



PRELUDE

Christmas Eve
4pm

December 24th,
2023

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Greeting & Announcements





Bringing In The Light of Christ

Opening Prayer

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture, how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem the waiting people. Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled.



Opening Prayer

Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will bring all peoples and all things into the glory of God's eternal kingdom. The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.



Opening Prayer

But first, let us pray for the world that God so loves, for those who have not heard the good news of God or who do not believe it; for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death; and for the Church in this place and everywhere, that it may be freed from all evil and fear, and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God, in the words that Christ himself taught us.



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.**



“People, Look East” UMH 202

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928

MUSIC: traditional French carol, harmonized by Martin Shaw, 1928

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.



“People, Look East” UMH 202

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928

MUSIC: traditional French carol, harmonized by Martin Shaw, 1928

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

“People, Look East” UMH 202

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928

MUSIC: traditional French carol, harmonized by Martin Shaw, 1928

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.

Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.

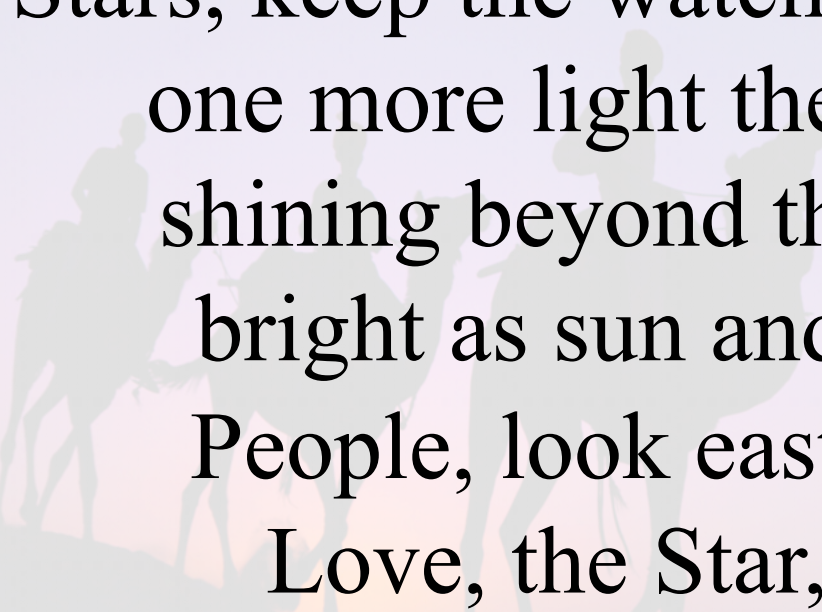
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

“People, Look East” UMH 202

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928

MUSIC: traditional French carol, harmonized by Martin Shaw, 1928

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.



Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Star, is on the way.

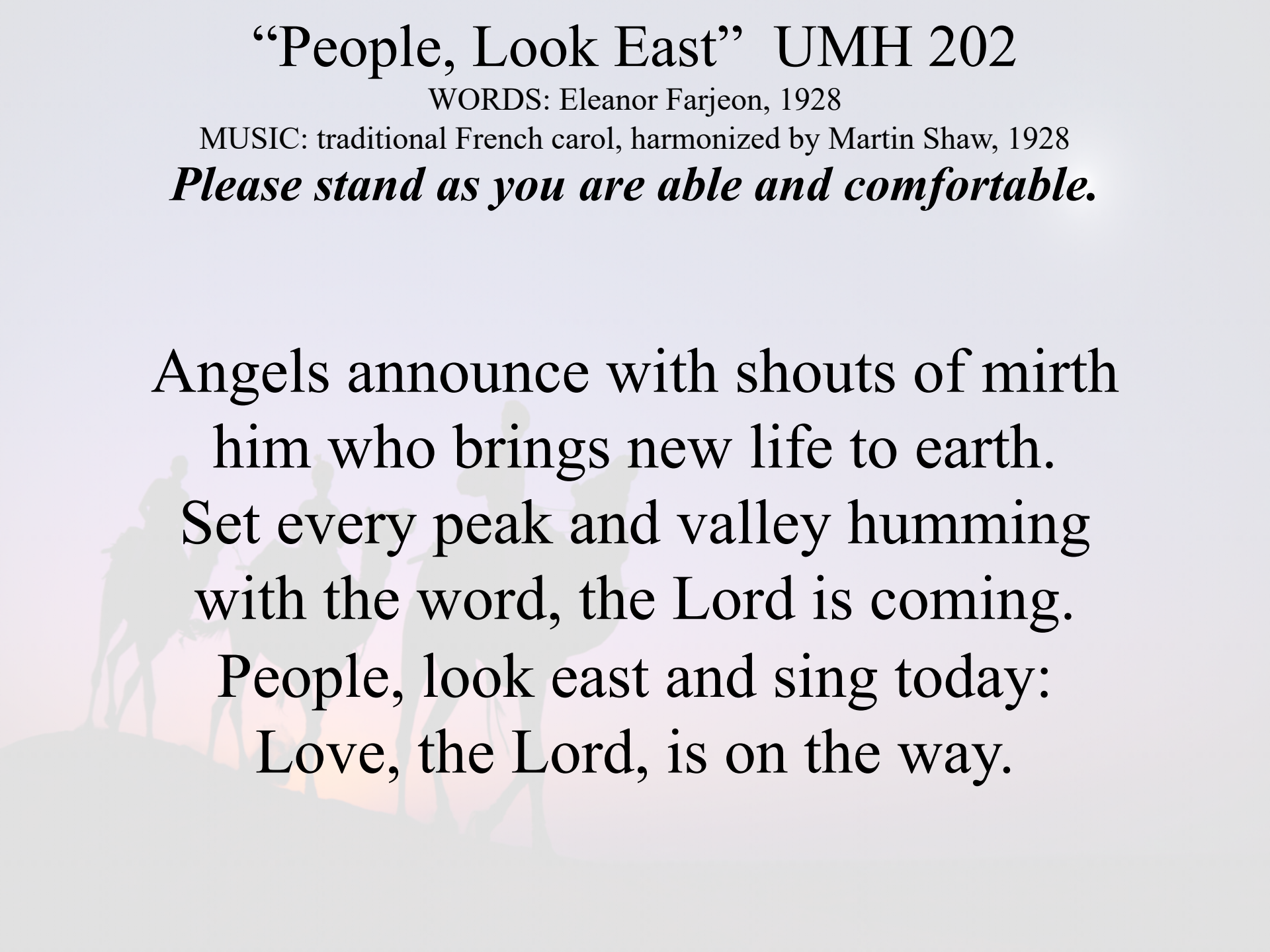
“People, Look East” UMH 202

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928

MUSIC: traditional French carol, harmonized by Martin Shaw, 1928

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.



Confession

Source of joy, you are the author of everlasting
life.

Touch us with the wonder of that holy night
When your Son came into the world.

For we yearn to leave the shadows behind
To walk in darkness no more.

We long to behold your light shining in our lives,
As it shined in the stars above

Confession

On the night love came down at Christmas.

Guide our steps to the manger,

And make us instruments of your justice and peace,

That the gift of your salvation

May reside in every corner of the globe.

We ask this in the name of our corner of the globe.

We ask this in the name of our Wonderful
Counselor,

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Words of Assurance

Like the people of old, we, who
walked in darkness,
Have seen a great light.
We, who dwelt in a land of deep
darkness,
On us light has shined.
Live in this light and you will live
indeed.

Advent Candle Lighting – Carl Carter

The Christ Candle

ADVENTUS (Latin) = COMING (English)

ADVENT = Coming of Christ

1st Sunday
(nearest 30th of Nov)



Prophecy
Candle

2nd Sunday



Bethlehem
Candle

3rd Sunday



Shepherd's
Candle

4th Sunday



Angel's
Candle

Christmas Eve
or Christmas Day



Christ
Candle

Advent Candle Reading – Reader 1

To a people longing for hope and yearning for deliverance, the prophet Isaiah declared, The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Advent Candle Reading – Reader 2

Tonight, we come seeking hope, peace, joy,
and love, and we find these things in a
child. God made flesh as a baby in a
manger. A baby who is both the beginning
and the end of our salvation, who dwells
with us even now, our Emmanuel, God with
us.

Advent Candle Reading - All

**We live as people in the in-between
who celebrate the arrival of the
Light that shines in lost and broken
places as we wait for the day when
we will live in the fullness of God's
kingdom.**

Advent Candle Reading – Reader 1

We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, the love that transforms us, and Jesus Christ, our wondrous Light. May the Light burning in our hearts guide us, comfort us, protect us, and tend us in all seasons and circumstances, reminding us that day and night, in the light and in the darkness, God is with us. Our salvation has come! Amen.

Giving our Gifts & Tithes



OFFERING
AN ACT OF WORSHIP



First Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 40: 1- 8

To God's people in exile in a faraway land, the prophet Isaiah announces good news: God is coming back and bringing the exiles home!

¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³ A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD ; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶ A voice says, “Cry out.” And I said, “What shall I cry?” “All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.

⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.”

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” UMH 211

WORDS: 9th century Latin MUSIC: 15th century French

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” UMH 211

WORDS: 9th century Latin MUSIC: 15th century French

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” UMH 211

WORDS: 9th century Latin MUSIC: 15th century French

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

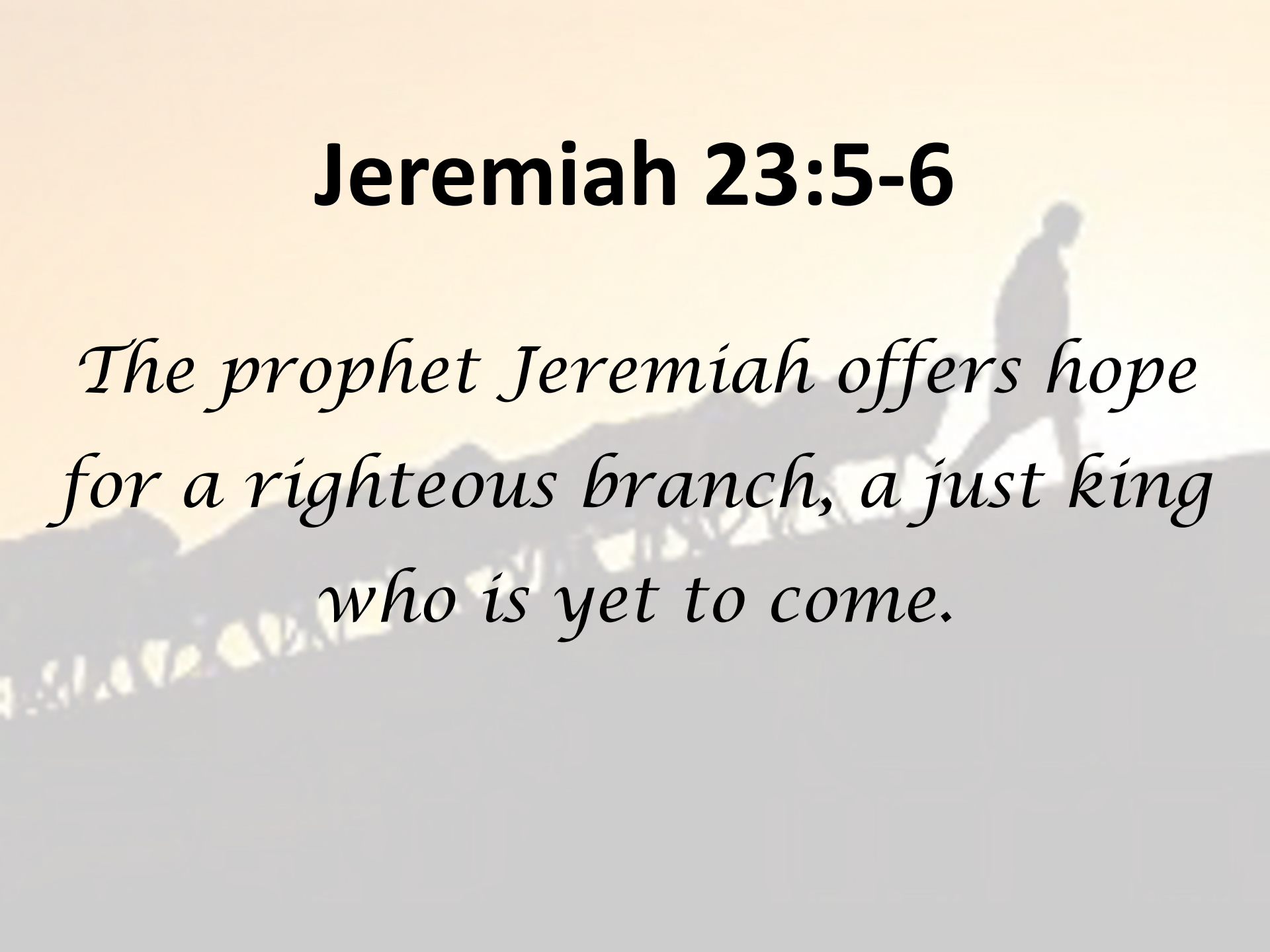
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.

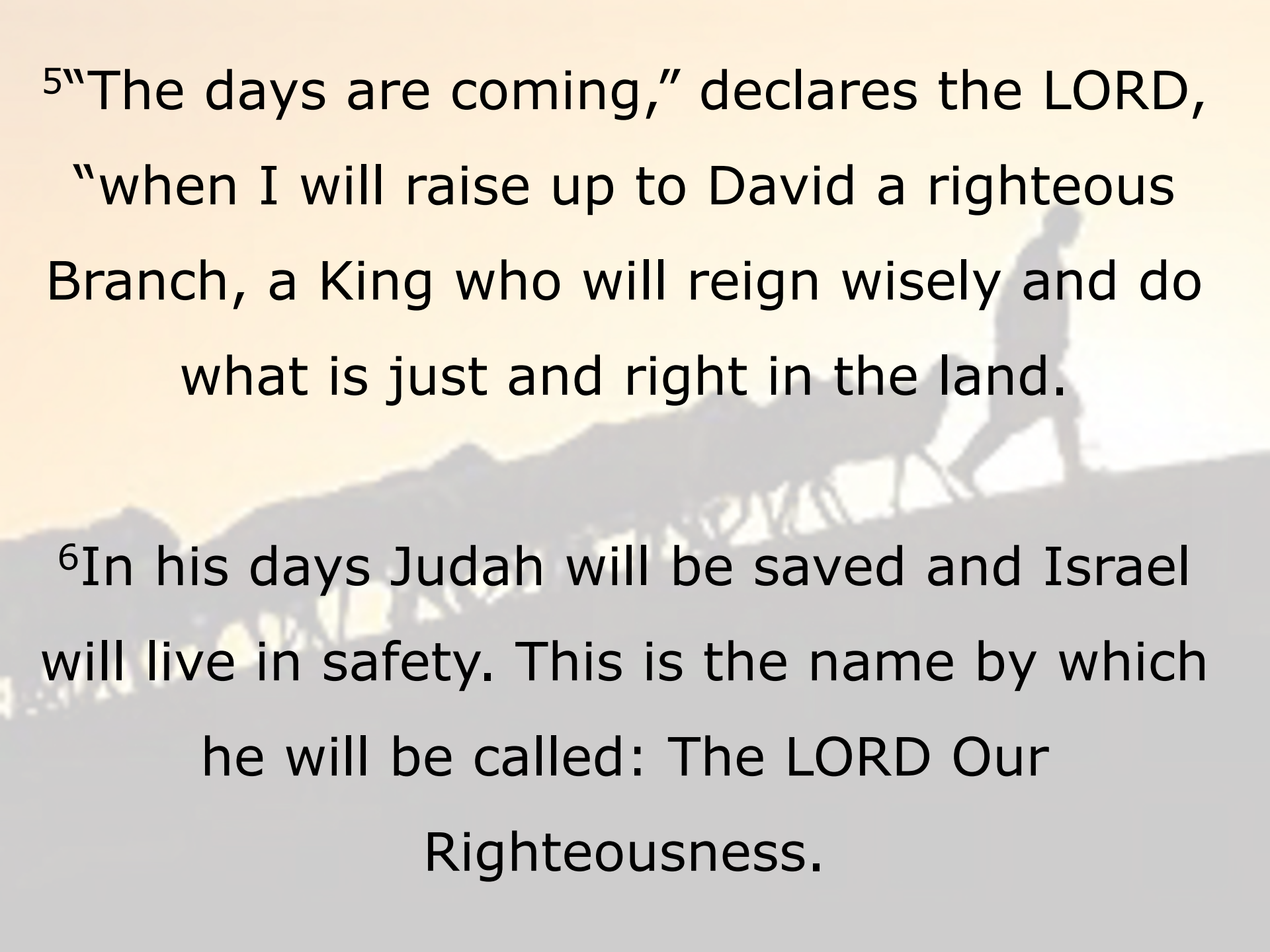


Second Scripture Lesson

Jeremiah 23:5-6

*The prophet Jeremiah offers hope
for a righteous branch, a just king
who is yet to come.*

A faint, artistic background image showing a silhouette of a person walking along a path that leads towards a bright, hazy horizon. The path is composed of light-colored stones or steps, and the overall scene conveys a sense of journey and hope.

A faint, artistic background image showing the silhouette of a person riding a camel across a desert landscape at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, orange glow. The camel and rider are in profile, moving from right to left. The overall tone is peaceful and hopeful.

⁵“The days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will raise up to David a righteous
Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do
what is just and right in the land.

⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel
will live in safety. This is the name by which
he will be called: The LORD Our
Righteousness.

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” UMH 220

WORDS: James Montgomery, 1816 MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1867

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.



“Angels from the Realms of Glory” UMH 220

WORDS: James Montgomery, 1816 MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1867

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” UMH 220

WORDS: James Montgomery, 1816 MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1867

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” UMH 220

WORDS: James Montgomery, 1816 MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1867

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” UMH 220

WORDS: James Montgomery, 1816 MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1867

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Saints, before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:

Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.



Third Scripture Lesson

A person is riding a donkey through a desert landscape. The person is wearing a purple robe and a head covering. The donkey is dark-colored. The background shows a rocky cliff on the left, some sparse vegetation, and a bright, hazy sky. The overall scene is peaceful and evocative of a journey in a biblical setting.

Zechariah 9: 9 -10

*To a nation grown weary of war and weapons,
God promises a king who will establish a reign
of peace.*

⁹ Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout,
Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to
you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding
on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ I will take away the chariots from Ephraim
and the warhorses from Jerusalem, and the
battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim
peace to the nations. His rule will extend from
sea to sea and from the River to the ends of
the earth.

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” UMH 196

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744 MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.



“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” UMH 196

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744 MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” UMH 196

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744 MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.



Fourth Scripture Lesson



Haggai 2: 6-9

The prophet Haggai promises to God's people a temple even more glorious than the temple of old.

⁶ “This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land.

⁷ I will shake all nations, and what is desired by all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,’ says the LORD Almighty.

⁸ ‘The silver is mine and the gold is mine,’ declares the LORD Almighty.

⁹ ‘The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,’ says the LORD Almighty. ‘And in this place I will grant peace,’ declares the LORD Almighty.”

“The First Noel” UMH 245

WORDS and MUSIC: Traditional English carol; harmonies from *Christmas Carols*, 1871

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.



“The First Noel” UMH 245

WORDS and MUSIC: Traditional English carol; harmonies from *Christmas Carols*, 1871

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

“The First Noel” UMH 245

WORDS and MUSIC: Traditional English carol; harmonies from *Christmas Carols*, 1871

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east,
beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

“The First Noel” UMH 245

WORDS and MUSIC: Traditional English carol; harmonies from *Christmas Carols*, 1871

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

And by the light of that same
star Wise Men came
from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

“The First Noel” UMH 245

WORDS and MUSIC: Traditional English carol; harmonies from *Christmas Carols*, 1871

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

This star drew nigh to the north-west,
o'er Bethlehem
it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

“The First Noel” UMH 245

WORDS and MUSIC: Traditional English carol; harmonies from *Christmas Carols*, 1871

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Then entered in those Wise Men three,
full reverently
upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.



Fifth Scripture Lesson



Isaiah 35: 1-6

The prophet Isaiah announces the renewal both of the land and of God's people on the coming day of redemption.

¹ The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the
crocus,

² it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly
and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be
given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor
of our God.

³ Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees
that give way;

⁴ say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you."

⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

“Joy to the World” UMH 246

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719 MUSIC: arrangement from G.F. Handel, 1741

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.



“Joy to the World” UMH 246

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719 MUSIC: arrangement from G.F. Handel, 1741

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

let every heart

prepare him room,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven, and heaven,

and nature sing.

“Joy to the World” UMH 246

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719 MUSIC: arrangement from G.F. Handel, 1741

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Let all their songs employ;

while fields and floods,

rocks, hills and plains

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat, repeat,

the sounding joy.

“Joy to the World” UMH 246

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719 MUSIC: arrangement from G.F. Handel, 1741

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make
his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as,
the curse is found.

“Joy to the World” UMH 246

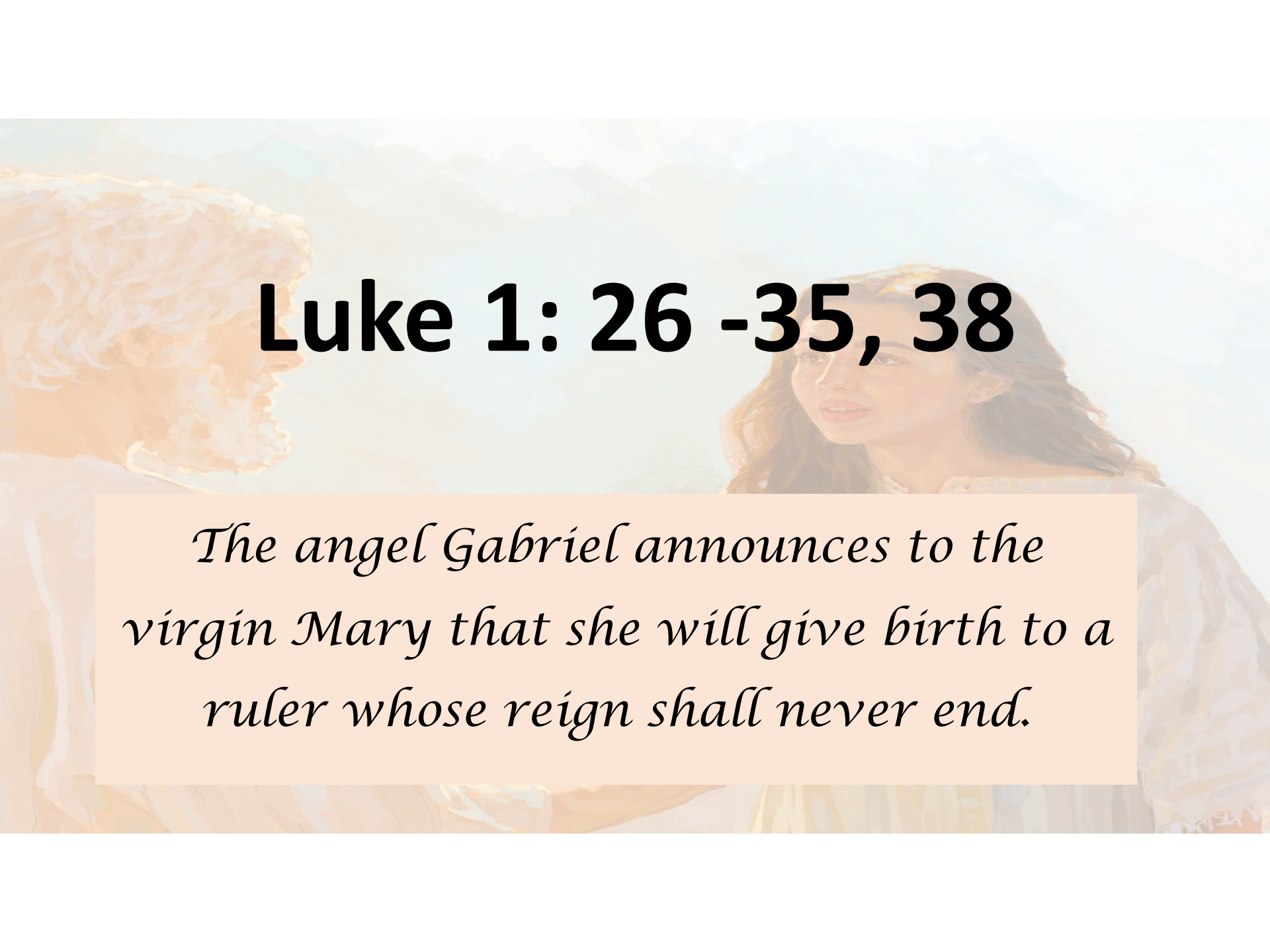
WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719 MUSIC: arrangement from G.F. Handel, 1741

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of
his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders,
of his love.

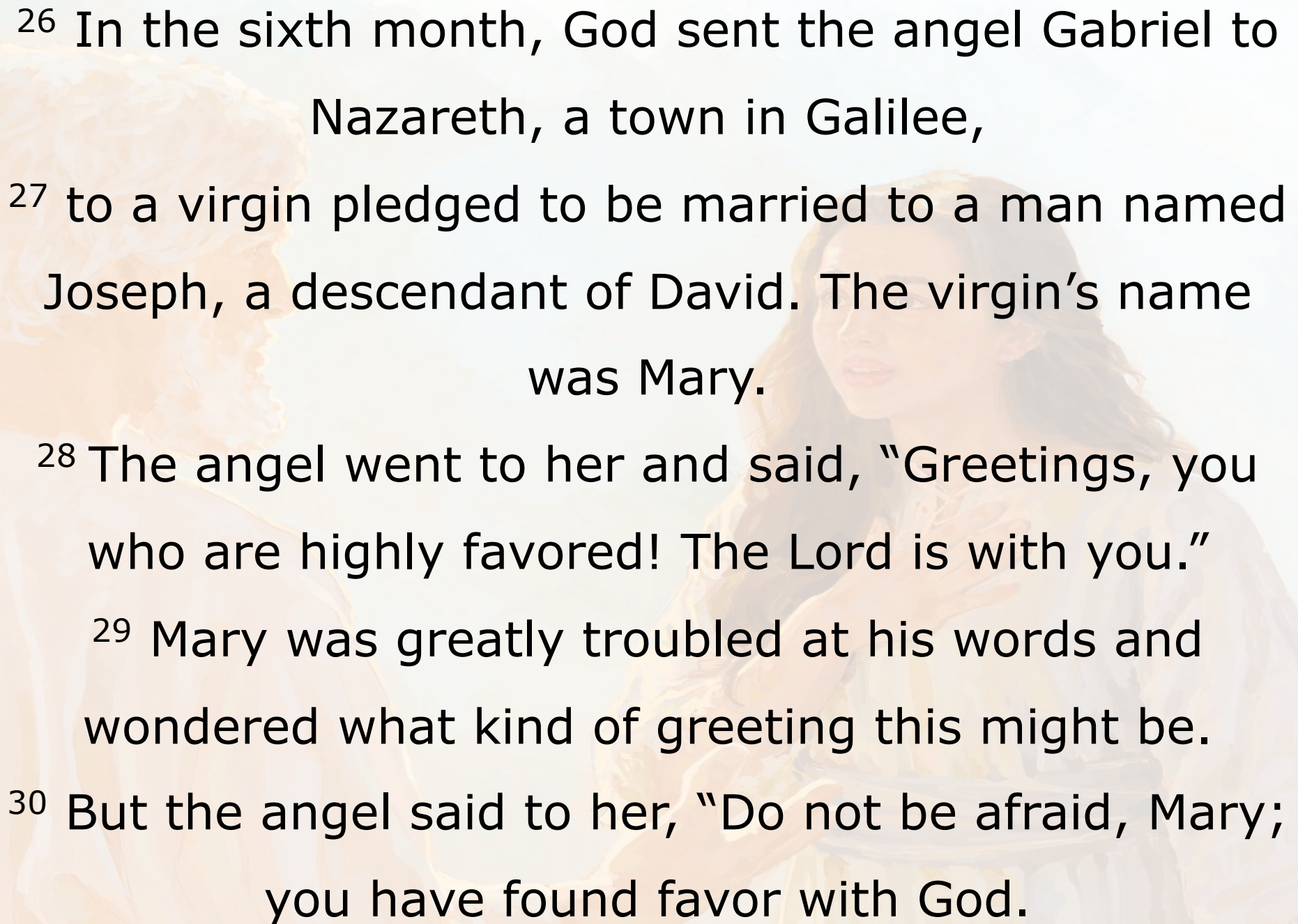


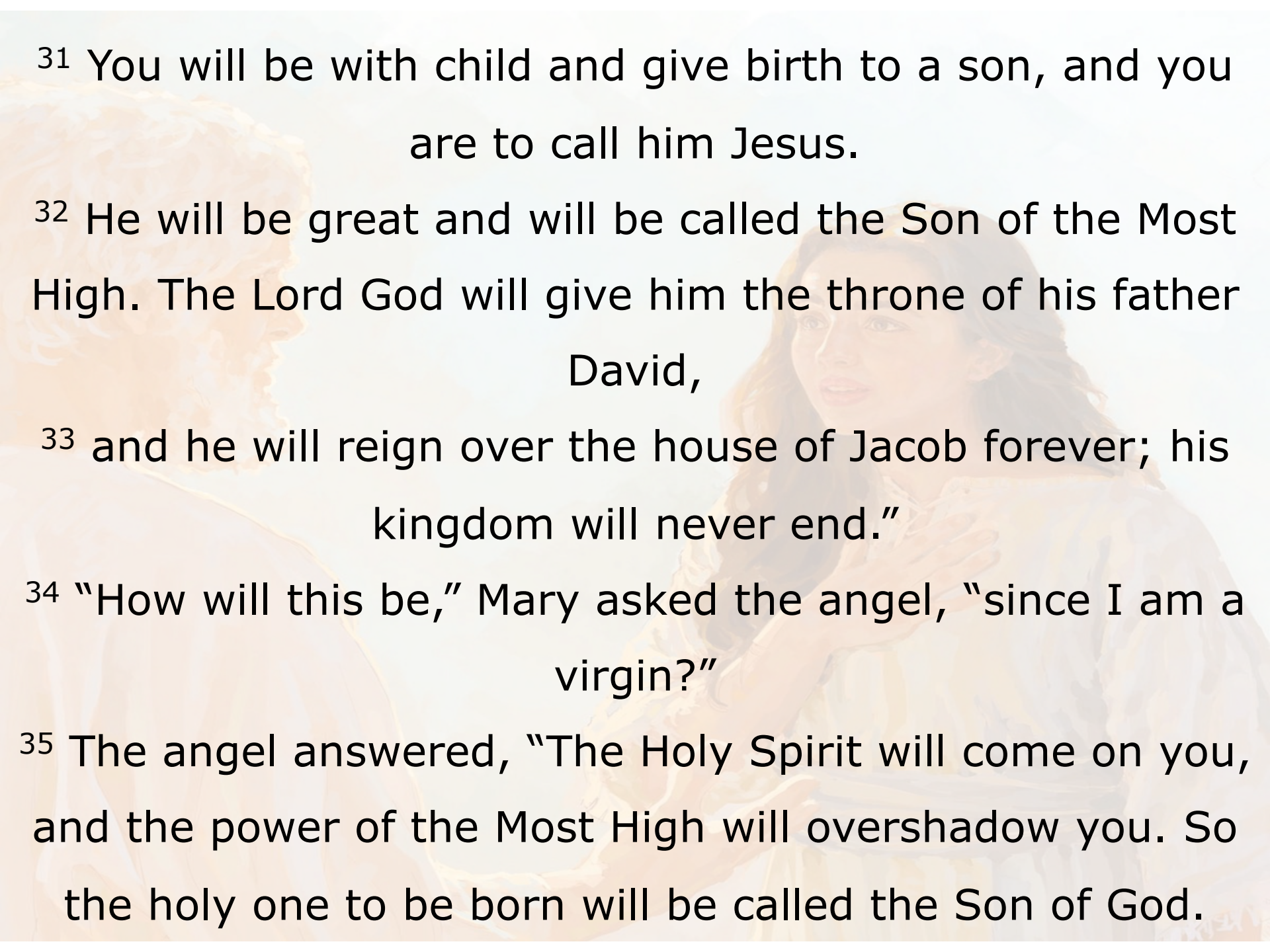
Sixth Scripture Lesson

The background of the slide is a soft, painterly illustration of the Annunciation. On the left, the angel Gabriel is depicted in profile, facing right, with curly hair and a halo. On the right, the virgin Mary is shown from the chest up, looking towards Gabriel with a serene expression. The background features rolling hills and a bright, hazy sky. The overall color palette is warm and ethereal, with soft blues, greens, and yellows.

Luke 1: 26 -35, 38

The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to a ruler whose reign shall never end.

- 
- A faint, artistic background image depicting the Annunciation. On the left, the Angel Gabriel is shown in profile, wearing a blue robe and holding a scroll. On the right, the Virgin Mary is shown from the chest up, wearing a blue mantle over a red gown, with her hands clasped in prayer. The background is a soft, warm orange-gold color.
- ²⁶ In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to
Nazareth, a town in Galilee,
- ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named
Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name
was Mary.
- ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you
who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."
- ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and
wondered what kind of greeting this might be.
- ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary;
you have found favor with God.

A soft, painterly background image depicting the Annunciation. On the left, the profile of the Virgin Mary is shown in a light, ethereal style. On the right, the Angel Gabriel is depicted with long, flowing hair and a serene expression, wearing a blue robe. The overall tone is peaceful and divine.

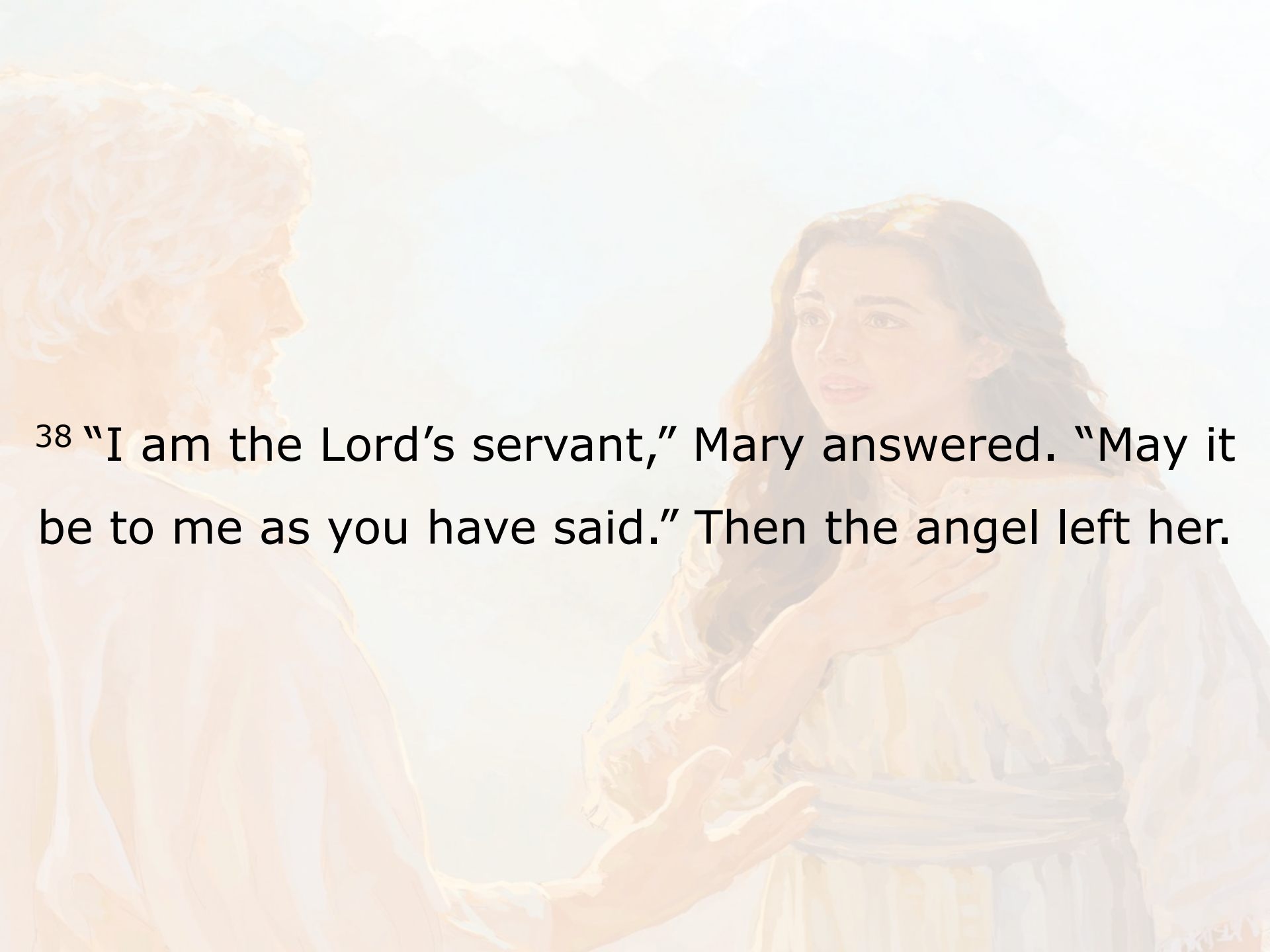
³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you
are to call him Jesus.

³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most
High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father
David,

³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his
kingdom will never end.”

³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a
virgin?”

³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So
the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

An artistic illustration of the Annunciation. On the left, an angel with long, curly white hair and a beard is shown in profile, wearing a white robe. He is gesturing with his right hand towards Mary. On the right, Mary is depicted with long, dark, wavy hair, wearing a yellow robe with a blue sash. She has a surprised expression on her face. The background features soft, rolling mountains under a pale, hazy sky. The overall style is soft and painterly, with a warm, golden light.

³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

“What Child Is This” UMH 219

WORDS: William C. Dix, 1865 MUSIC: 16th century English melody

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.



“What Child Is This” UMH 219

WORDS: William C. Dix, 1865 MUSIC: 16th century English melody

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

What child is this who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

“What Child Is This” UMH 219

WORDS: William C. Dix, 1865 MUSIC: 16th century English melody

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

“What Child Is This” UMH 219

WORDS: William C. Dix, 1865 MUSIC: 16th century English melody

Please stand as you are able and comfortable.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

A background image featuring a lit candle, a chalice, an open book, and bread, all set against a light, textured background.

A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE III


THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

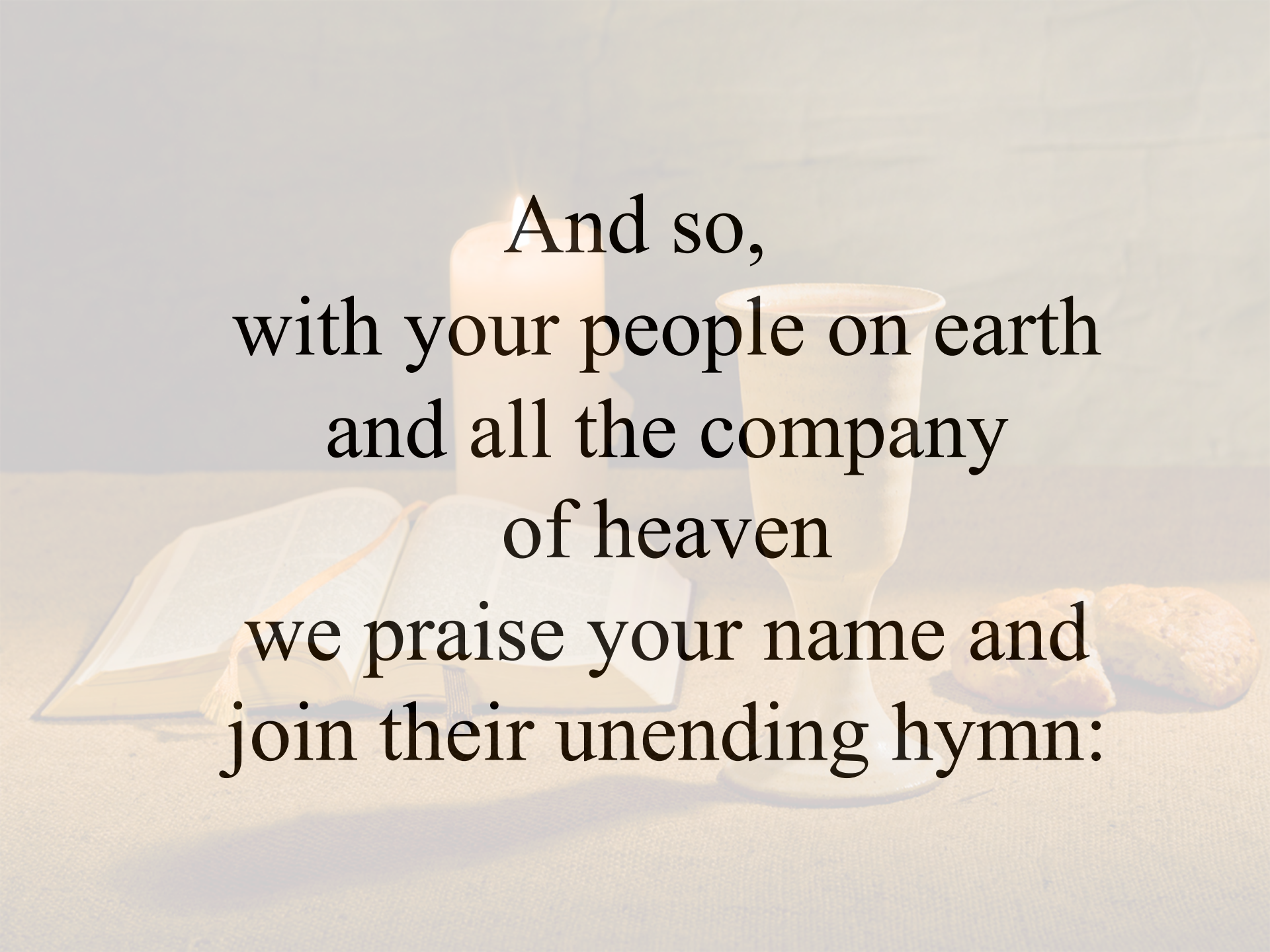
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

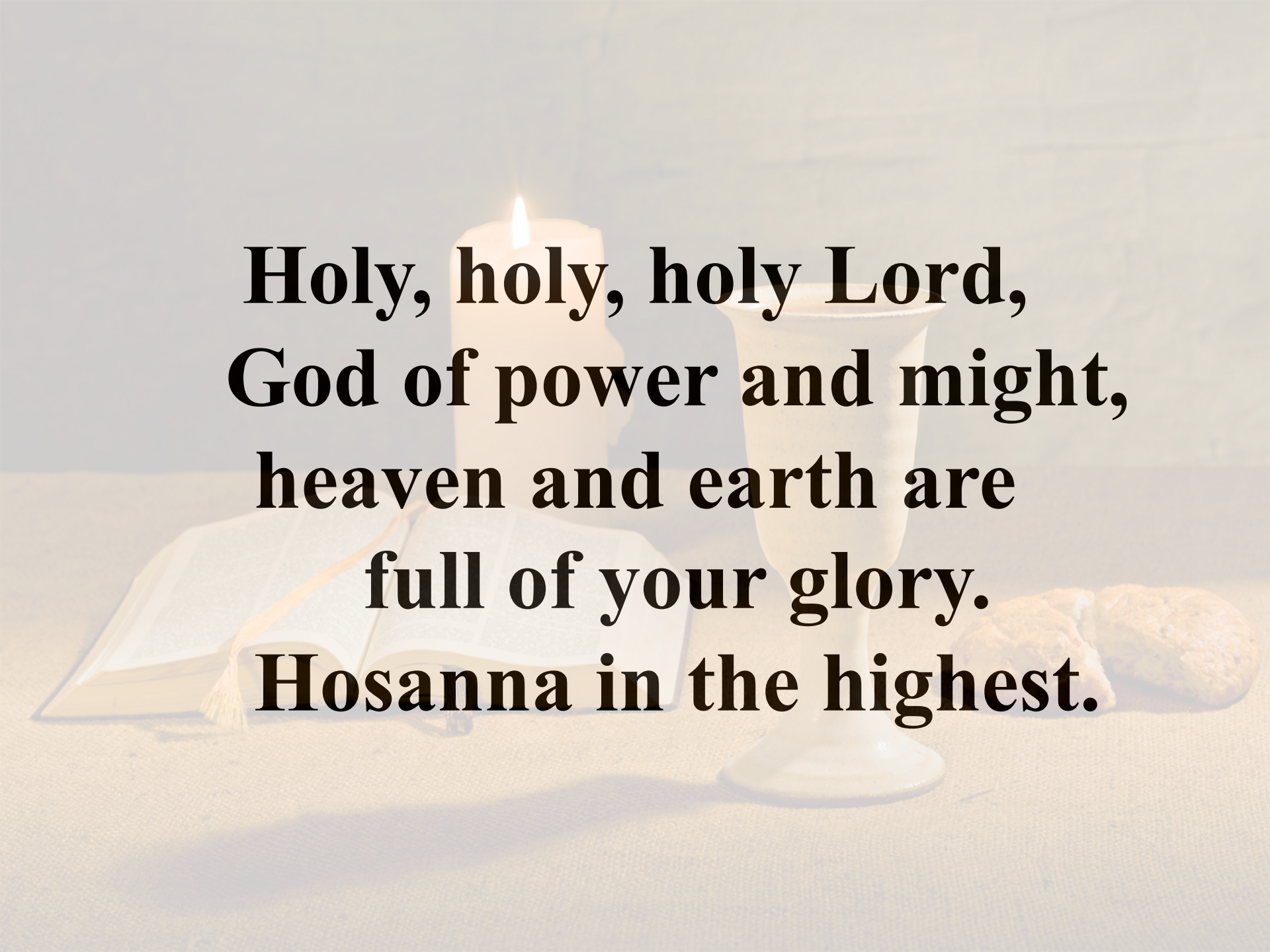
A still life composition featuring a lit candle, an open book, a chalice, and bread. The candle is lit, casting a warm glow. The open book has a yellow bookmark. The chalice is a tall, slender glass. The bread is a small, round loaf. The background is a textured, light-colored surface.

Let us give thanks
to the Lord our God.

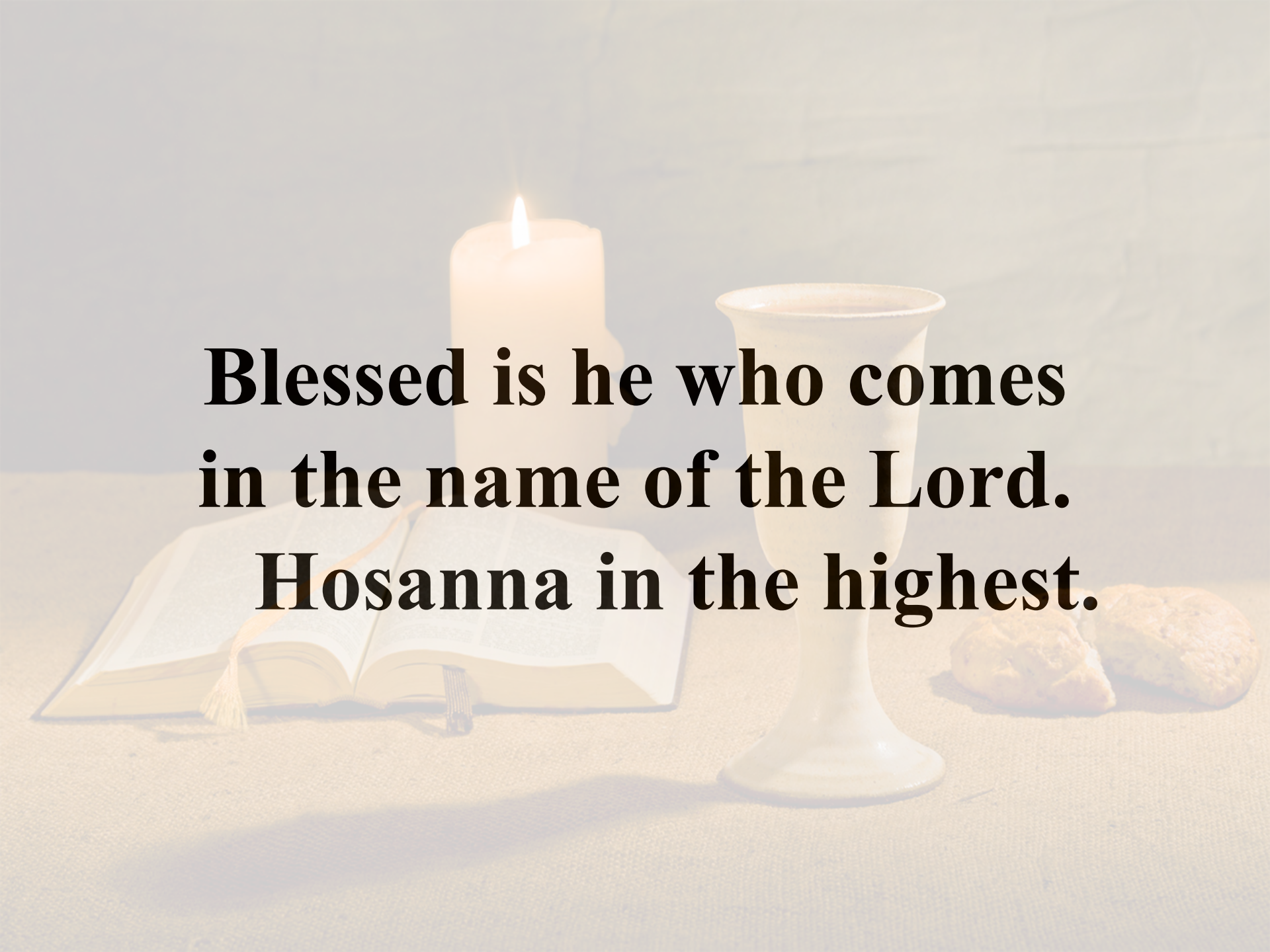
**It is right to give our
thanks and praise.**

A still life photograph of a lit candle, a chalice, an open book, and bread, likely representing the Eucharist. The candle is lit, casting a warm glow. The chalice is a tall, slender glass cup. The book is open, showing text. The bread is a small, round loaf. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

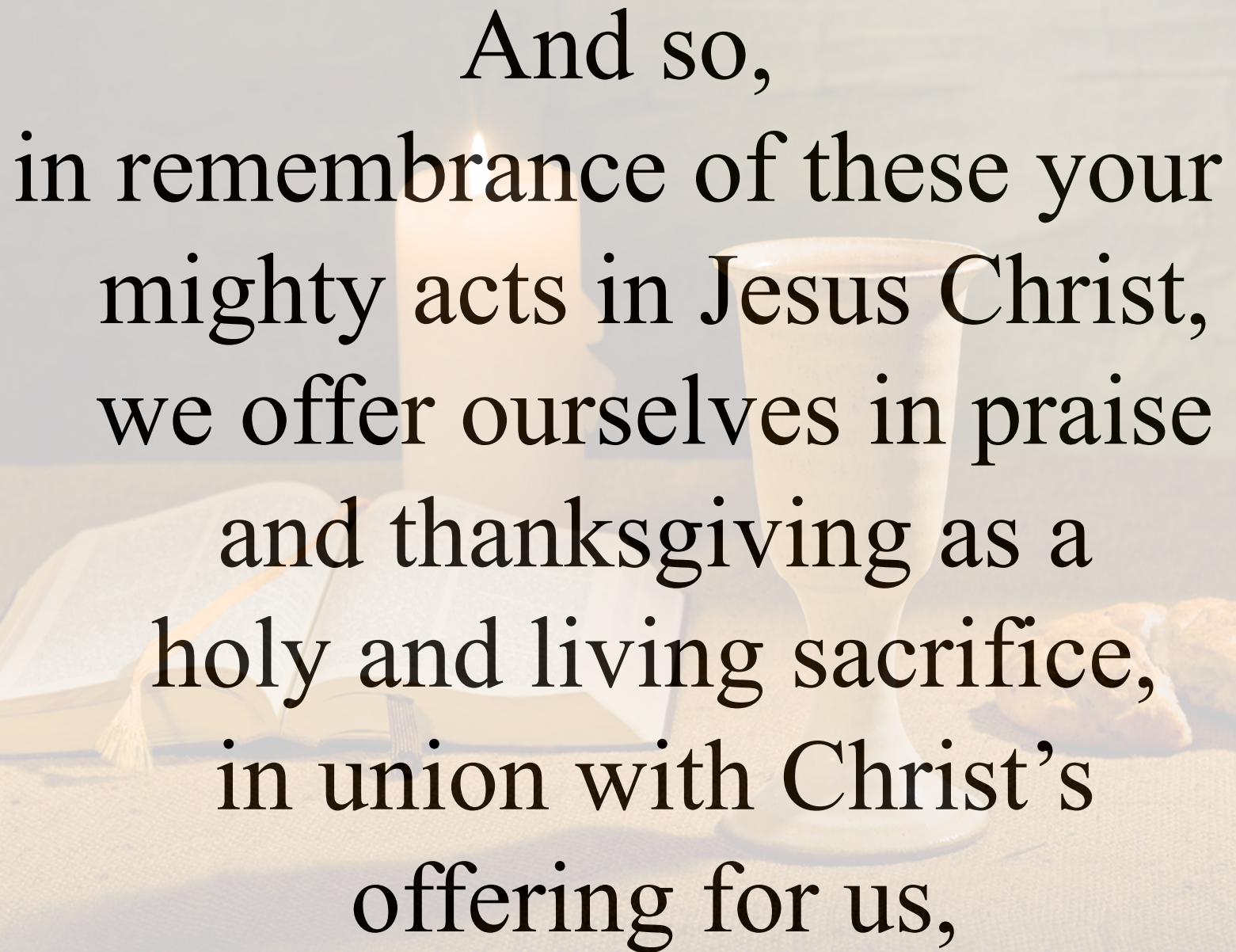
And so,
with your people on earth
and all the company
of heaven
we praise your name and
join their unending hymn:

A still life composition featuring a lit candle, a white chalice, an open book with a tassel, and a piece of bread, all set against a soft, warm background. The text is overlaid on this scene.

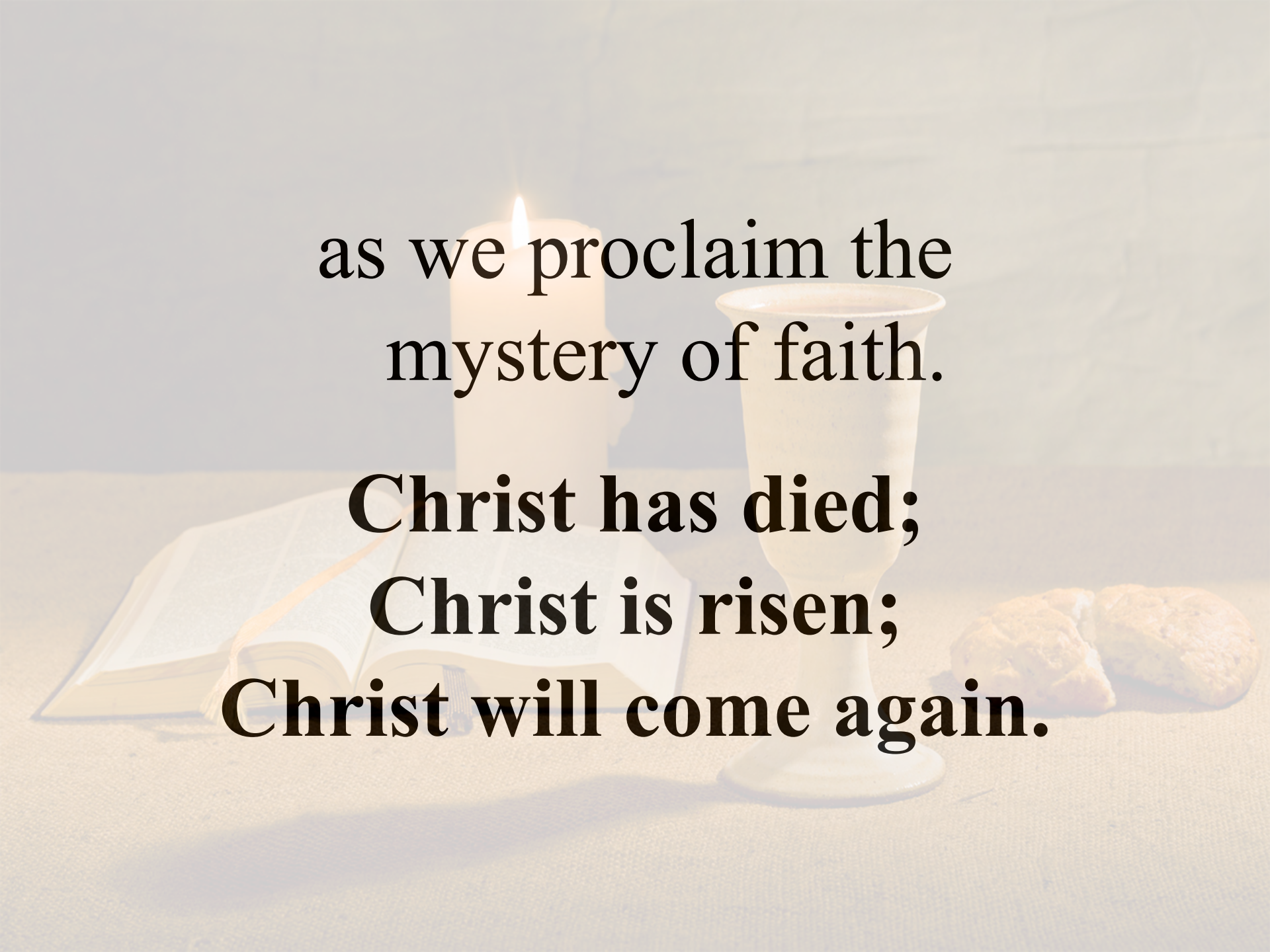
**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are
full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

A still life composition featuring a lit candle, a white chalice, an open book with a tassel, and two pieces of bread, all set against a soft, textured background. The text is overlaid in the center.

**Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

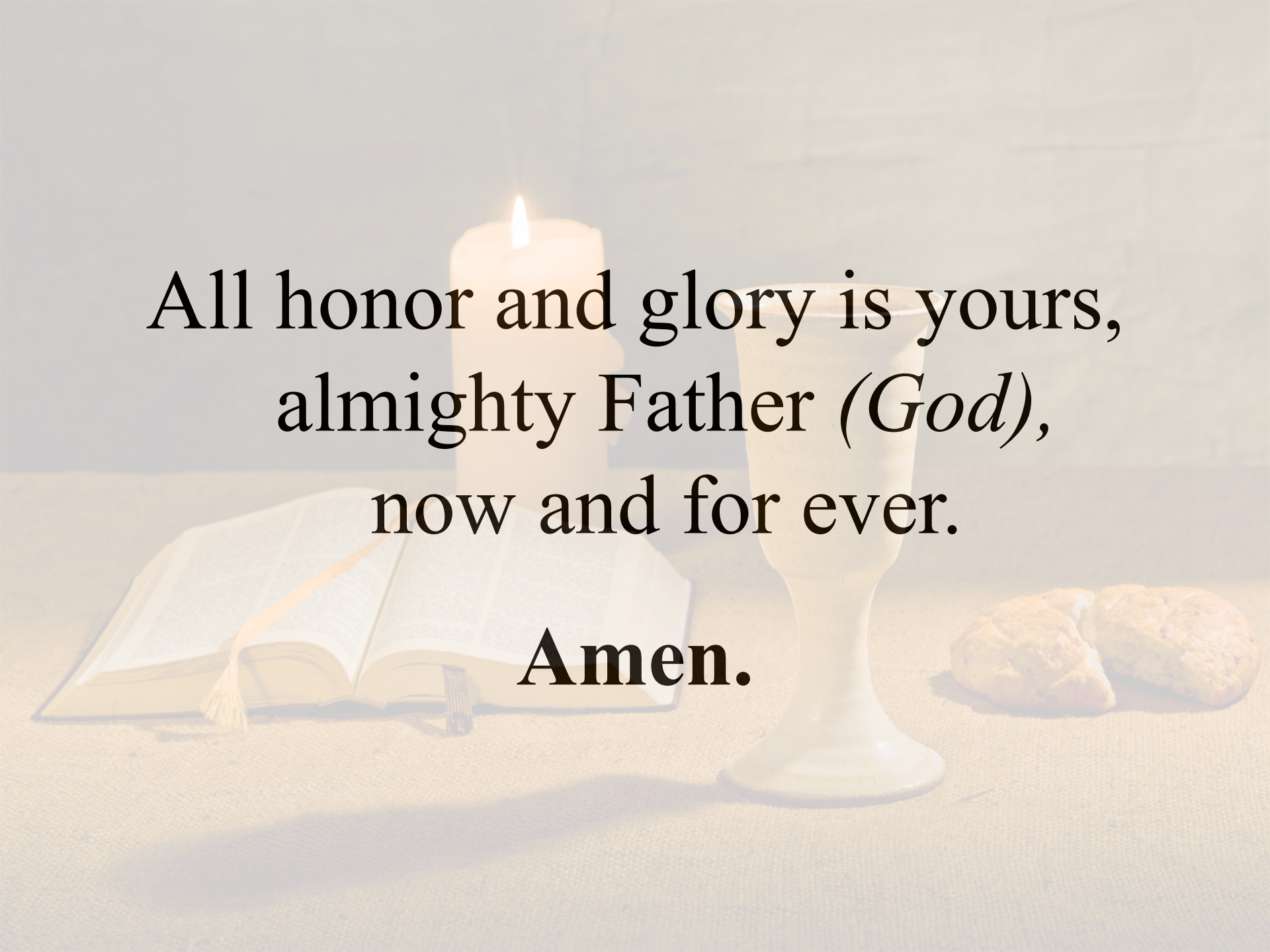


And so,
in remembrance of these your
mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise
and thanksgiving as a
holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's
offering for us,

A still life photograph with a warm, soft-focus background. In the center, a lit candle stands in a holder. To its right is a white chalice. In the foreground, an open book lies flat, and to the right of the chalice are two pieces of bread. The text is overlaid on this scene.

as we proclaim the
mystery of faith.

**Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

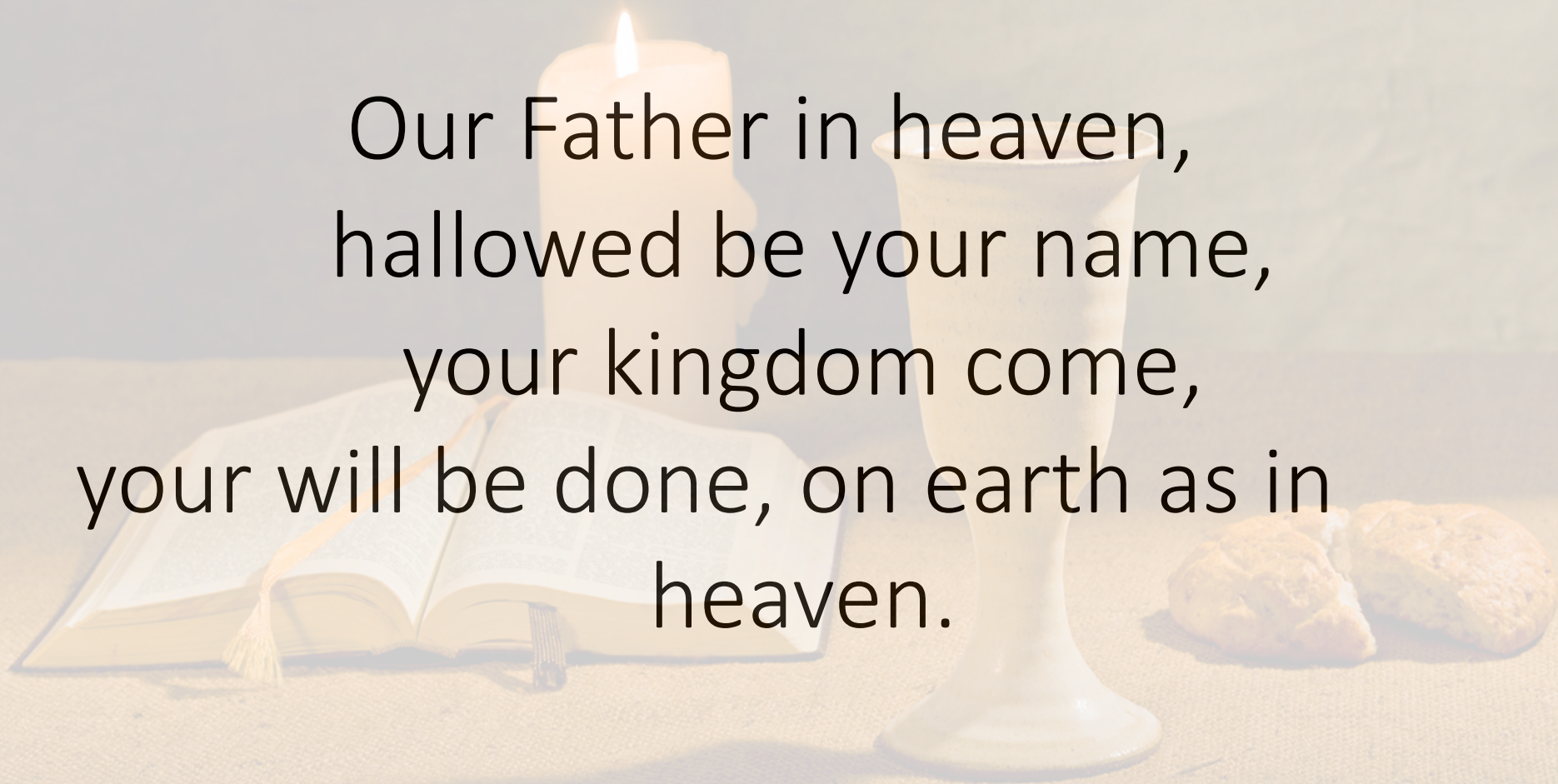
A still life composition featuring a lit candle, an open book, a chalice, and bread. The candle is lit, casting a warm glow. The open book is on the left, with a tassel. The chalice is in the center, and the bread is on the right. The background is a textured, light-colored surface.

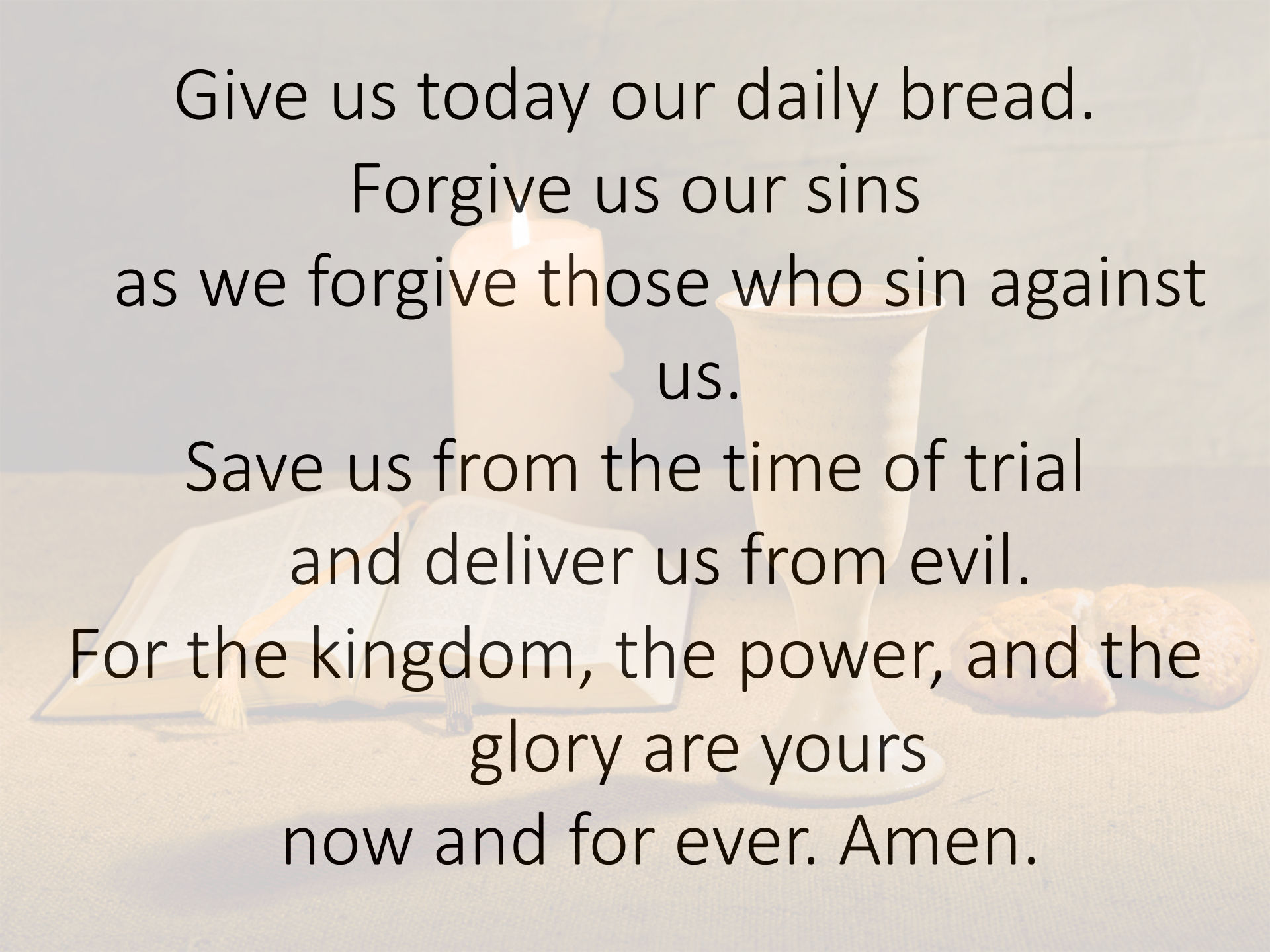
All honor and glory is yours,
almighty Father (*God*),
now and for ever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in
heaven.



A still life background featuring a lit candle, a chalice, an open book, and bread. The candle is lit, casting a warm glow. The chalice is a simple, elegant cup. The book is open, showing text. The bread is a small, round loaf.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against
us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the
glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

A still life background featuring a lit candle, a chalice, an open book, and bread. The candle is lit and has a warm glow. The chalice is a tall, slender glass cup. The book is open, showing text. The bread is broken into pieces. The background is a soft, warm color.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

The body of Christ,
given for you.

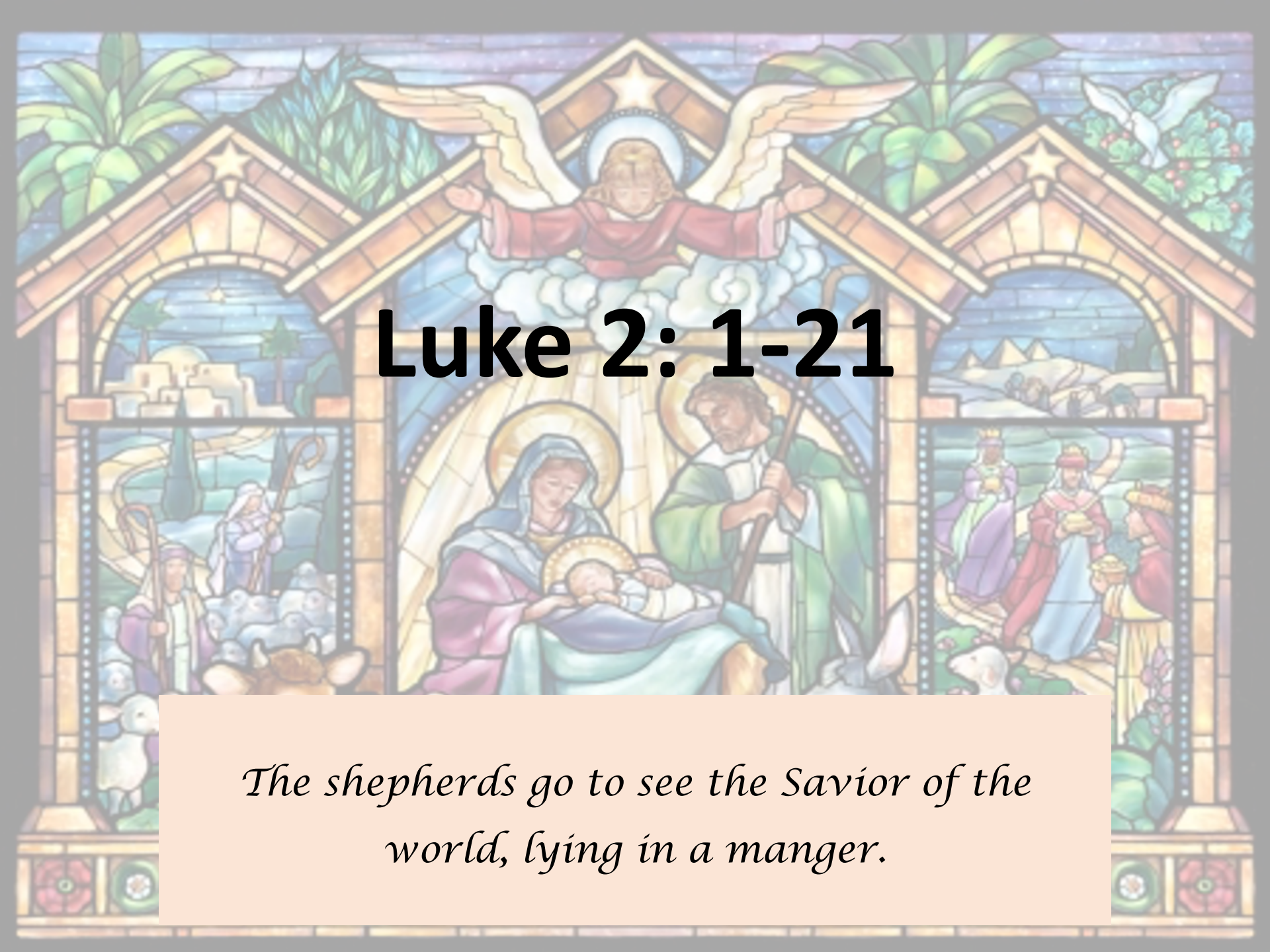
Amen.

The blood of Christ,
given for you.

Amen.

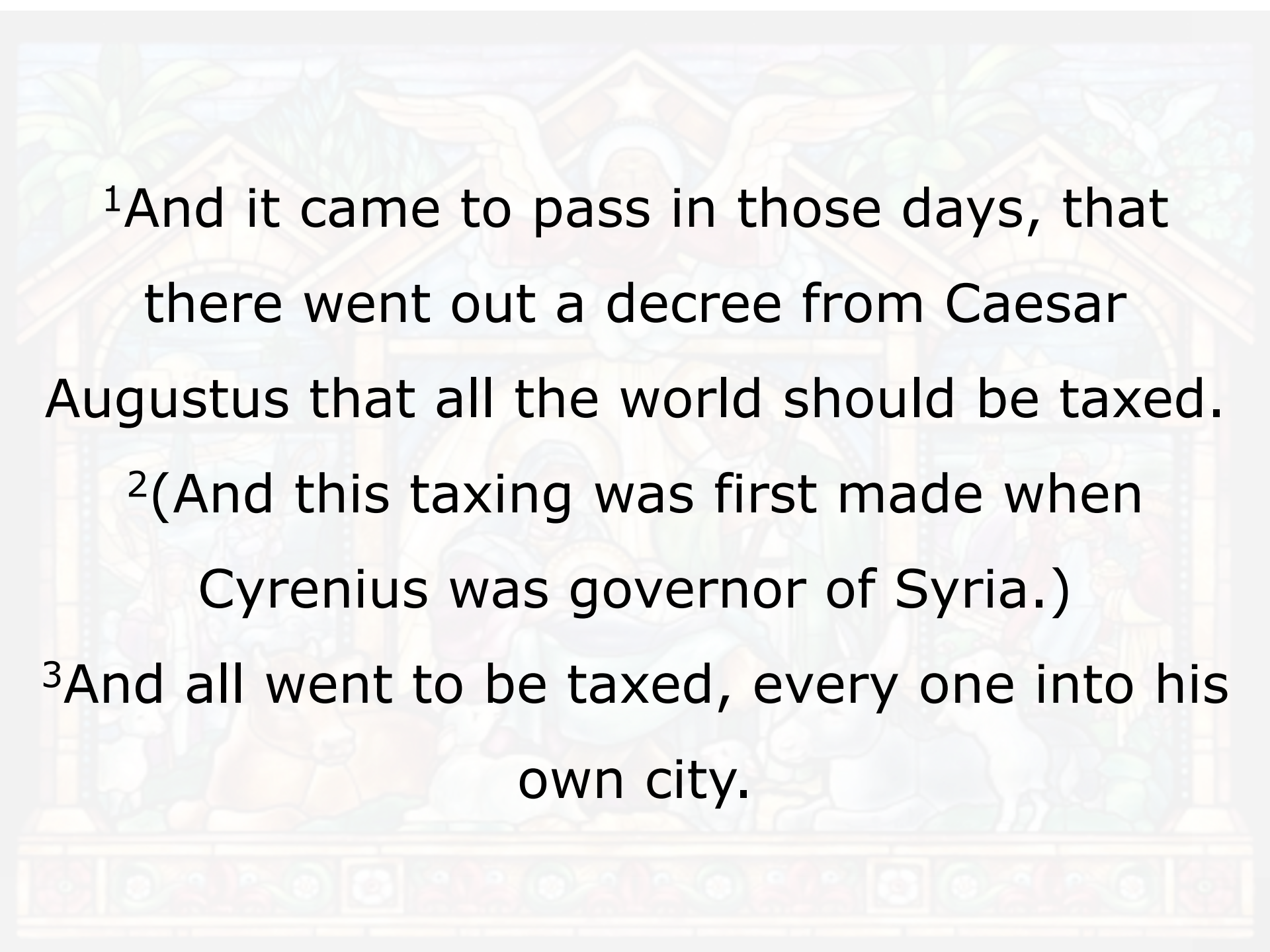
A circular stained glass illustration of the Nativity scene. Mary is on the left, holding the infant Jesus. Joseph is on the right, holding a staff. The baby Jesus lies in a manger with straw. The background is a dark blue sky with stars. The entire scene is framed by a decorative border. The text "Seventh Scripture Lesson" is overlaid in the center.

Seventh Scripture Lesson



Luke 2: 1-21

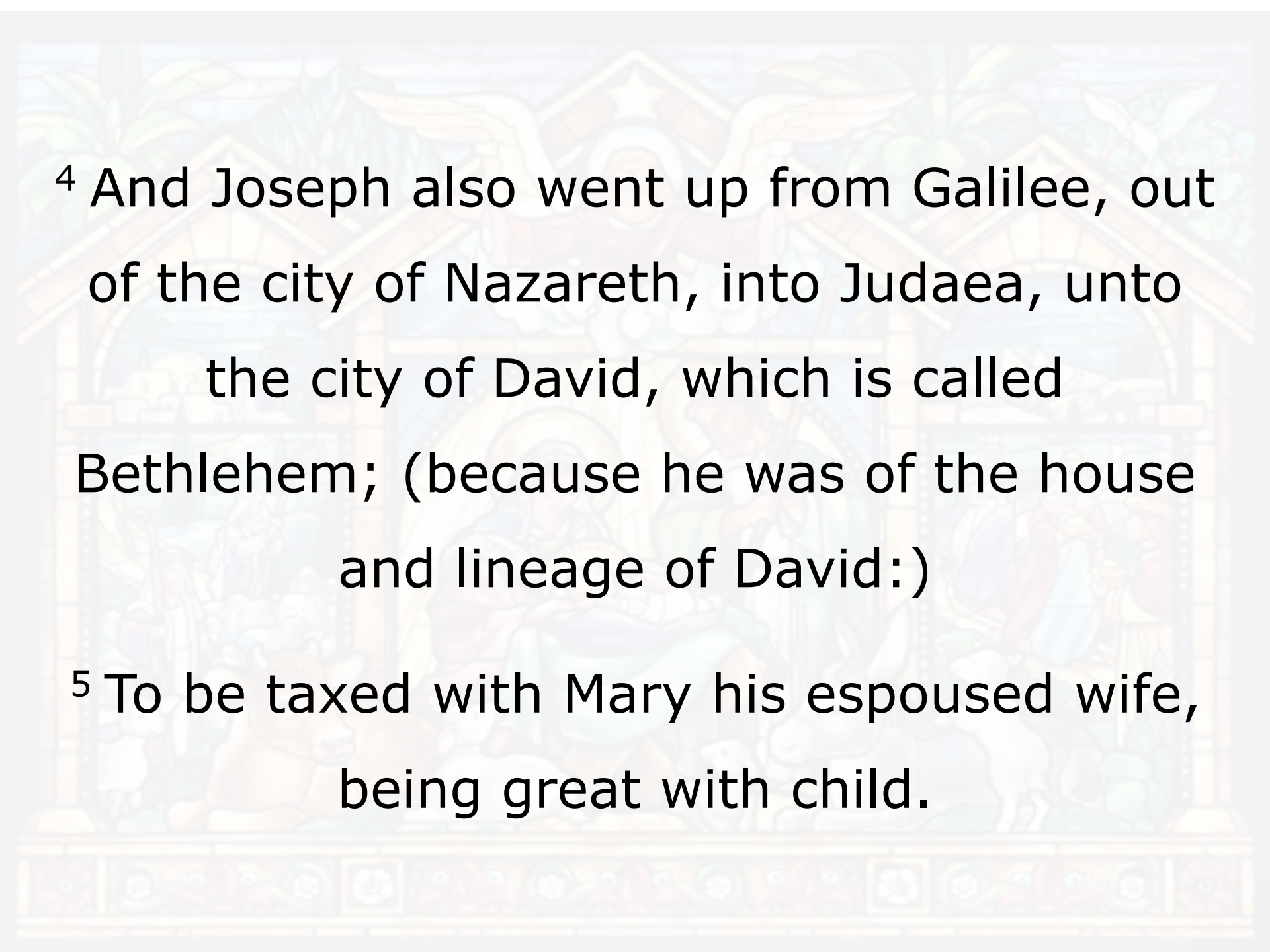
The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger.



¹And it came to pass in those days, that
there went out a decree from Caesar
Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

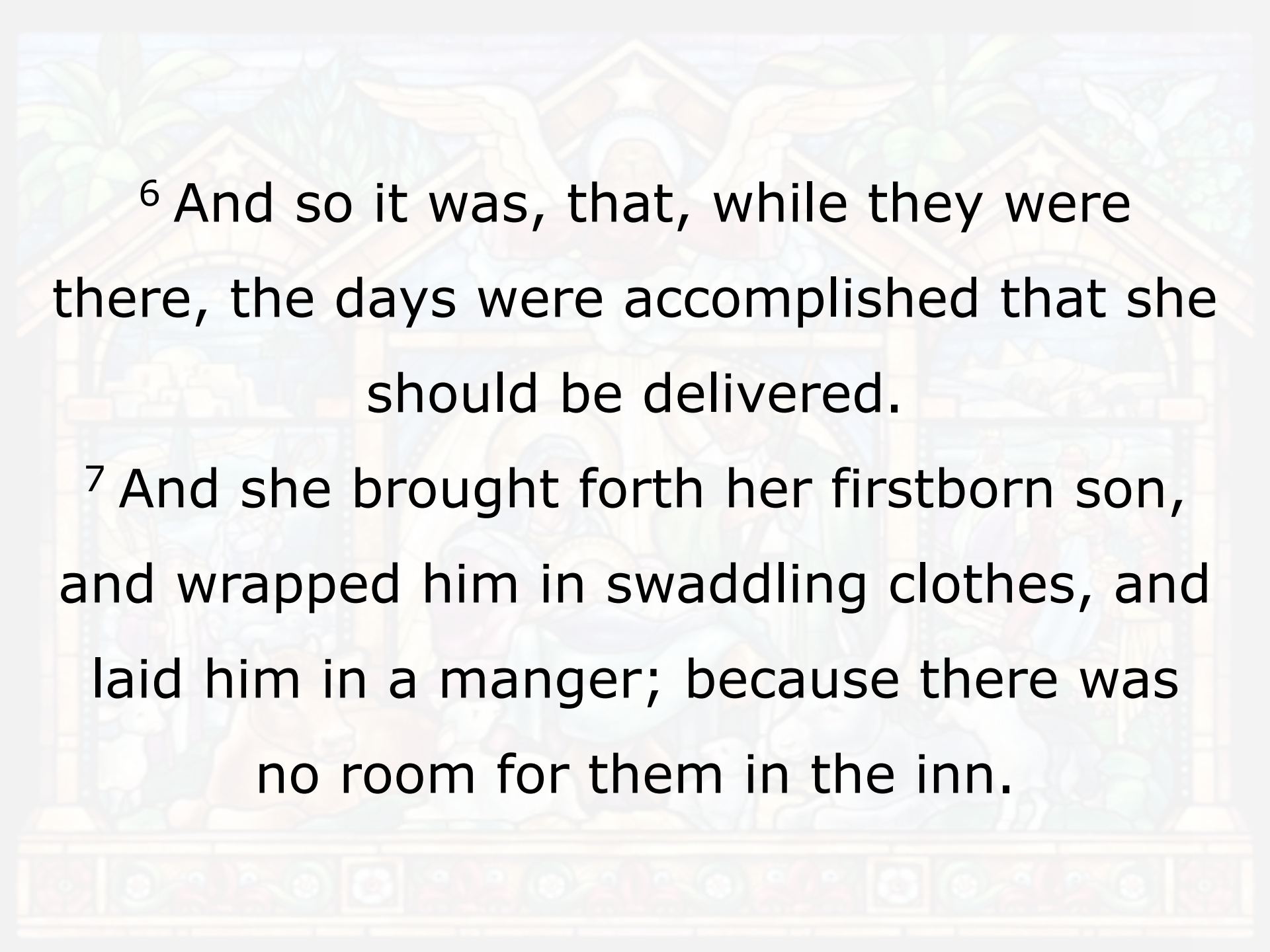
²(And this taxing was first made when
Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

³And all went to be taxed, every one into his
own city.



⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

⁵ To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

A faint, stylized background illustration of the Nativity scene. It depicts Mary seated and holding the infant Jesus, with Joseph standing nearby. The scene is set within a stable or manger, with a star visible in the sky above. The illustration is rendered in a soft, painterly style with muted colors.

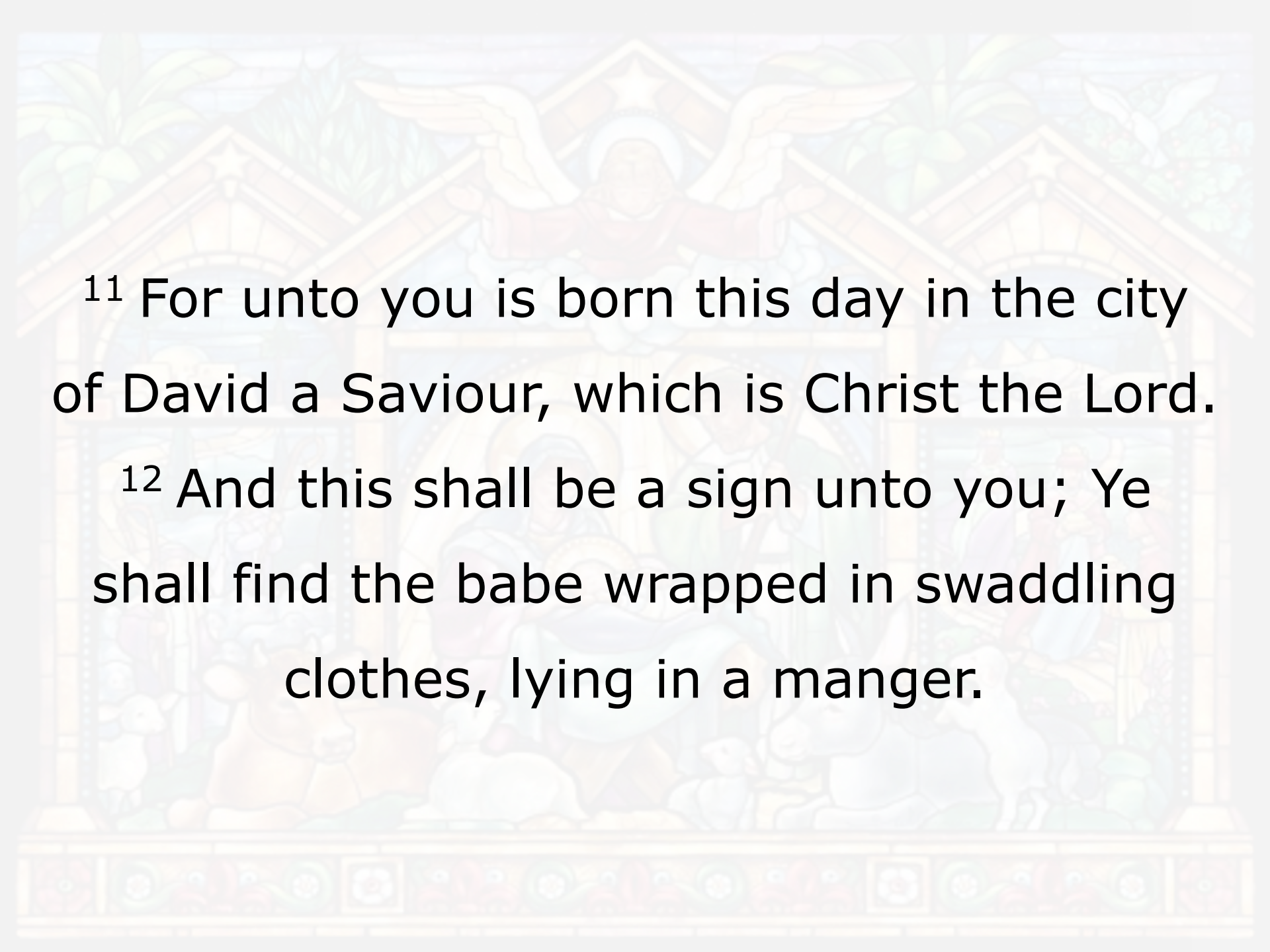
⁶ And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

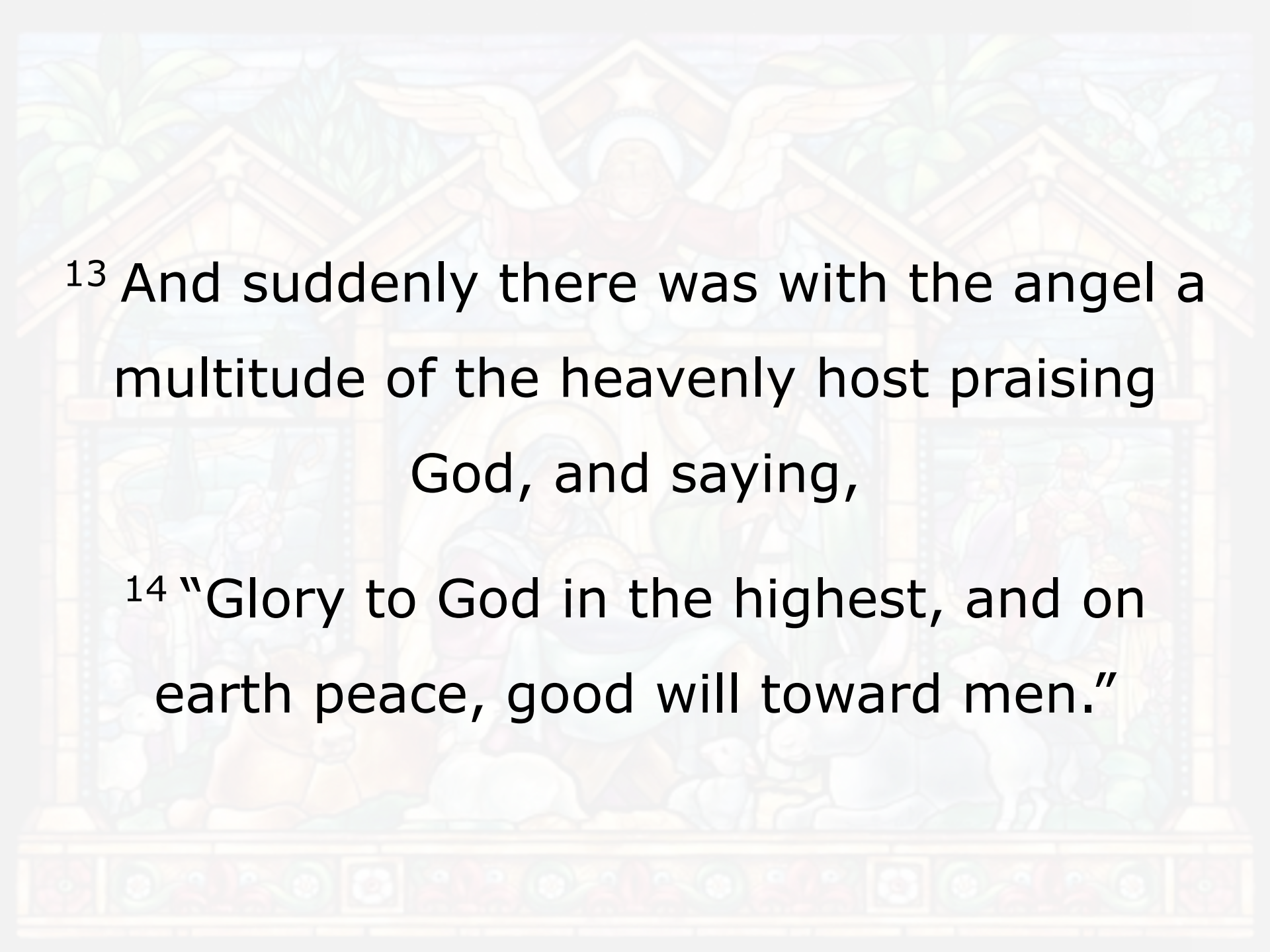
⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.



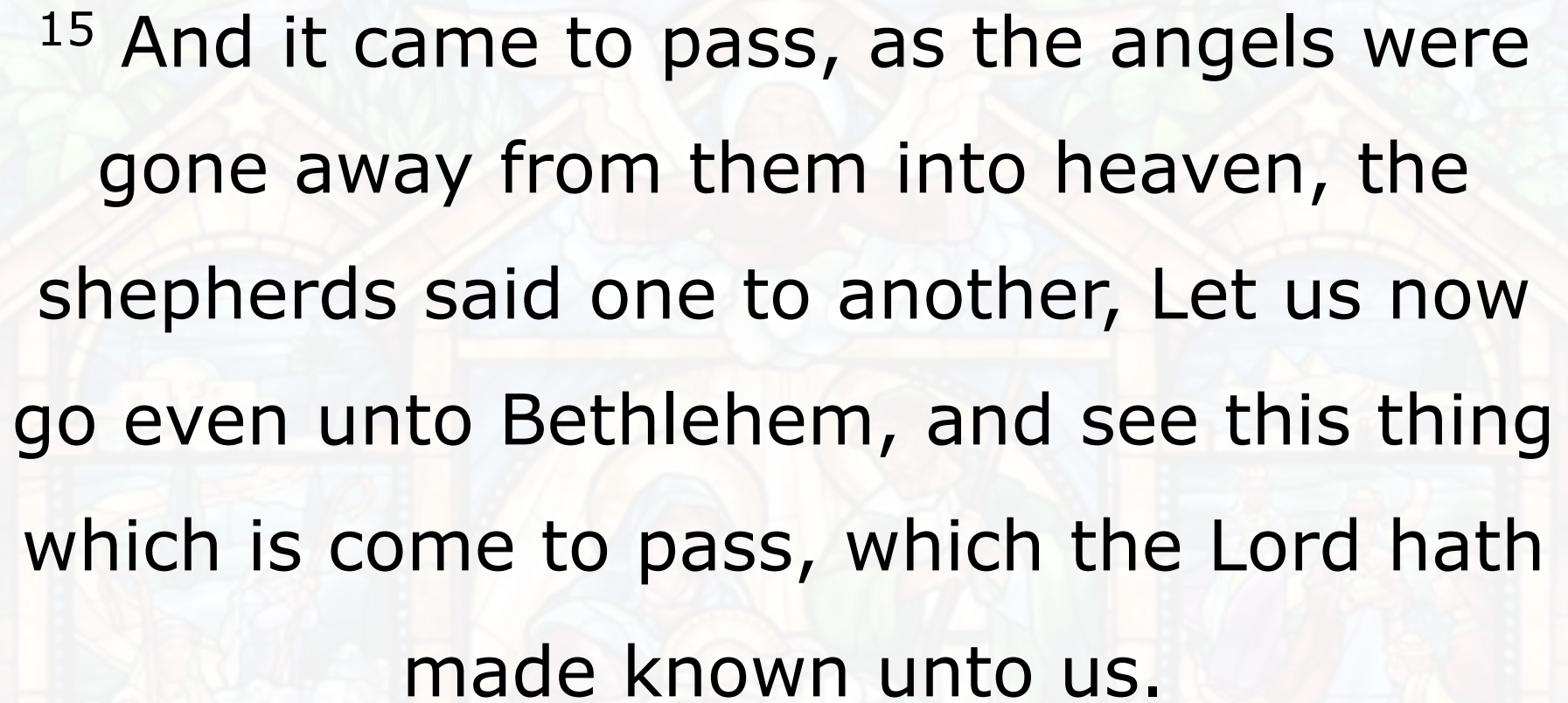
¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.



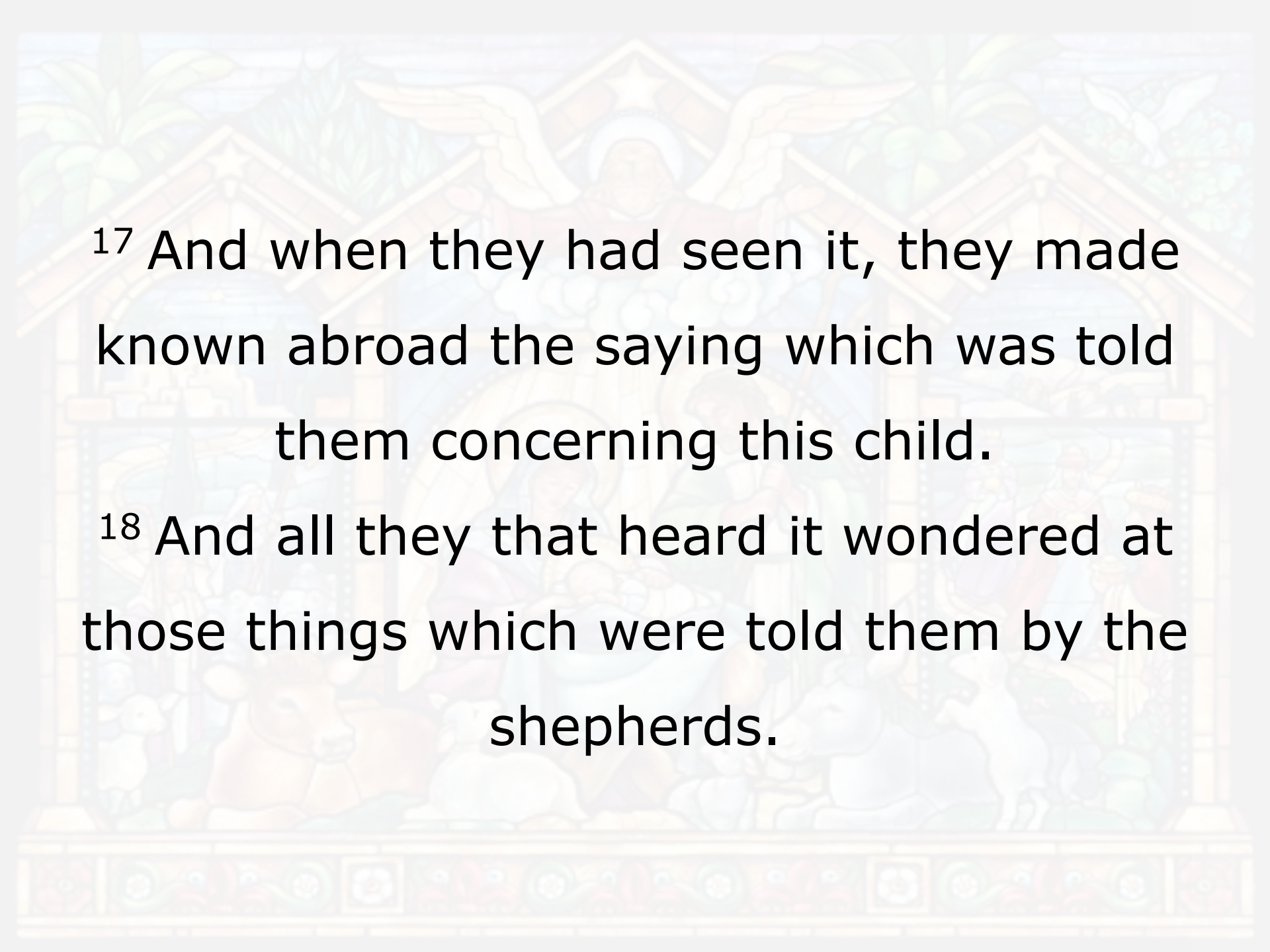
¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."



¹⁵ And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

¹⁶ And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.



¹⁷ And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

¹⁸ And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things, and
pondered them in her heart.

²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and
praising God for all the things that they had
heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

²¹ And when eight days were accomplished for
the circumcising of the child, his name was
called Jesus, which was so named of the angel
before he was conceived in the womb.

“Silent Night” UMH #239

WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818 MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818

Verses 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5



“Silent Night” UMH #239

WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818 MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818

Verses 1, 2, 3, 4

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin
mother and child.

Holy infant,
so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

“Silent Night” UMH #239

WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818 MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818

Verses 1, 2, 3, 4

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories steam from
heaven afar,
heavenly hosts,
sing Alleluia!

Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

“Silent Night” UMH #239

WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818 MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818

Verses 1, 2, 3, 4

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from
thy holy face
with the dawn of
redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

“Silent Night” UMH #239

WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818 MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818

Verses 1, 2, 3, 4

Silent night, holy night,
wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels
let us sing,
Alleluia
to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

Benediction

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessings of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always. Amen.

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
Prayer, Action, and Love
through Service.**