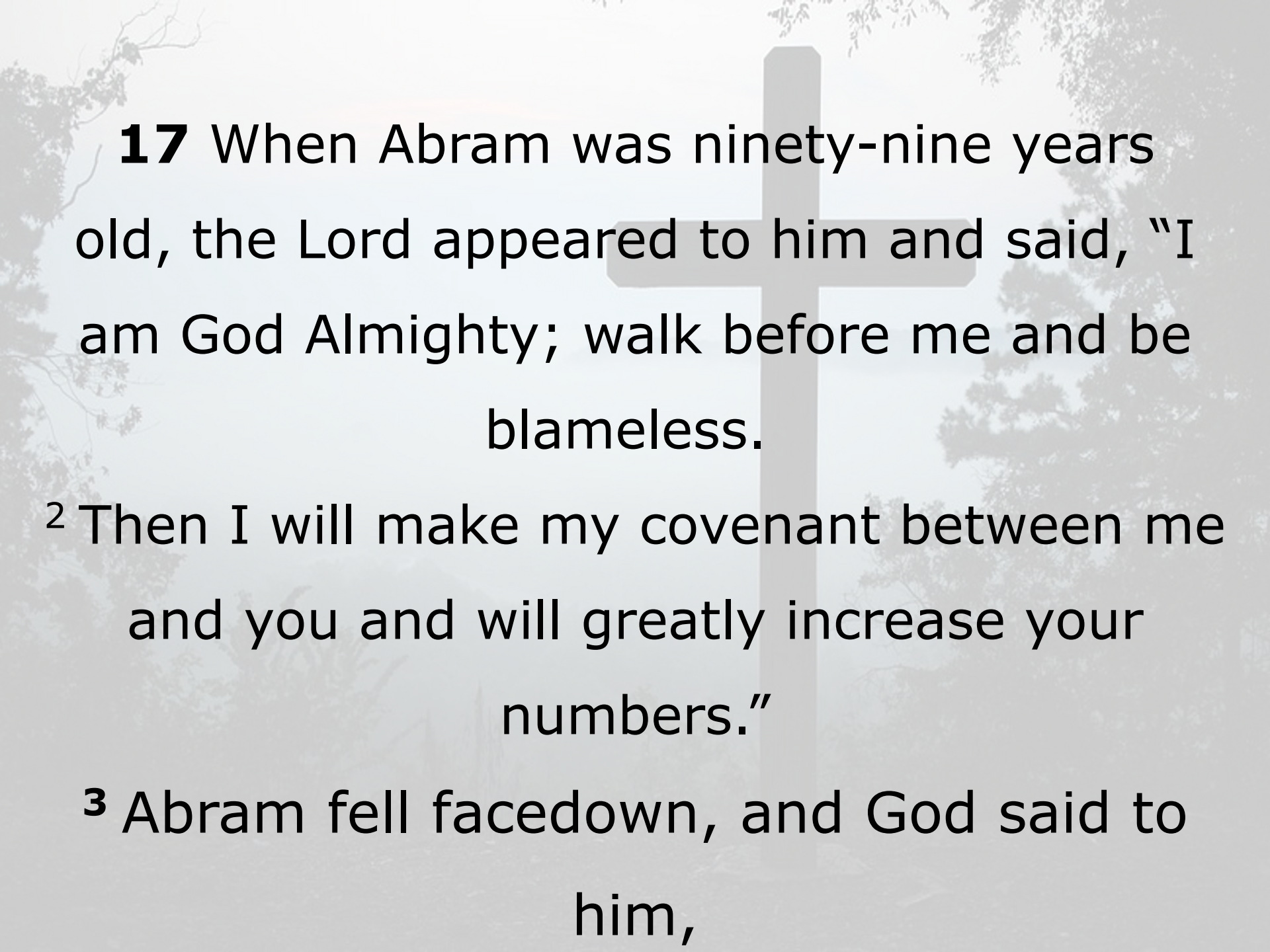
**That we may be saved from  
all false choices,  
And that in your light we  
may see light,  
And in your straight path  
may not stumble;  
Through Jesus Christ our  
Savior.  
Amen.**





**Genesis 17: 1 – 7,  
15-16**

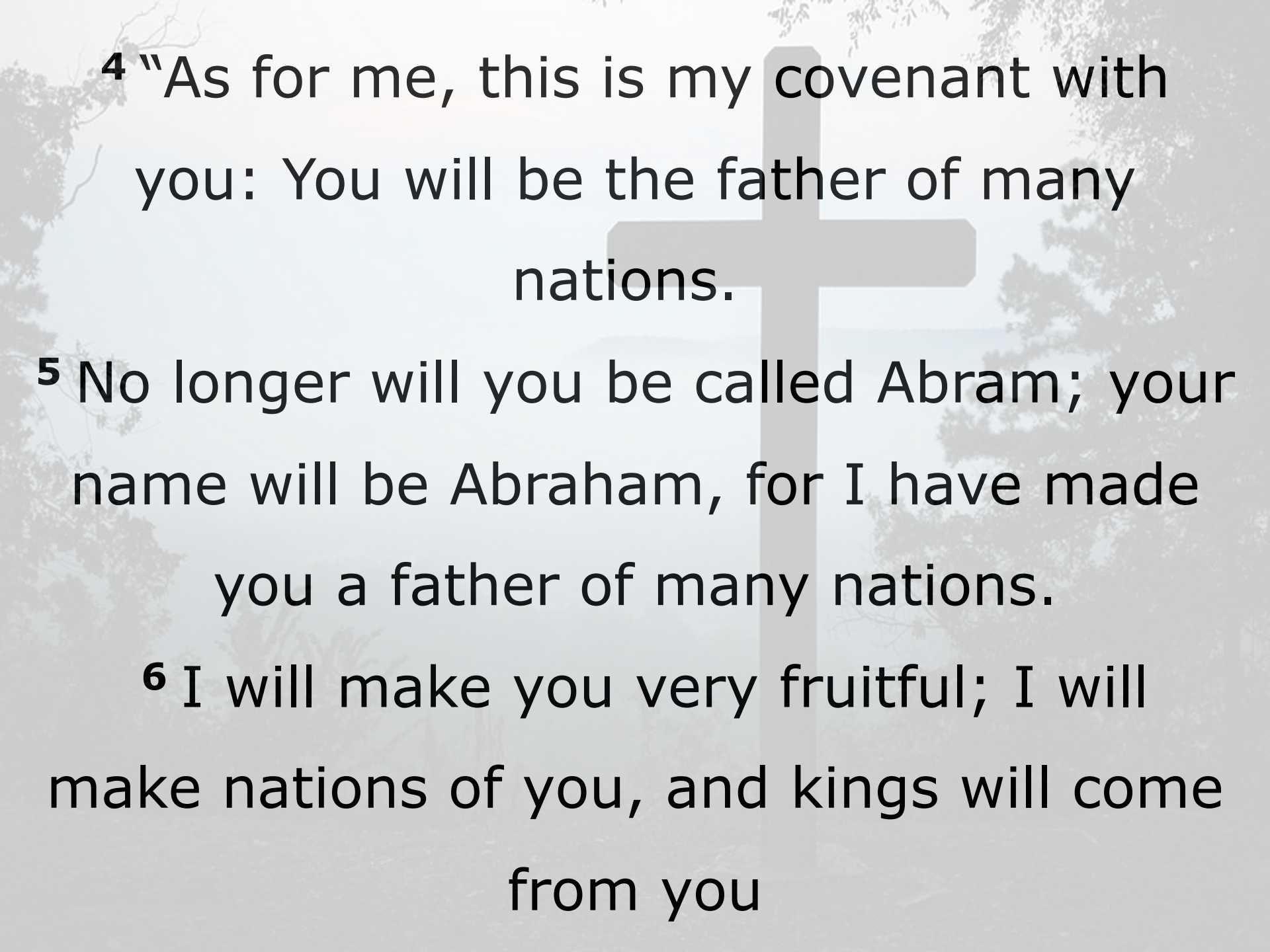
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**17** When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless.

<sup>2</sup> Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”

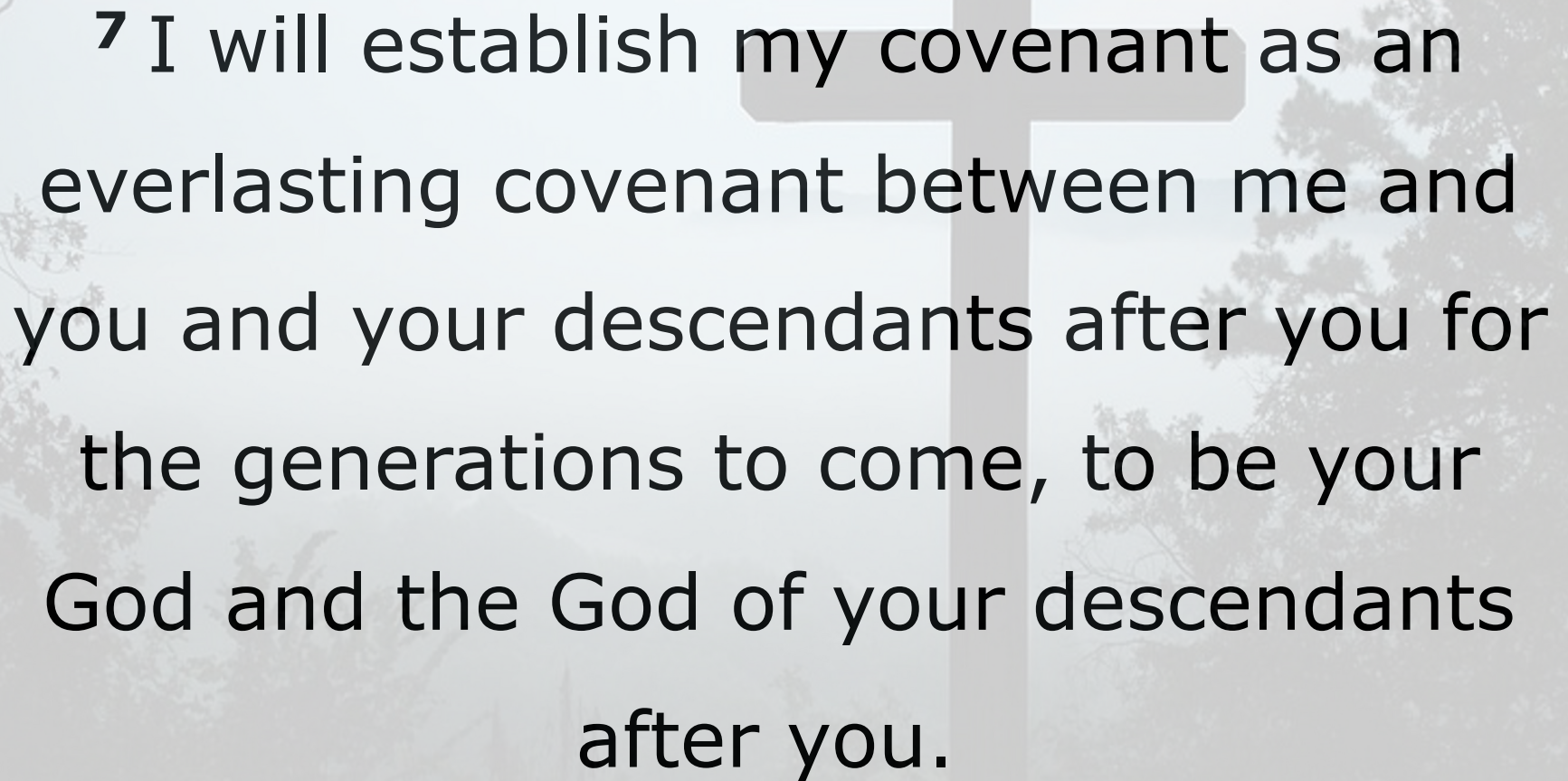
<sup>3</sup> Abram fell facedown, and God said to him,



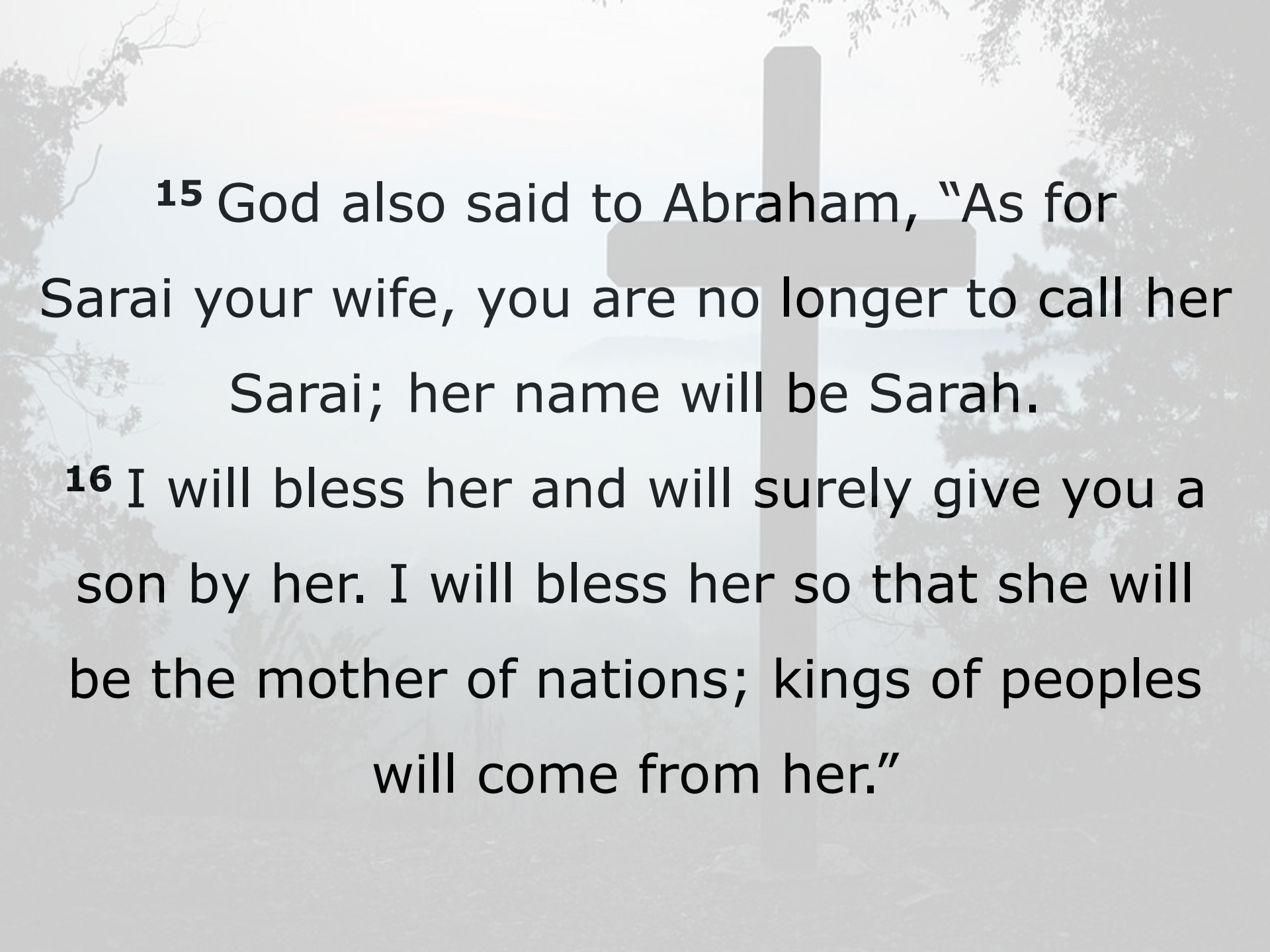
4 "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations.

5 No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations.

6 I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you



7 I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.



**15** God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah.

**16** I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”

A silhouette of a person on a cross is positioned on the right side of the image. The background is a dramatic sunset or sunrise sky with a full moon visible at the top center. The overall color palette is dark and moody, with warm tones from the sun and moon.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 22:25-31

UMH 753



# Psalm 22:25-31 UMH 753

*Leader:* From you comes my praise  
in the great congregation;

*People:* **My vows I will pay before  
those who worship the Lord.**

# Psalm 22:25-31 UMH 753

*Leader:* The poor shall eat and be satisfied.

*People:* **Those who seek the Lord  
shall praise the Lord!  
May your hearts live for ever!**

# Psalm 22:25-31 UMH 753

*Leader:* All the ends of the earth shall  
remember and turn to the Lord;

*People:* **And all the families of the  
nations shall worship before  
the Lord.**

# Psalm 22:25-31 UMH 753

*Leader:* For dominion belongs to  
the Lord who rules over  
the nations.

*People:* **All who sleep in the earth  
shall bow down to the Lord.**

# Psalm 22:25-31 UMH 753

*Leader:* All who go down to the  
dust shall bow before the  
Lord, and I shall live for God.

*People: Posterity shall serve  
the Lord;*

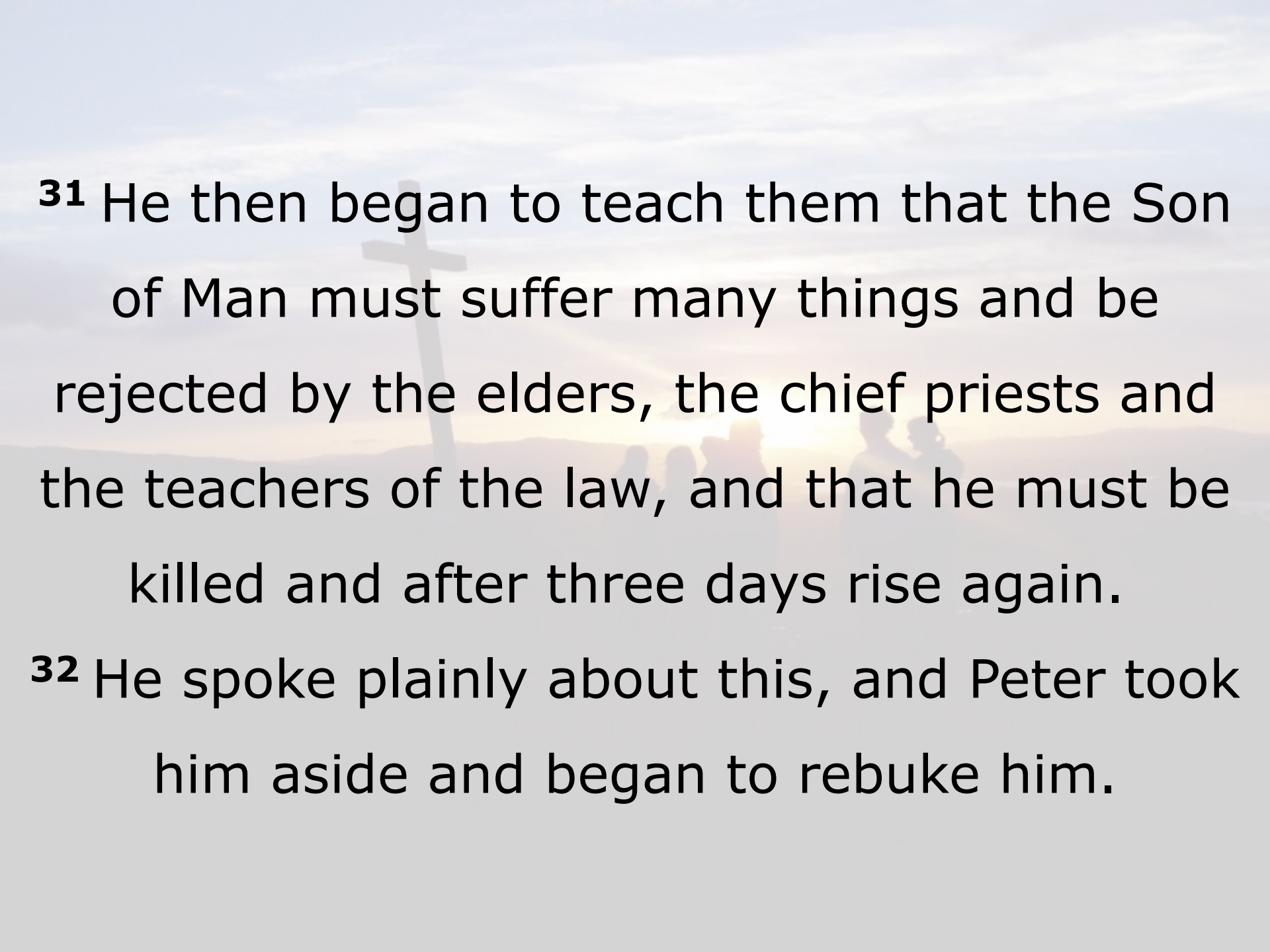
# Psalm 22:25-31 UMH 753

*Leader:* Each generation shall tell of  
the Lord, and I shall live  
for God.

*People:* **Surely the Lord has done it.**



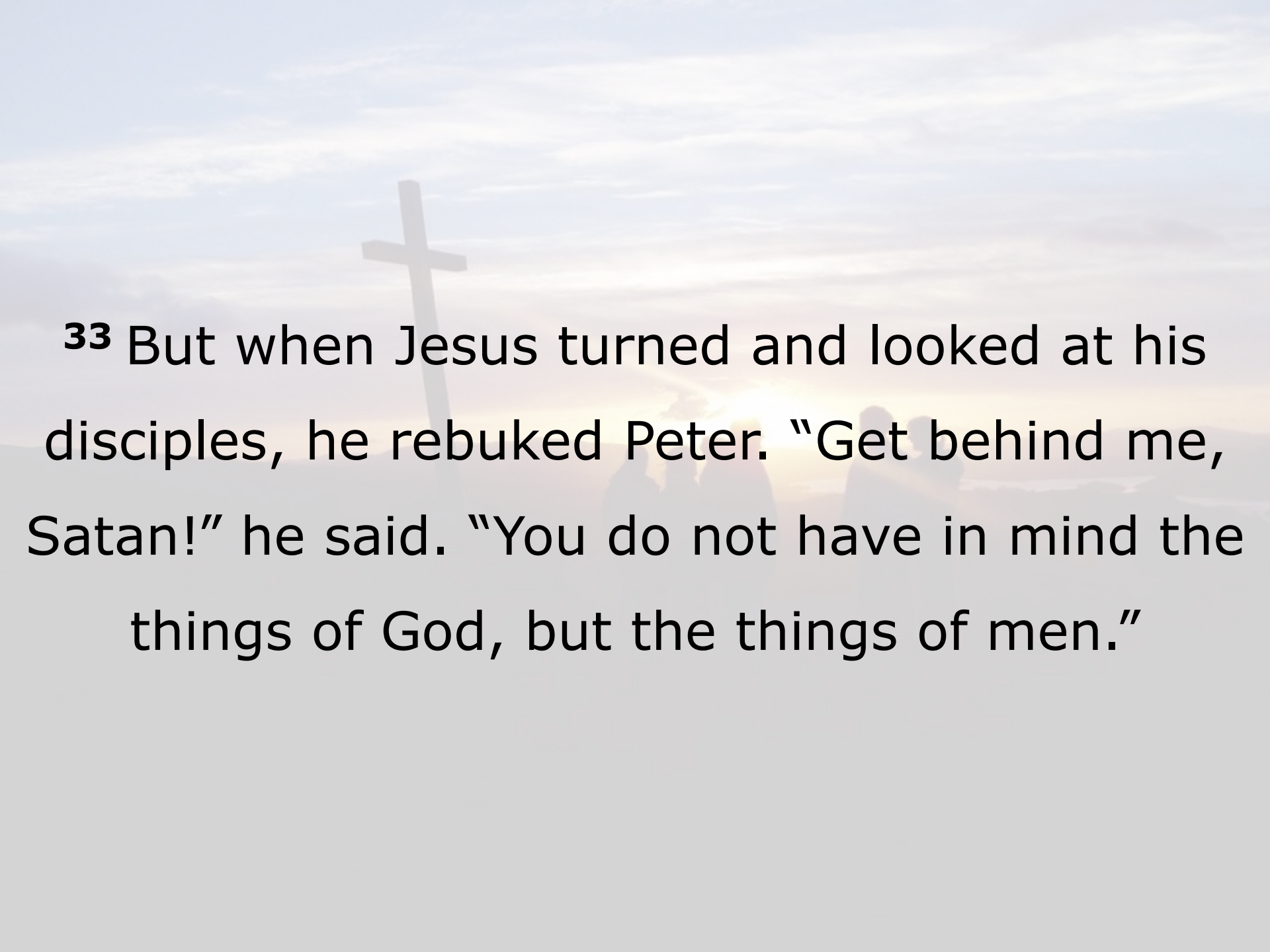
Mark 8: 31- 38



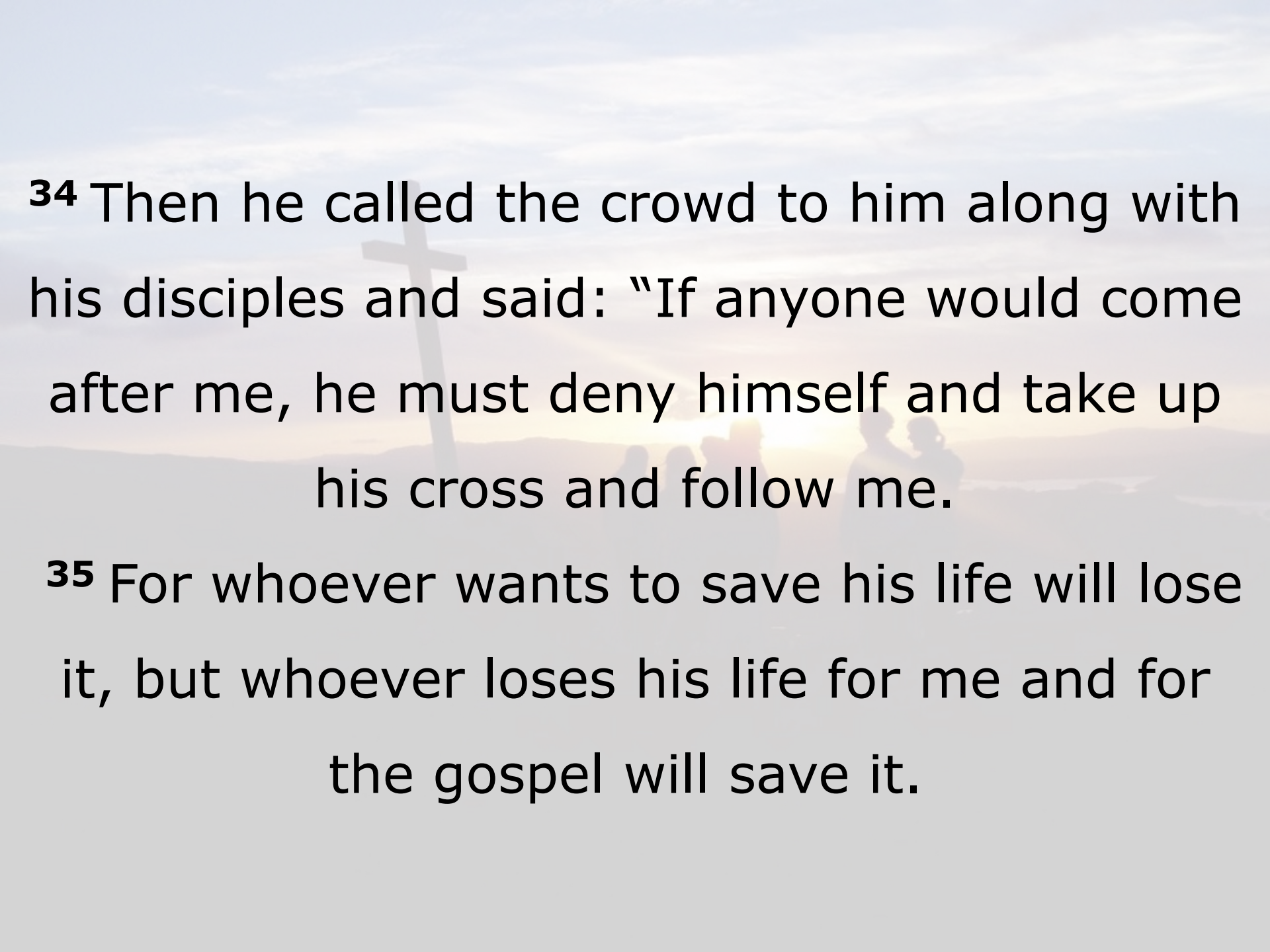
**31** He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

**32** He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.



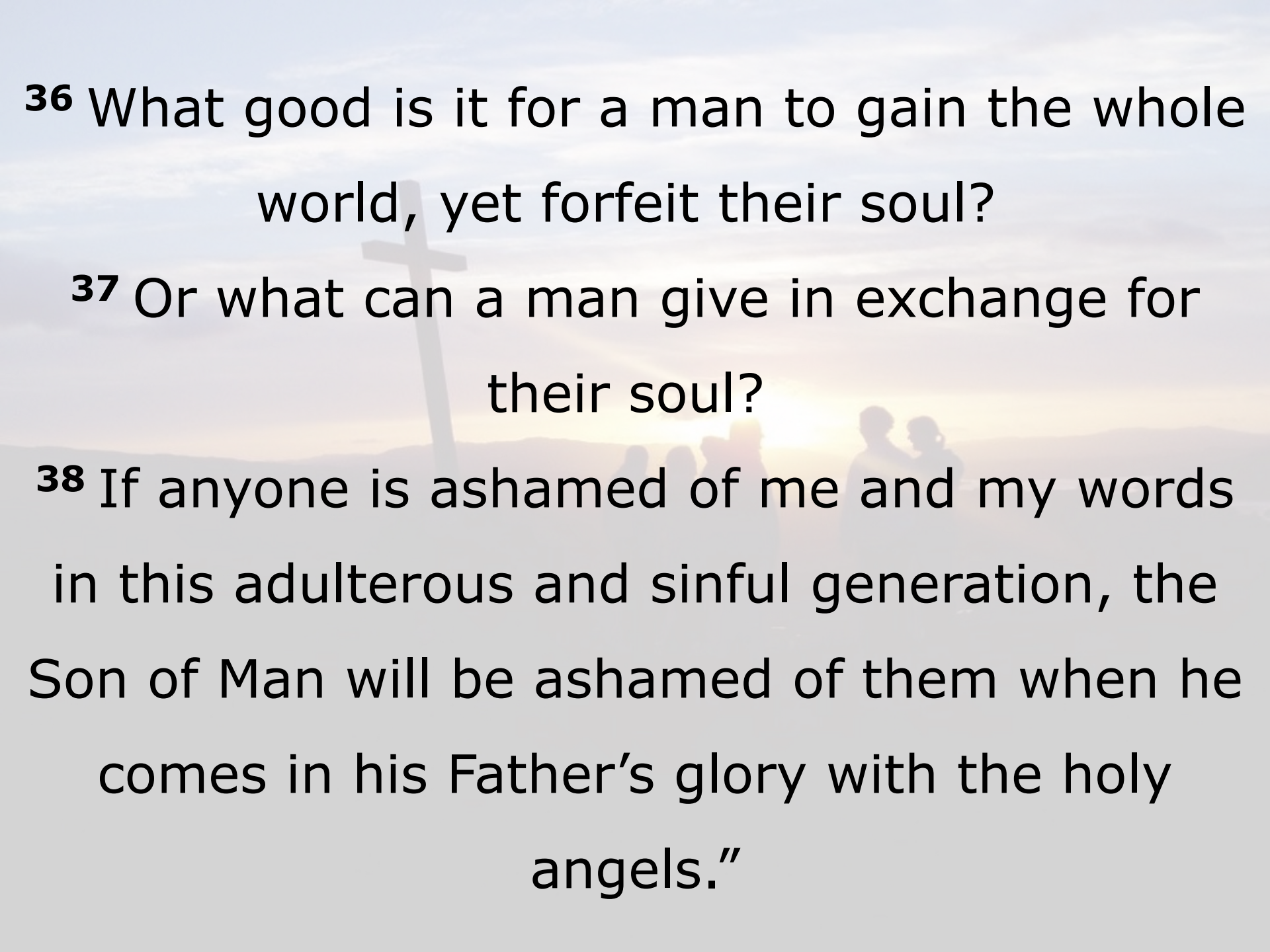


**33** But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.”



**34** Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

**35** For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.



**36** What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

**37** Or what can a man give in exchange for their soul?

**38** If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

# Glory Be to the Father

70

WORDS: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent.

**Glory be to the Father  
and to the Son  
and to the Holy Ghost;**

**as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen. Amen.**

# TODAY'S MESSAGE

“Way of the Cross.”



# “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” TFWS 2129

WORDS: Anonymous    MUSIC: Anonymous; arranged by Eugene Thomas

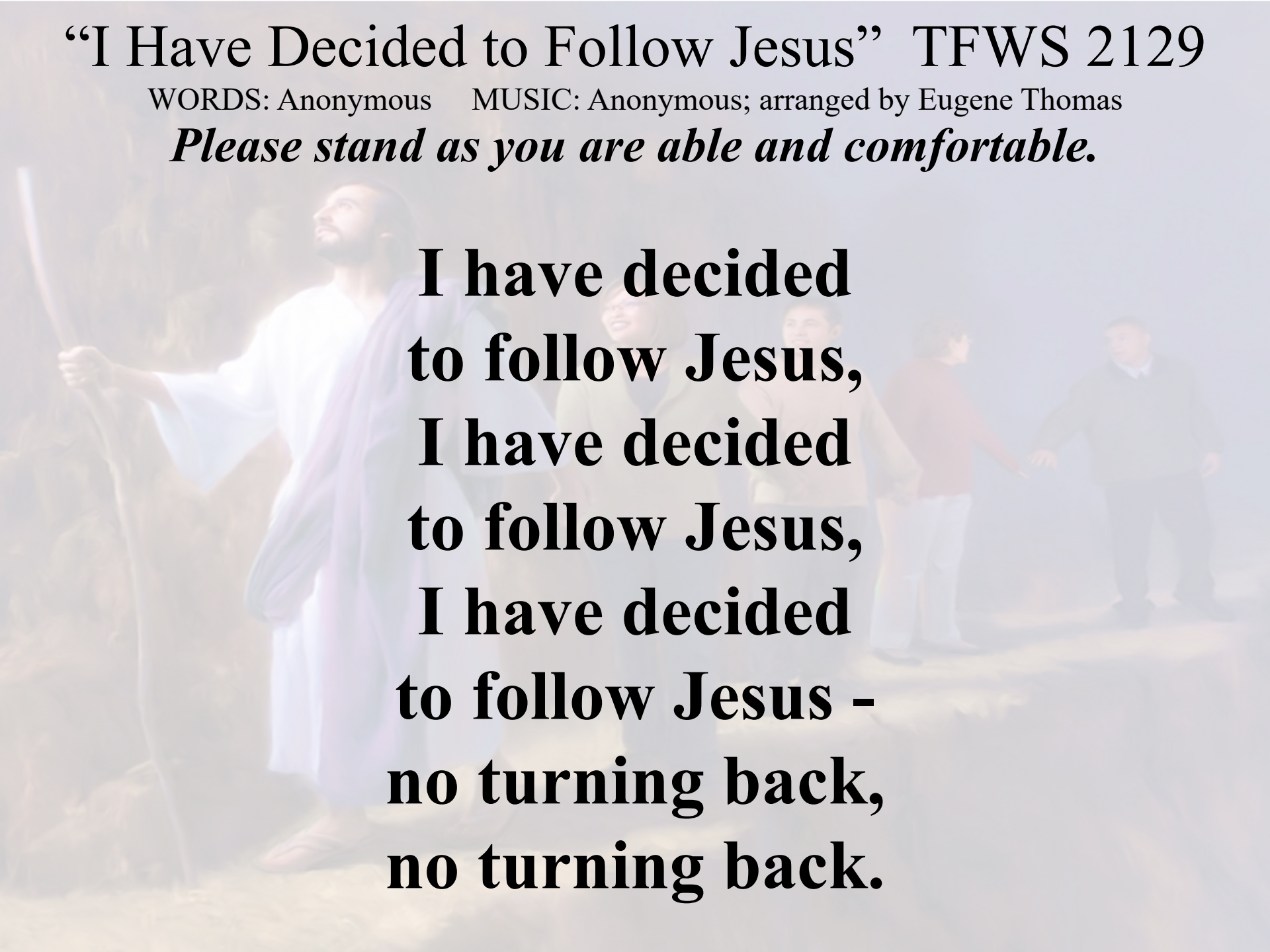
*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



# “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” TFWS 2129

WORDS: Anonymous    MUSIC: Anonymous; arranged by Eugene Thomas

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

A faded background image showing Jesus on the left, wearing a white robe and a purple sash, holding a wooden staff. He is looking upwards and to the right. To his right, a group of people are standing in a line, some with their hands raised, suggesting a church service or a group of followers. The scene is set outdoors with a natural, slightly hazy background.

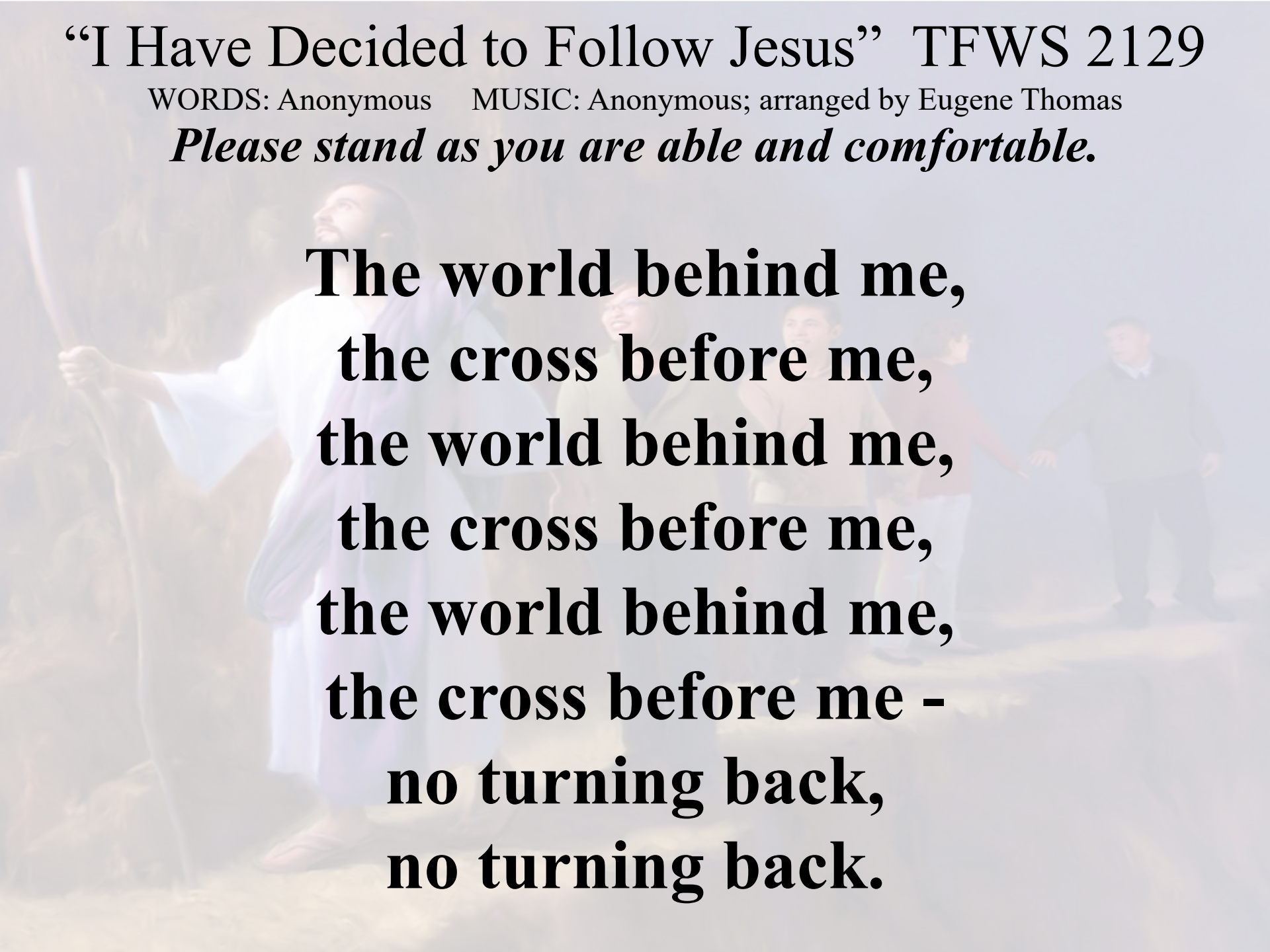
**I have decided  
to follow Jesus,  
I have decided  
to follow Jesus,  
I have decided  
to follow Jesus -  
no turning back,  
no turning back.**



# “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” TFWS 2129

WORDS: Anonymous    MUSIC: Anonymous; arranged by Eugene Thomas

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

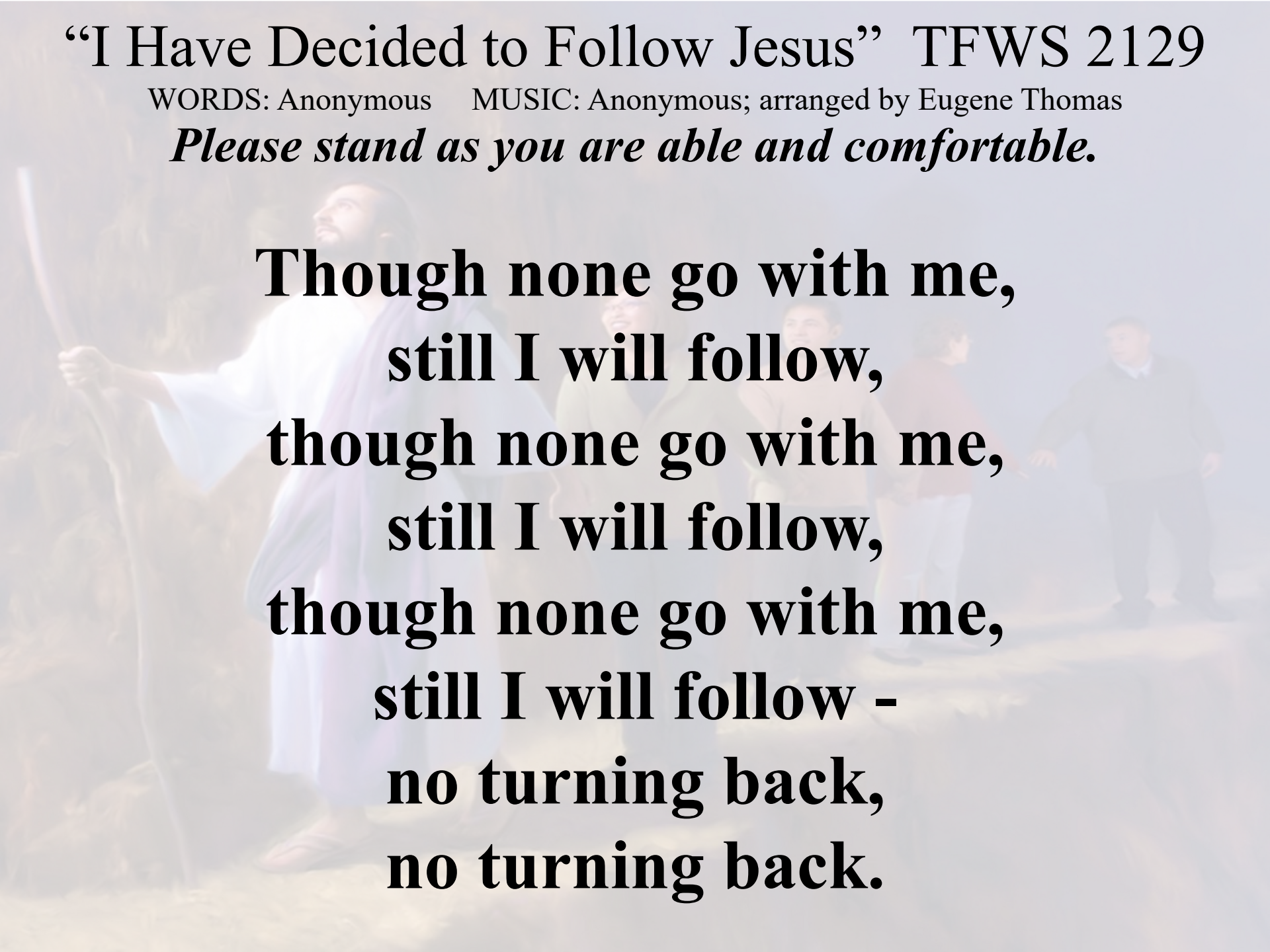
A faded background image showing Jesus on the left, wearing a white robe and holding a wooden staff. He is looking towards a group of people on the right. The scene is set outdoors with a hazy, golden light.

**The world behind me,  
the cross before me,  
the world behind me,  
the cross before me,  
the world behind me,  
the cross before me -  
no turning back,  
no turning back.**

# “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” TFWS 2129

WORDS: Anonymous    MUSIC: Anonymous; arranged by Eugene Thomas

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

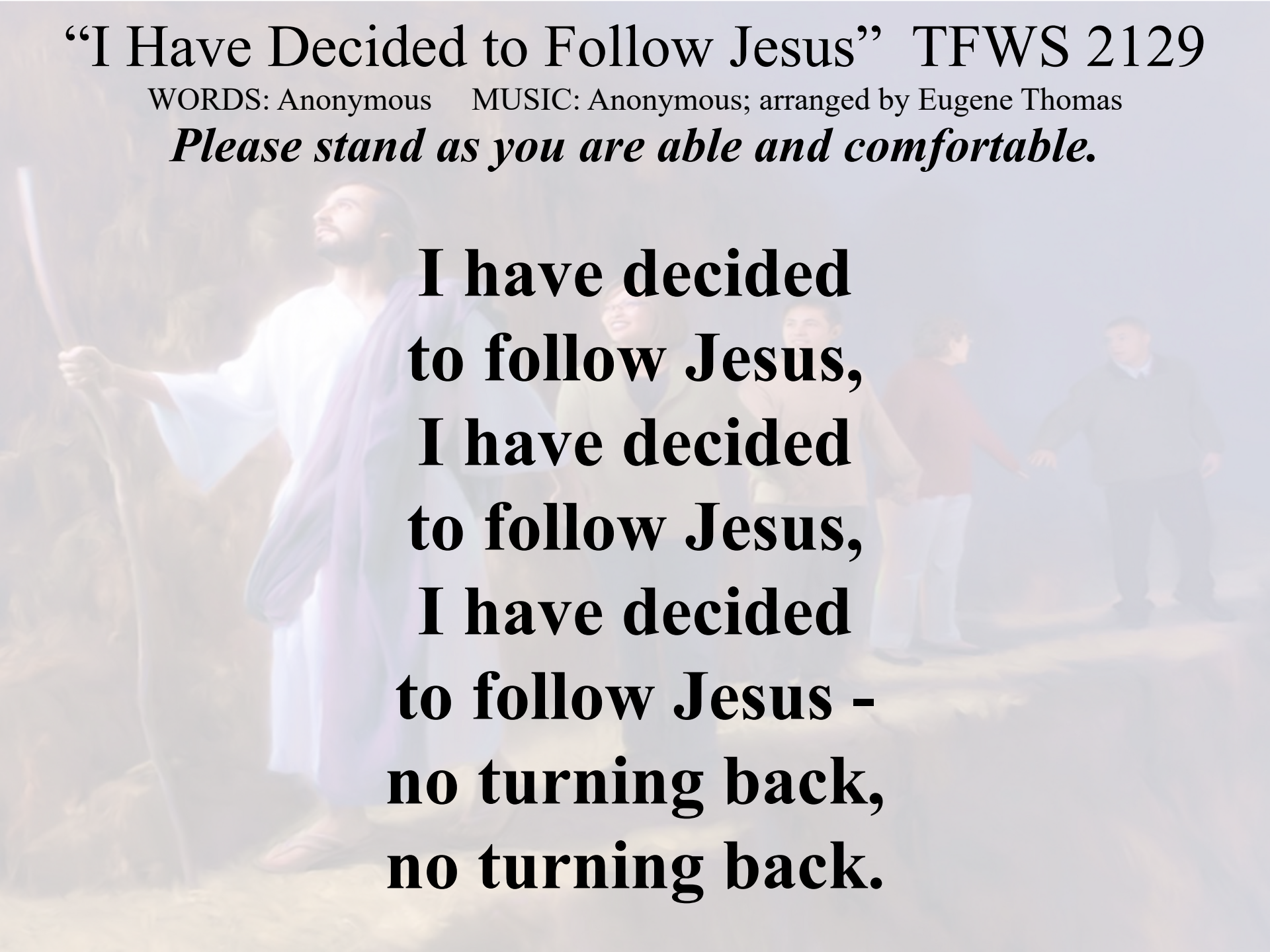


**Though none go with me,  
still I will follow,  
though none go with me,  
still I will follow,  
though none go with me,  
still I will follow -  
no turning back,  
no turning back.**

# “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” TFWS 2129

WORDS: Anonymous    MUSIC: Anonymous; arranged by Eugene Thomas

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*

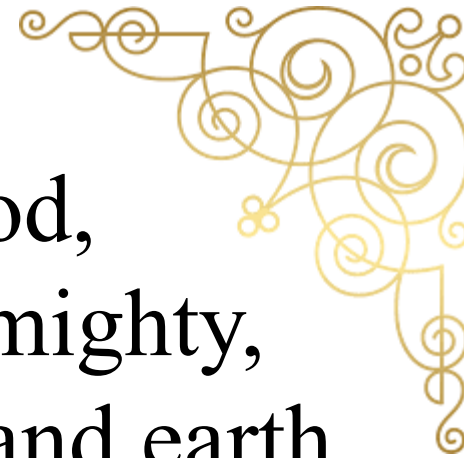
A faded background image showing Jesus on the left, wearing a white robe and a purple sash, holding a wooden staff. He is looking upwards and to the right. To his right, a group of people, including men and women, are standing and looking towards him. The scene is set outdoors with a natural, slightly hazy background.


**I have decided  
to follow Jesus,  
I have decided  
to follow Jesus,  
I have decided  
to follow Jesus -  
no turning back,  
no turning back.**

**THE APOSTLES' CREED  
ECUMENICAL VERSION**


882


I believe in God,  
the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.







I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the  
Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,



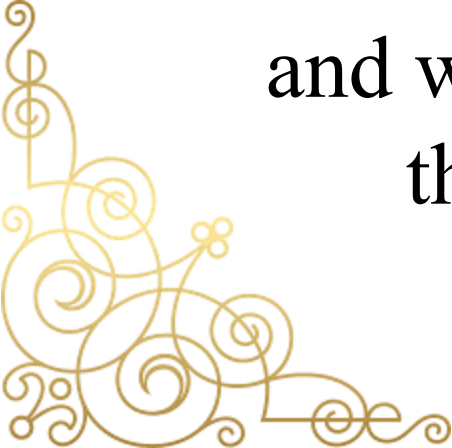



suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died,  
and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.



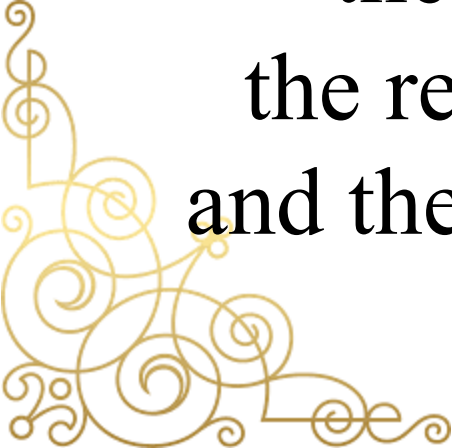


On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand  
of the Father,  
and will come again to judge  
the living and the dead.





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 the PEOPLE

LORD hear our  
prayers



*as we lift up to you our  
joys and our concerns.*



## Pastoral Prayer

# Tithes and Offerings

worship  
through  
giving



# “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH 94

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapted by Gilbert H. Viera, 1978

MUSIC: Geistliche Kirchengesange, 1623; harmonized by Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1906

***Please stand as you are able and comfortable.***

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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# Offertory Prayer

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A wooden cross stands in the lower right portion of the frame, set against a vibrant blue sky filled with soft, white, fluffy clouds. The cross is made of two simple wooden beams. The overall scene is peaceful and spiritual.

# The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895

**Our Father, who art in  
heaven, hallowed be thy  
name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will  
be done on earth as it is in  
heaven.**



# **The Lord's Prayer**

UMH 895

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**



# The Lord's Prayer

UMH 895

**And lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us  
from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and  
the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**



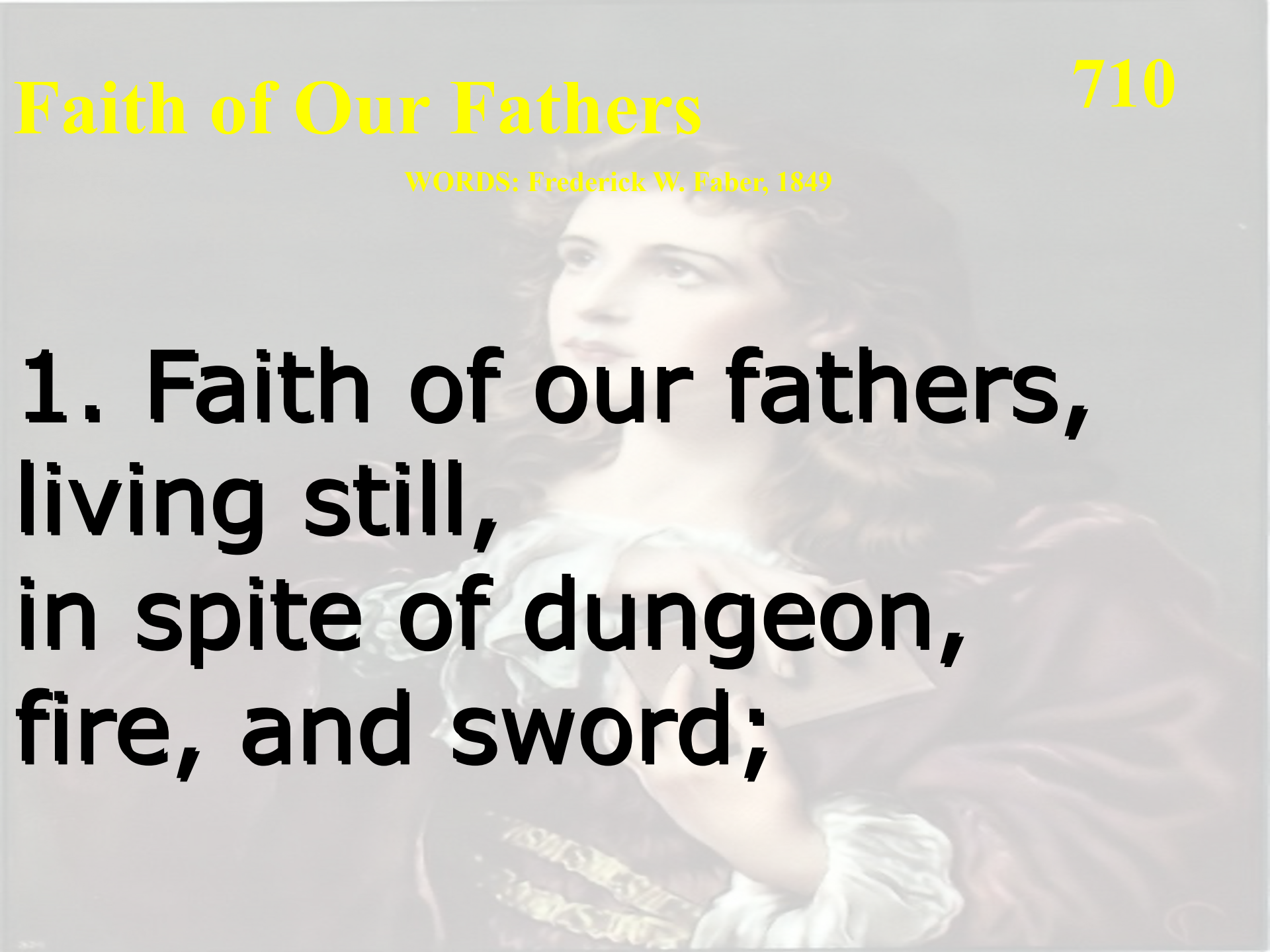


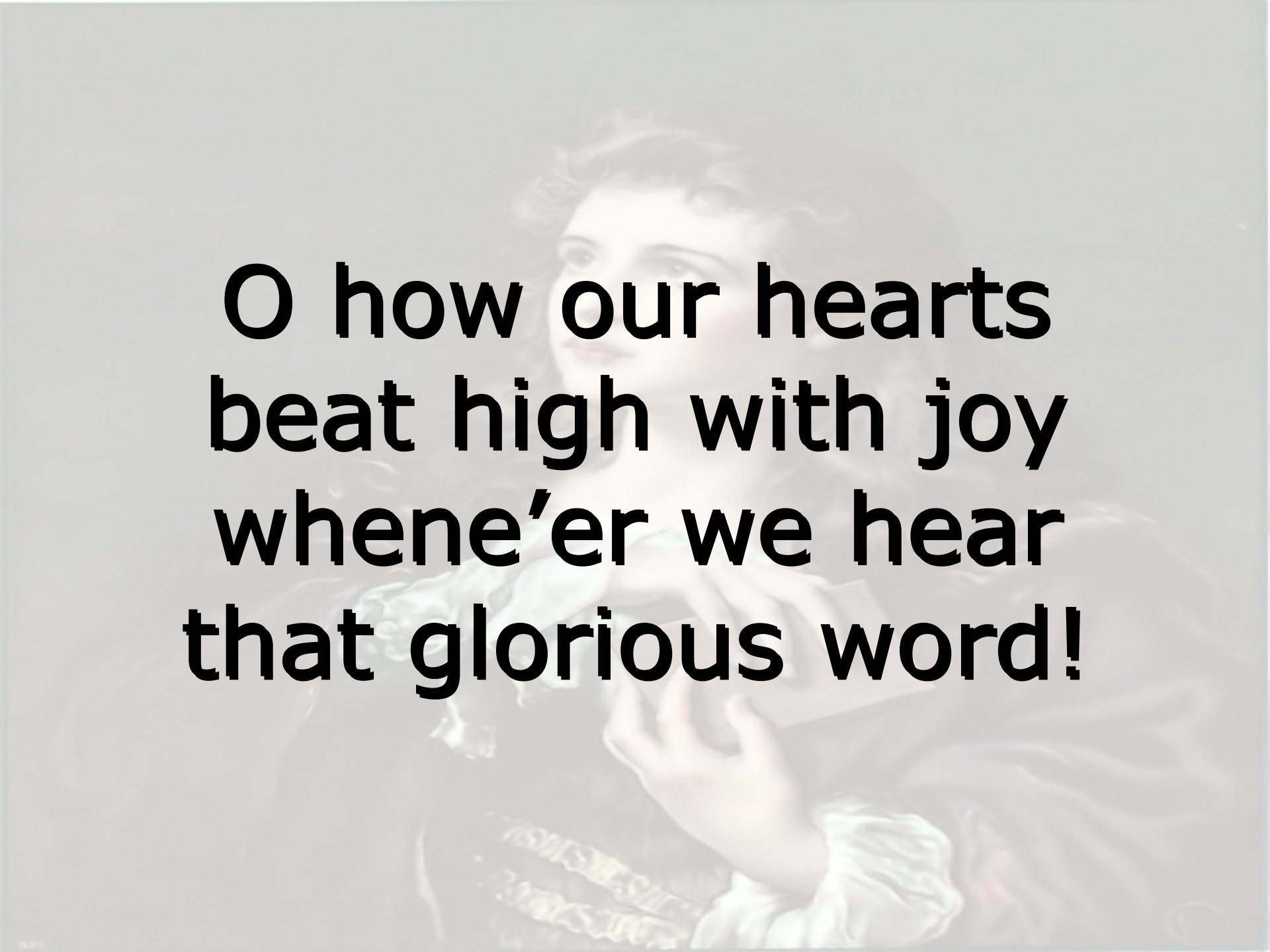
# Faith of Our Fathers

710

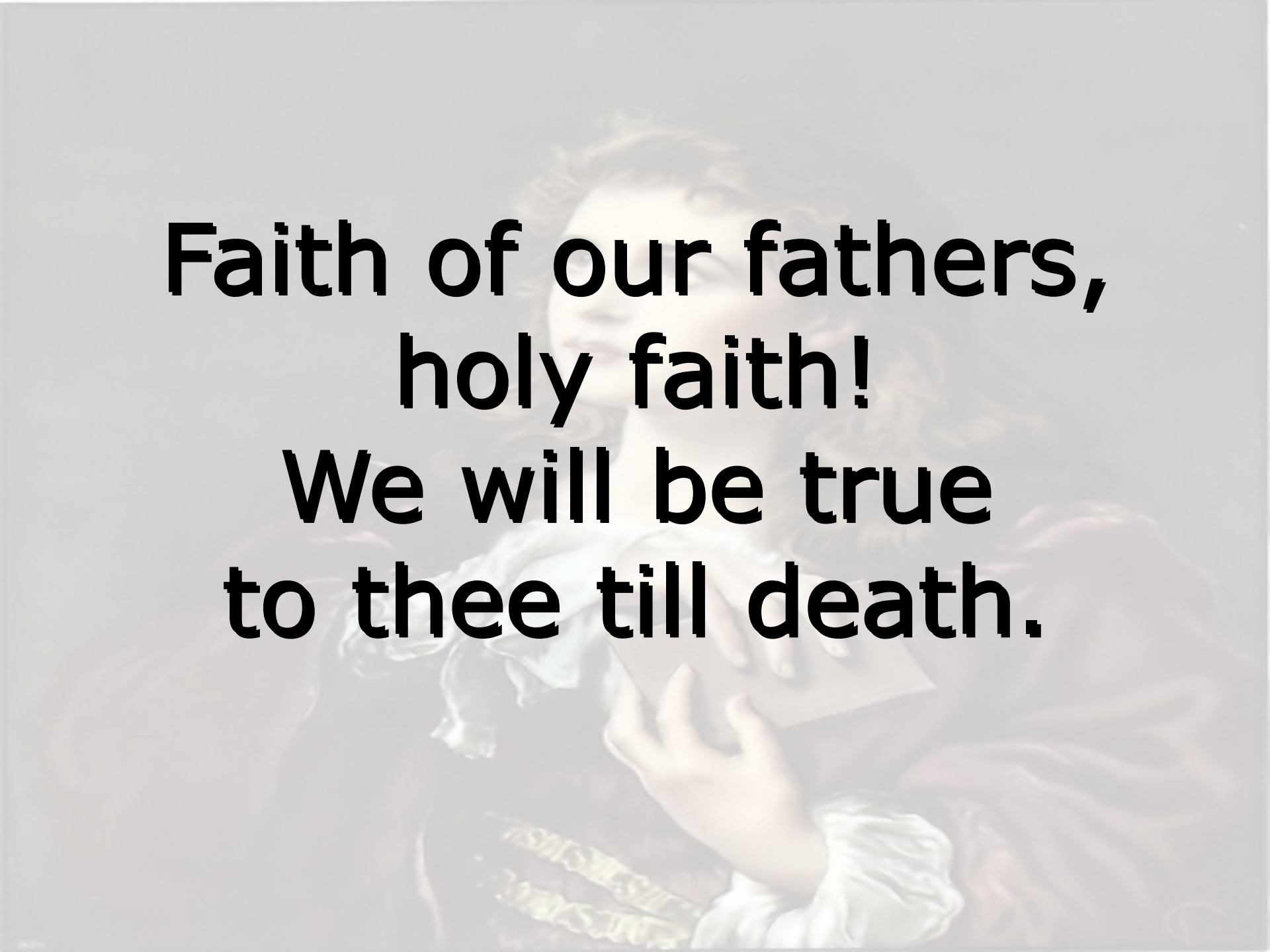
WORDS: Frederick W. Faber, 1849

**1. Faith of our fathers,  
living still,  
in spite of dungeon,  
fire, and sword;**

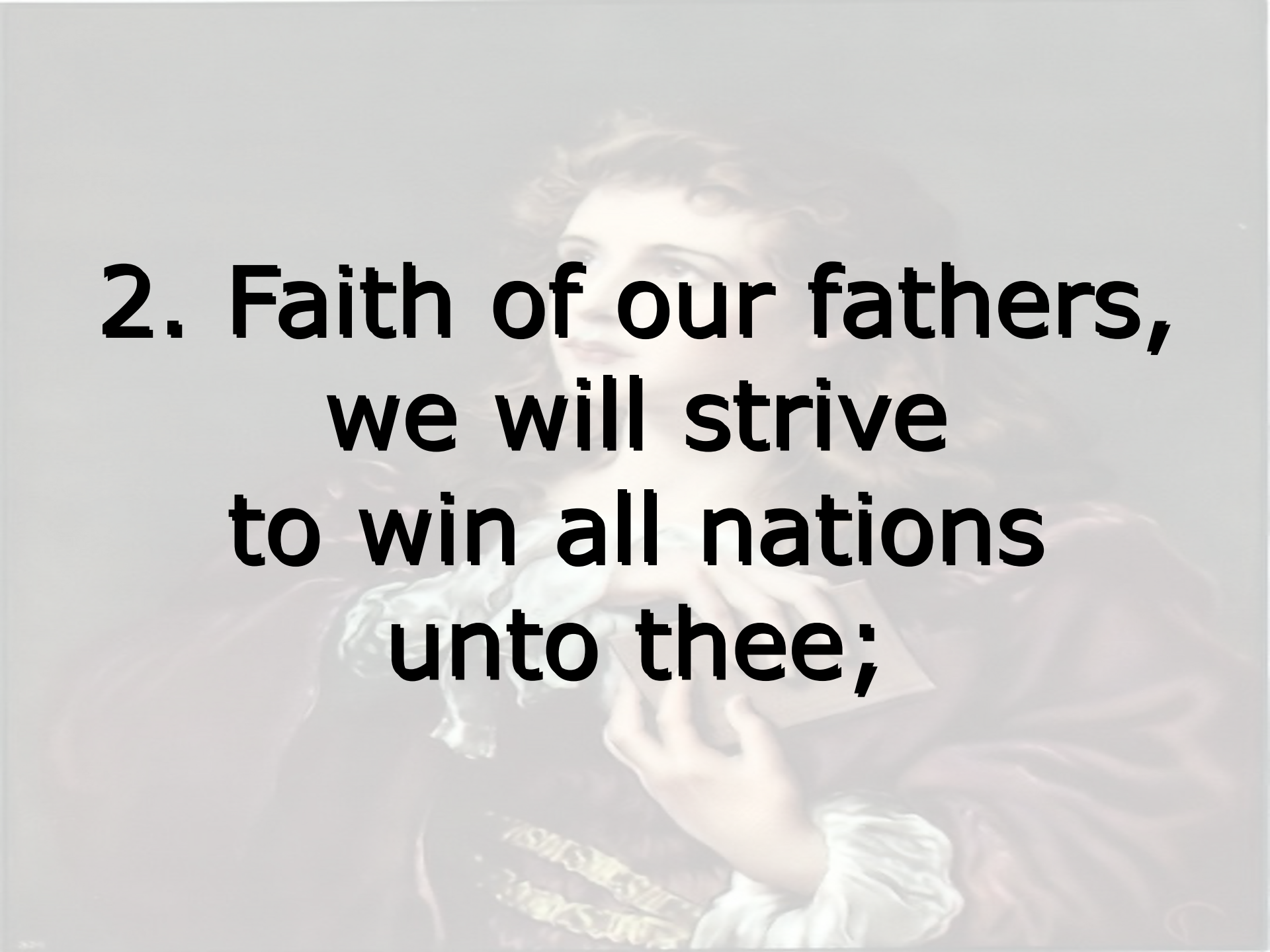




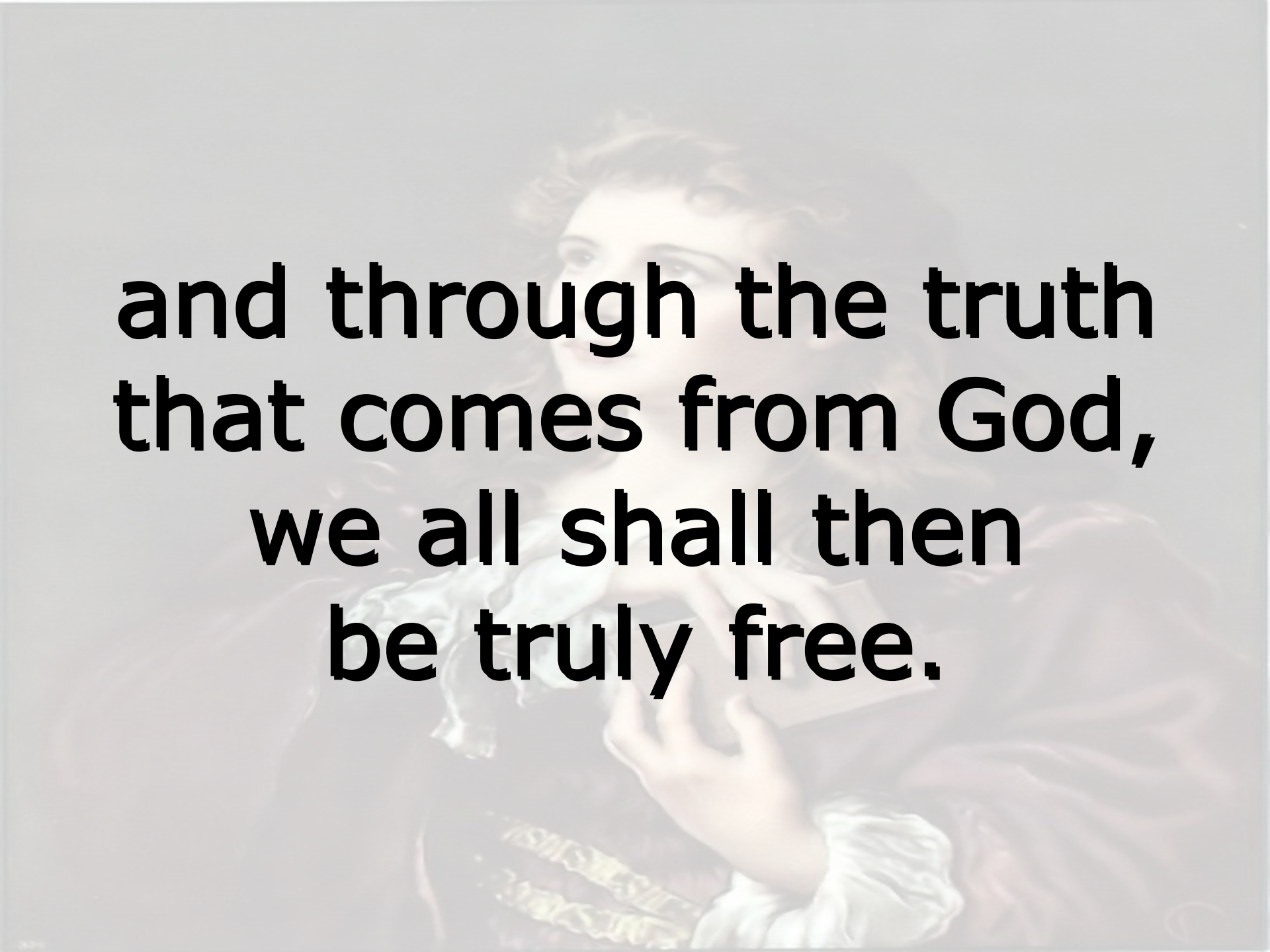
**O how our hearts  
beat high with joy  
whene'er we hear  
that glorious word!**

A faded background image of a woman in historical attire, possibly a nun or scholar, holding a book. She is wearing a dark, long-sleeved garment with a white ruffled collar and cuffs. The text is overlaid on this image.

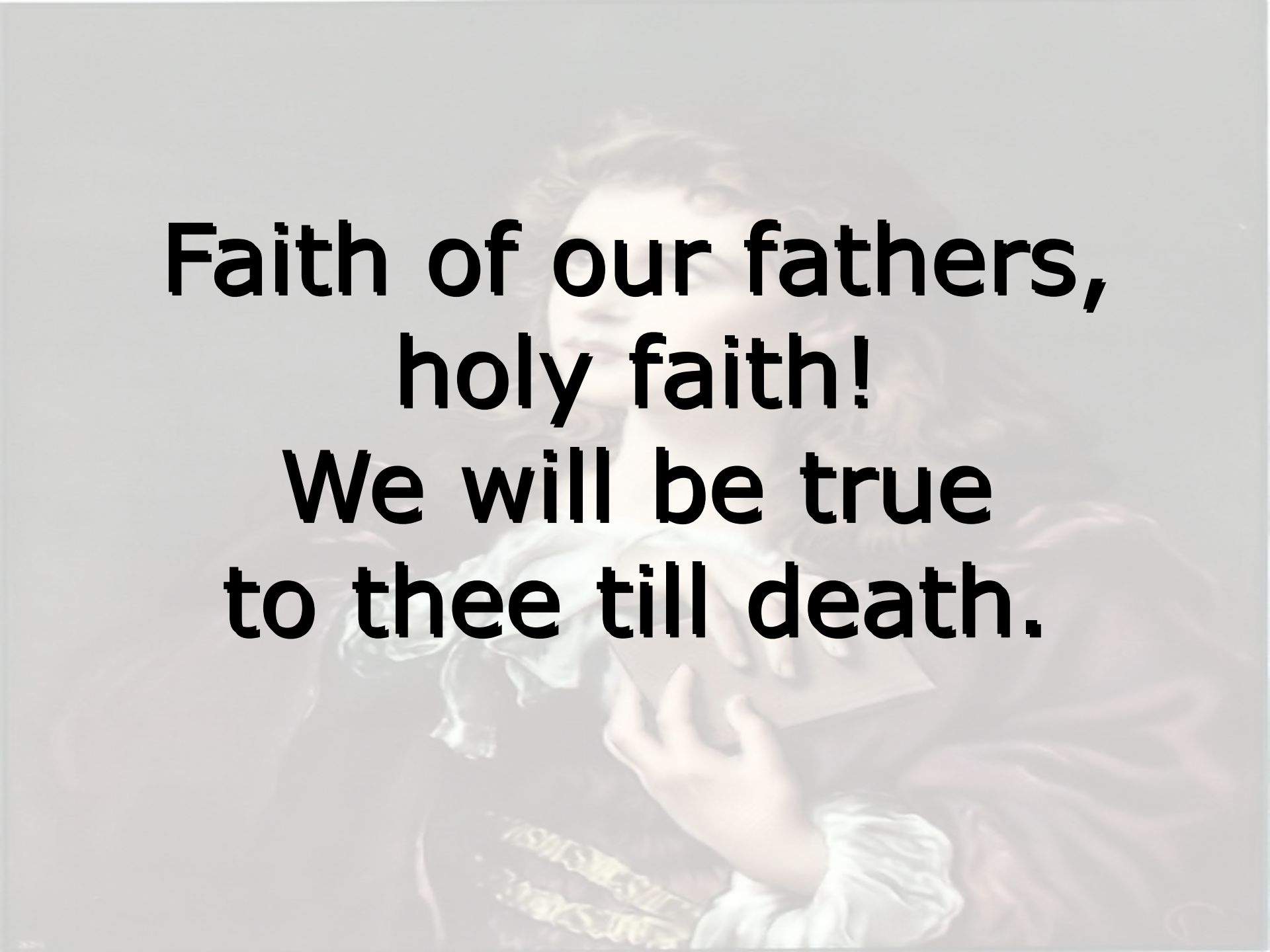
**Faith of our fathers,  
holy faith!  
We will be true  
to thee till death.**



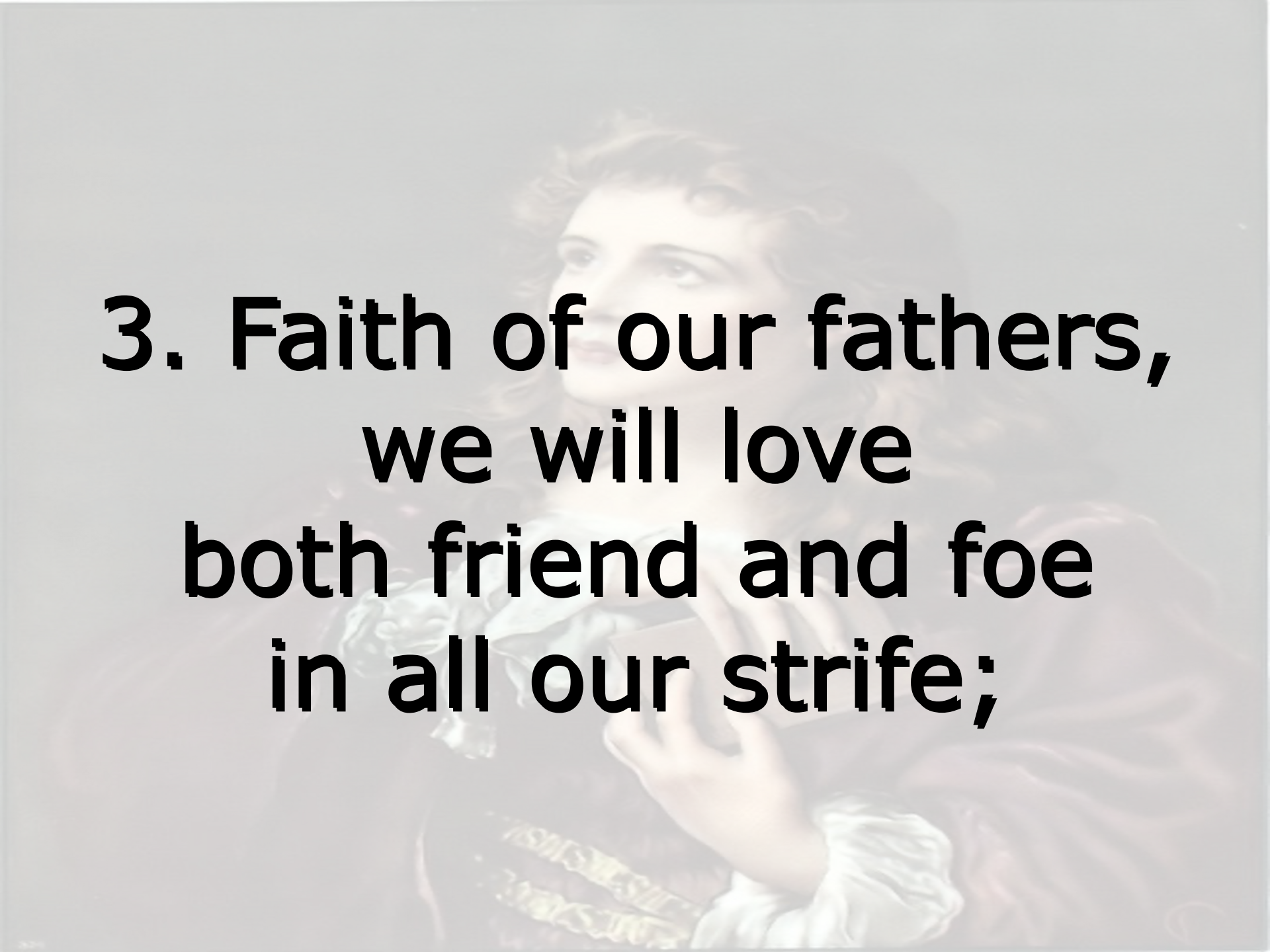
**2. Faith of our fathers,  
we will strive  
to win all nations  
unto thee;**

A faded background image of a woman in historical attire, possibly a nun or scholar, reading a book. She is wearing a dark, long-sleeved garment with a white ruffled collar and cuffs. Her hair is styled in an updo. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, black font.

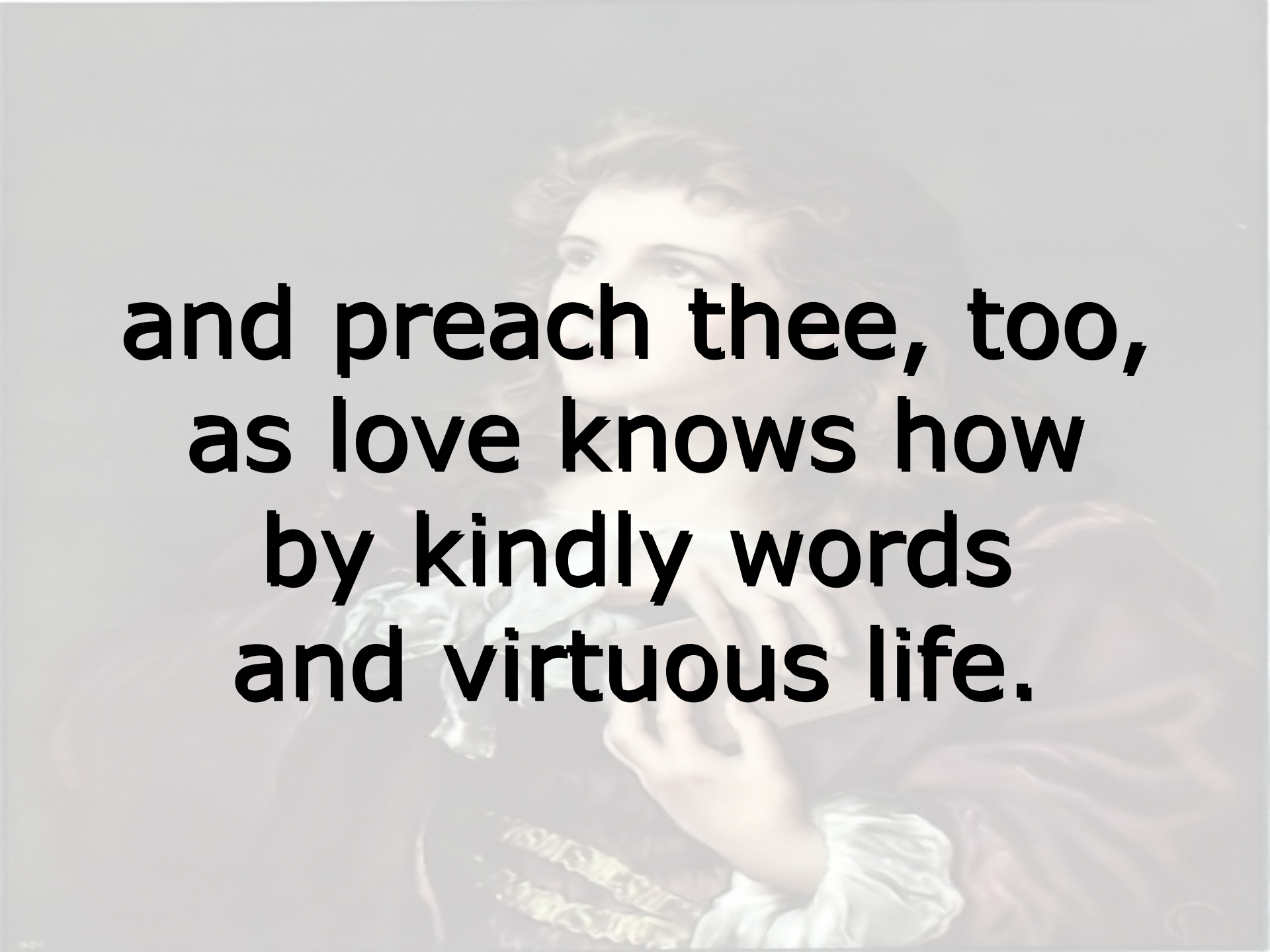
**and through the truth  
that comes from God,  
we all shall then  
be truly free.**

A faded background image of a woman in historical attire, possibly a nun or scholar, holding a book. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be clearly visible over it.

**Faith of our fathers,  
holy faith!  
We will be true  
to thee till death.**

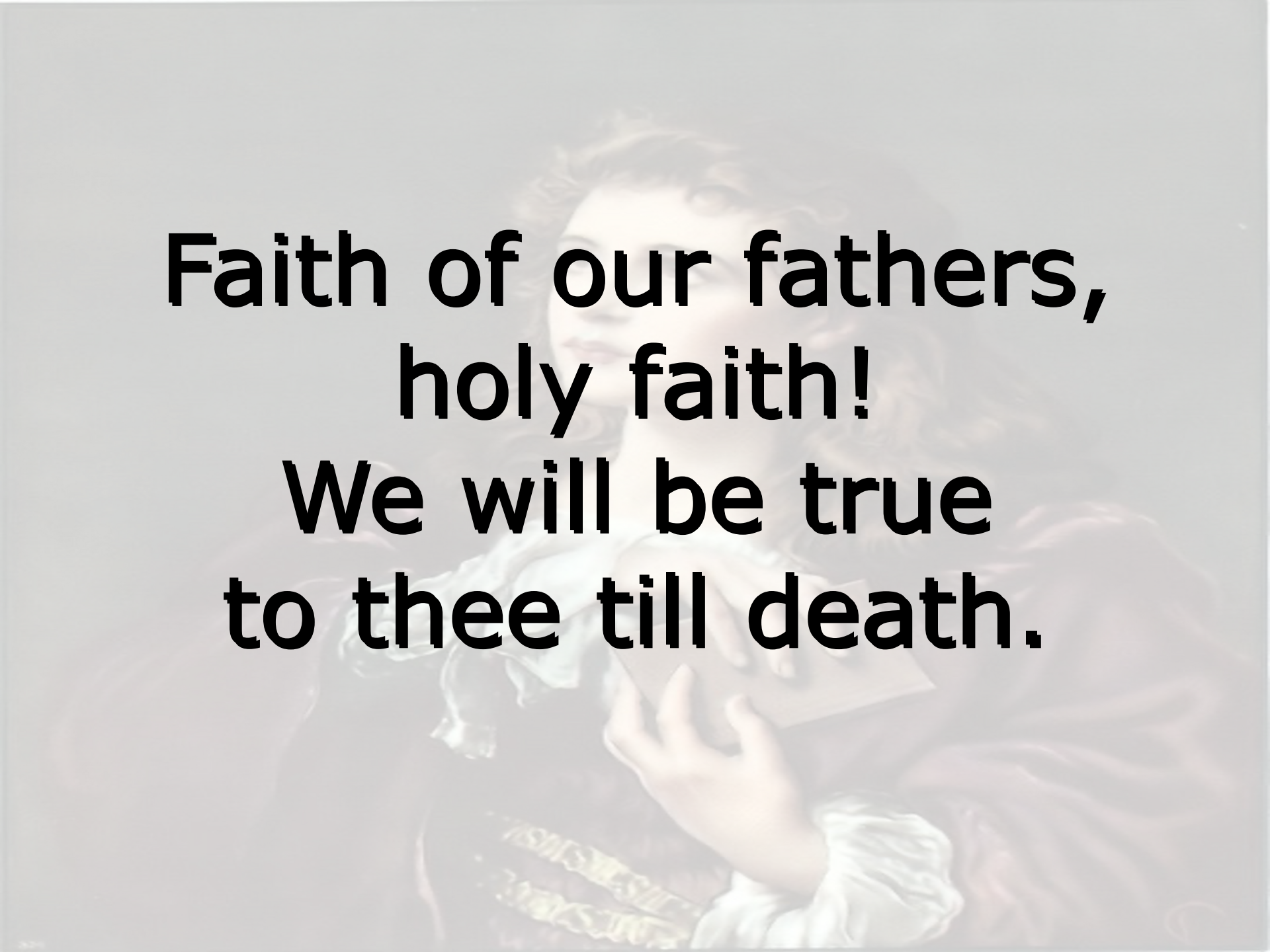


**3. Faith of our fathers,  
we will love  
both friend and foe  
in all our strife;**



**and preach thee, too,  
as love knows how  
by kindly words  
and virtuous life.**



A faded, sepia-toned background image of a woman in historical attire, possibly a nun or scholar, holding a book. The image is centered and serves as a backdrop for the text.

**Faith of our fathers,  
holy faith!  
We will be true  
to thee till death.**



**BENEDICTION**

# “On Eagle’s Wings” UMH 143

WORDS and MUSIC: Michael Joncas, 1979; harmony by Carlton R. Young, 1988.

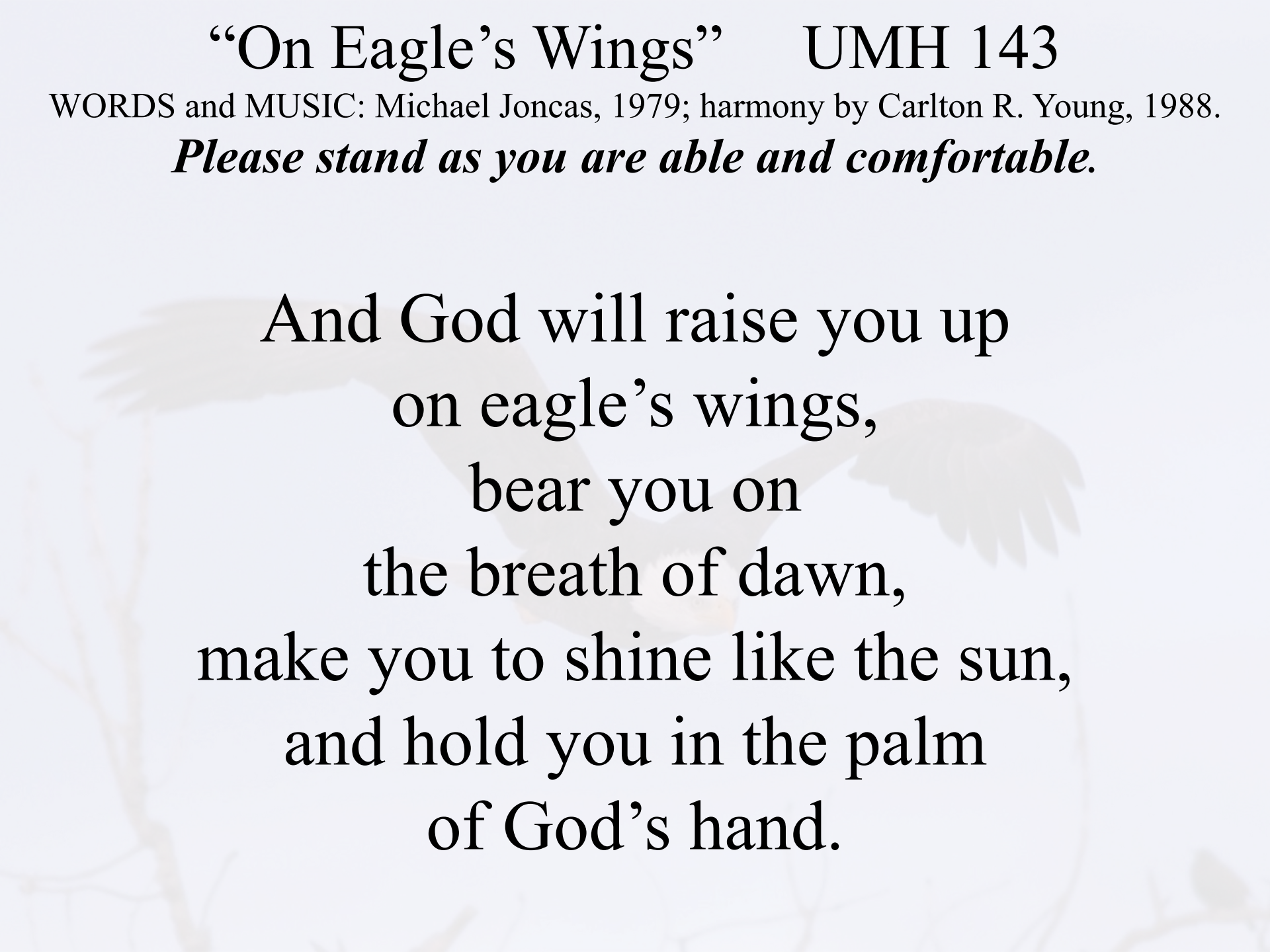
*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



# “On Eagle’s Wings” UMH 143

WORDS and MUSIC: Michael Joncas, 1979; harmony by Carlton R. Young, 1988.

*Please stand as you are able and comfortable.*



And God will raise you up  
on eagle’s wings,  
bear you on  
the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm  
of God’s hand.

# Questions for Reflection

**How will you follow Jesus' call to deny yourself and carry your cross?**

# BLESSING AND BENEDICTION



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

This service has ended, and now  
your service in the world begins!

# Rectortown United Methodist Church

serving God with  
**P**rayer, **A**ction, and **L**ove  
through **S**ervice.