



2026 CONFERENCE ON MINISTRY

Connecting • Sustaining • Reforming

John 15:1-5

A decorative graphic of a vine with several leaves, some green and some yellow, extending across the top right of the slide.

Opening Worship

Connecting ● Sustaining ● Reforming

Confession and Forgiveness



Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who looks upon us in compassion,
forgives our sin and heals our lives.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Confession and Forgiveness



Have mercy, O God,
Against you, you alone, we have sinned.
In your compassion,
cleanse us from our sin
and take away our guilt.

Confession and Forgiveness



**Create in us a new heart
and give us a steadfast spirit.
Do not cast us away,
but fill us with your Holy Spirit
and restore your joy within us.
Amen.**

Confession and Forgiveness



As tender as parent to child,
so deep is God's compassion for you.
As high as heaven is above earth,
so vast is God's love for you.

Confession and Forgiveness



As far as East is from West,
so far God removes your sin from you,
renewing your life through Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God, who crowns us
with mercy and love.

Blessed be God forever.



Gathering Song

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

ELW 403

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.



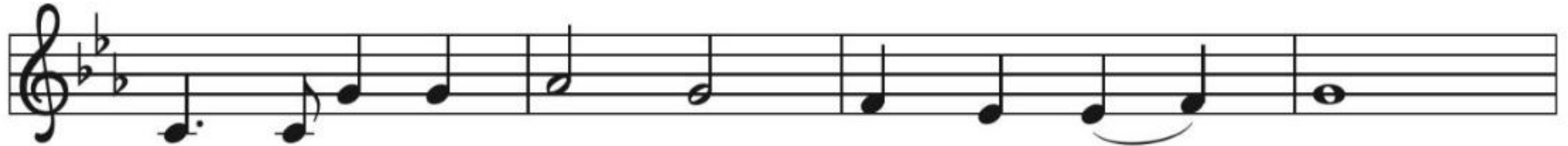
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.
And also with you.

Kyrie

ACS Setting 12



Kyrie



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.



Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria

ACS Setting 12





1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

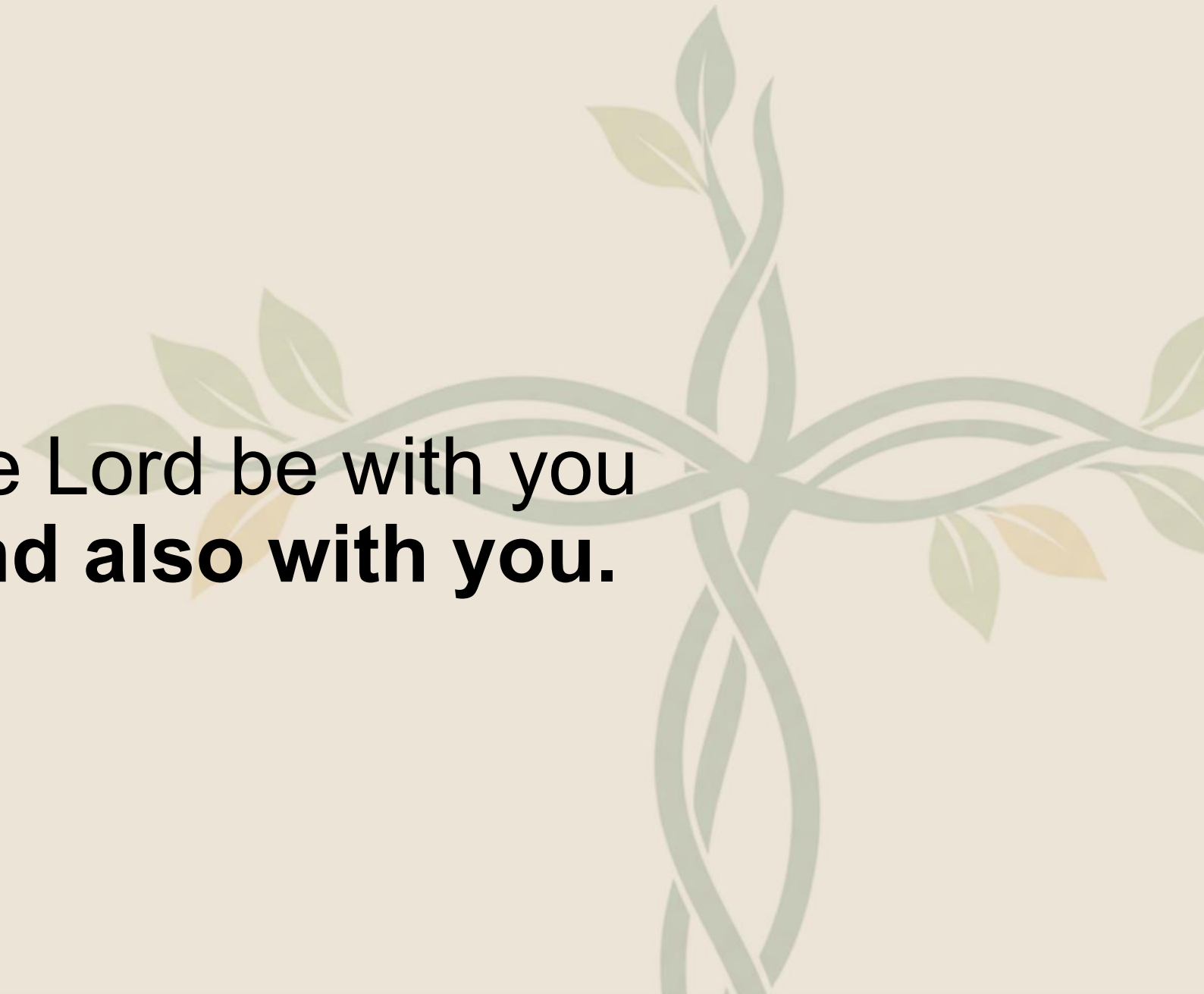


Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

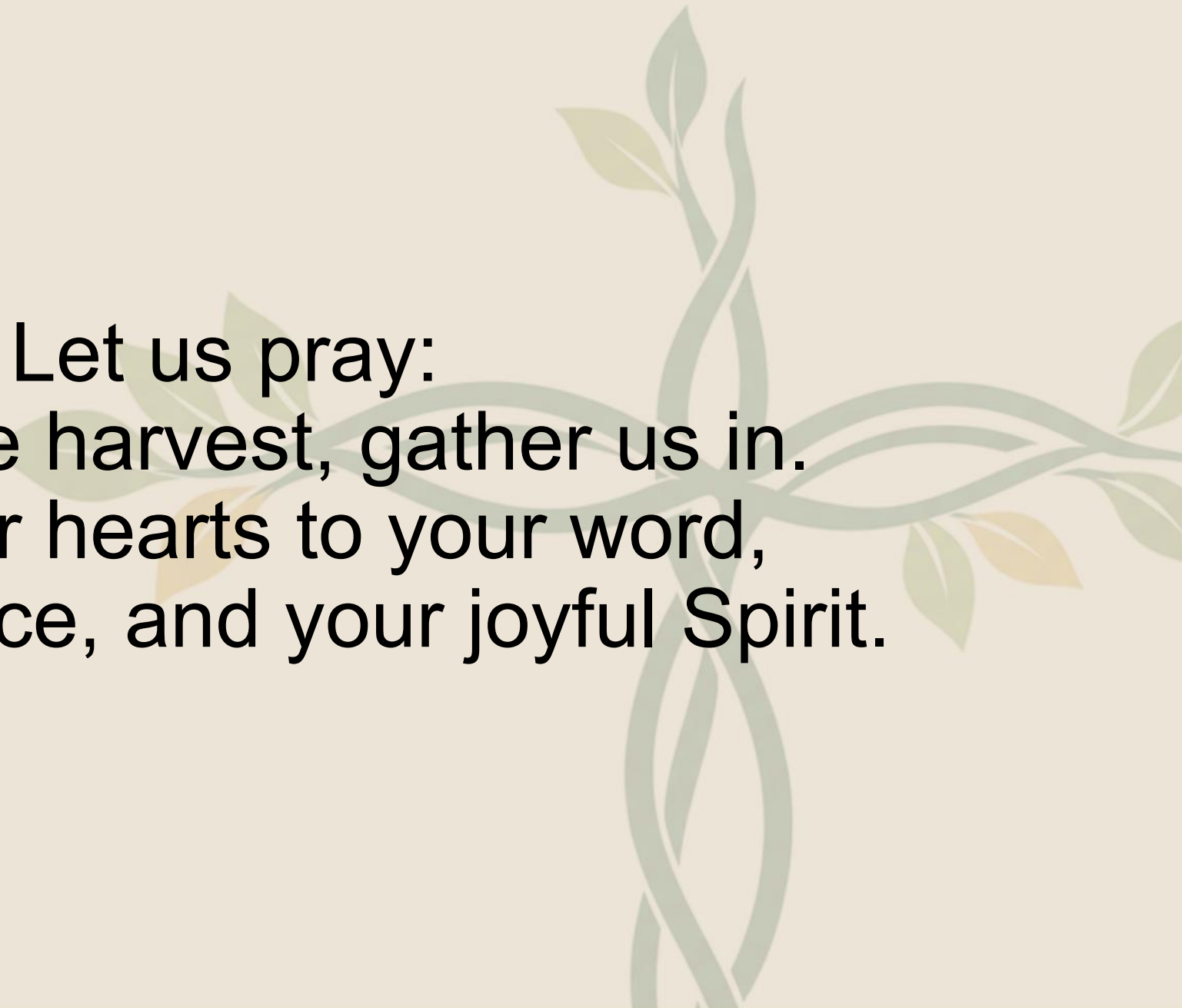


yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

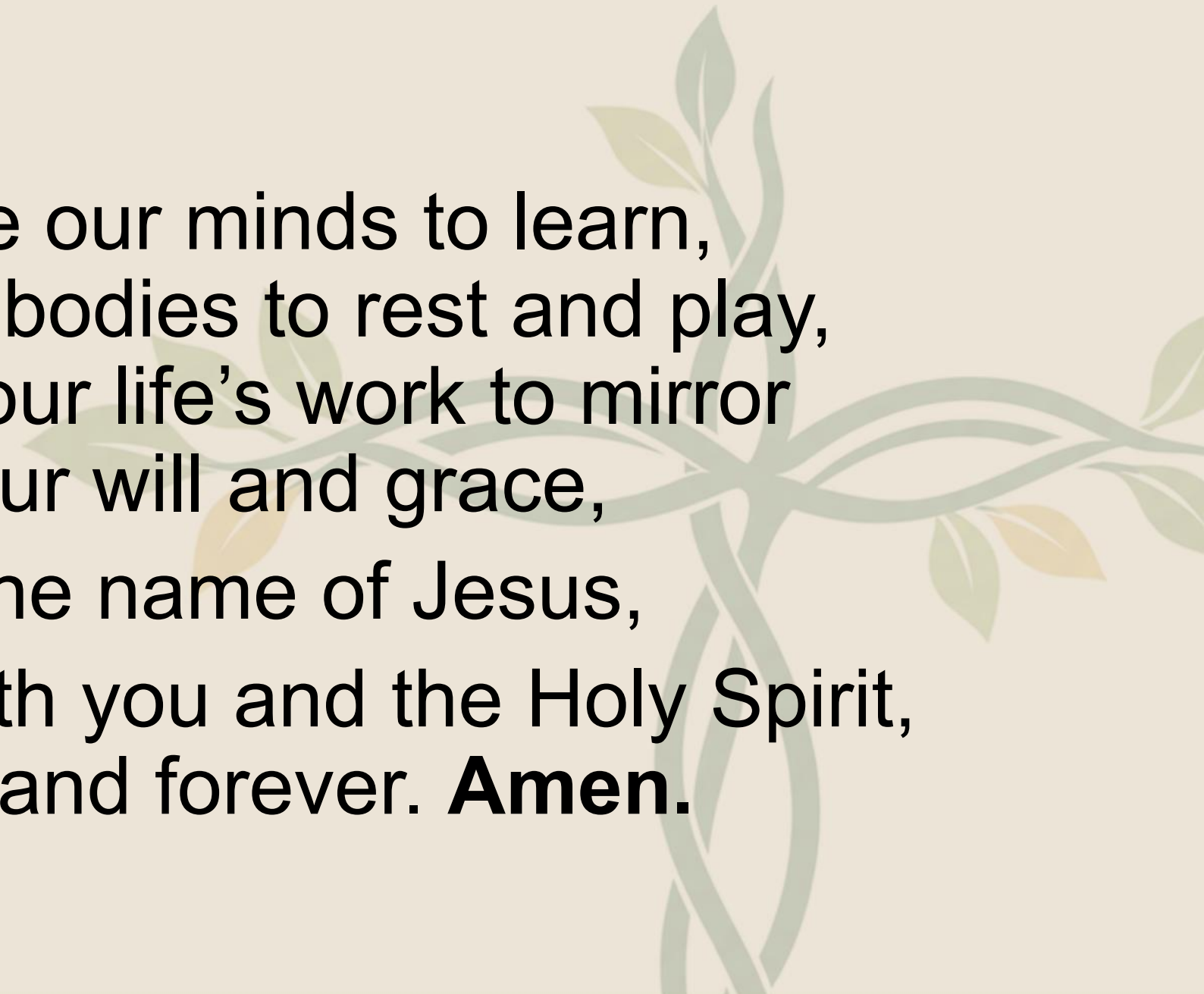




The Lord be with you
And also with you.



Let us pray:
God of the harvest, gather us in.
Open our hearts to your word,
your presence, and your joyful Spirit.



Guide our minds to learn,
lead our bodies to rest and play,
shape our life's work to mirror
your will and grace,
in the name of Jesus,
reigning with you and the Holy Spirit,
now and forever. **Amen.**

1st Reading: Acts 8:26-40



Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury.

1st Reading: Acts 8:26-40



He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.”

1st Reading: Acts 8:26-40



So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

1st Reading: Acts 8:26-40



He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

1st Reading: Acts 8:26-40



“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and
like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation, justice was denied him. Who
can describe his generation? For his life is
taken away from the earth.”

1st Reading: Acts 8:26-40



The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?”

Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

1st Reading: Acts 8:26-40



As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said,

“Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?”

He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

1st Reading: Acts 8:26-40



When they came up out of the water,
the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away;
the eunuch saw him no more and went on his
way rejoicing.

1st Reading: Acts 8:26-40



But Philip found himself at Azotus,
and as he was passing through the region he
proclaimed the good news to all the towns until
he came to Caesarea.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22: 25-31



From you comes my praise in the great
assembly; I will perform my vows
In the sight of those who fear the Lord.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
Let those who seek the Lord give
praise! May your hearts live forever!**

Psalm 22: 25-31



All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord,

**and all the families of the nations
shall worship before God.**

Psalm 22: 25-31



For dominion belongs to the Lord,
Who rules over the nations.

**Indeed, all who sleep in the earth
shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they
be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.**

Psalm 22: 25-31



Their descendants shall serve the Lord;
whom they shall proclaim
to generations to come.

**They shall proclaim God's deliverance
to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"**

2nd Reading: 1 John 4:7-21



Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

2nd Reading: 1 John 4:7-21



In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

2nd Reading: 1 John 4:7-21



By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

2nd Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

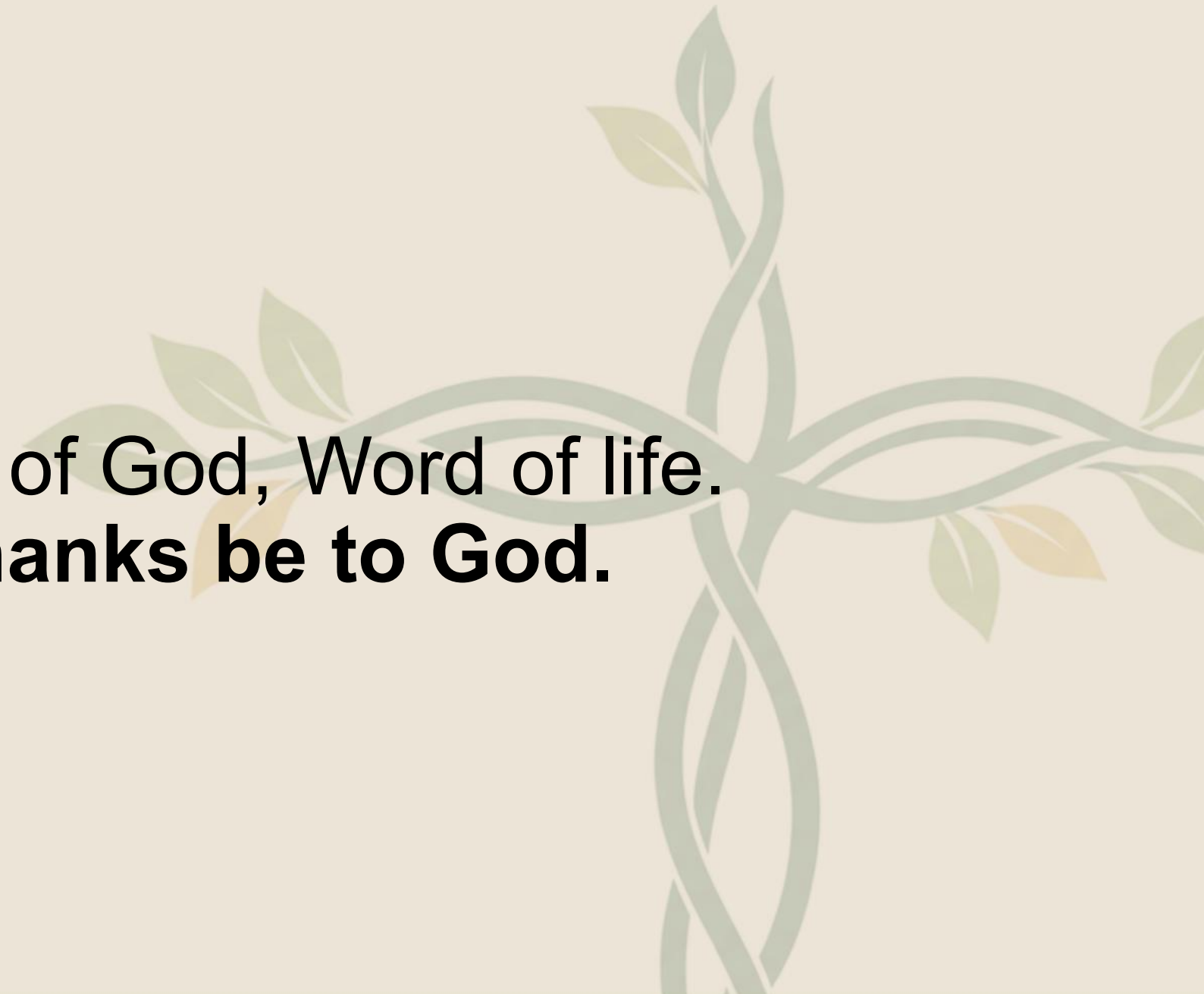


God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.

2nd Reading: 1 John 4:7-21



We love because he first loved us.
Those who say, “I love God,” and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.
The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

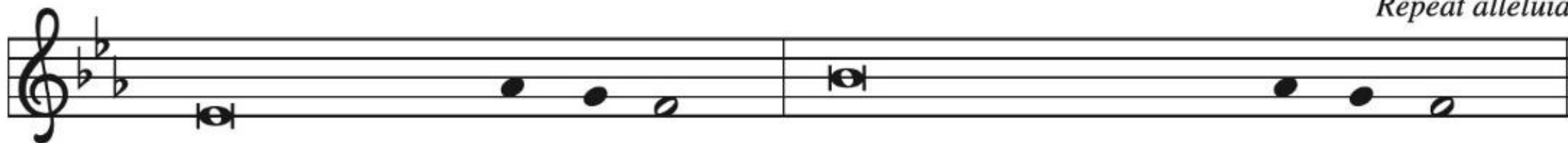


Word of God, Word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

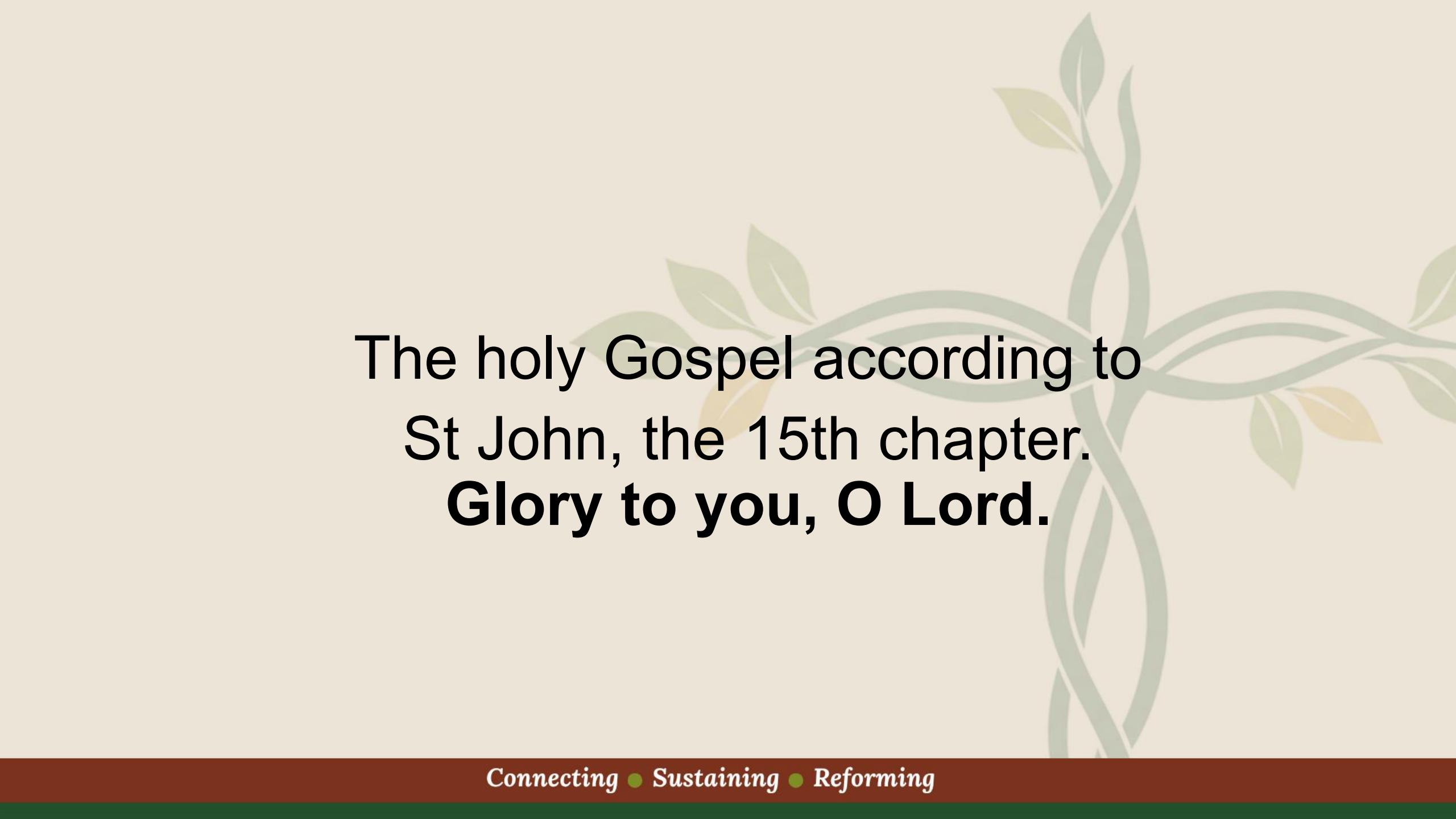


Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

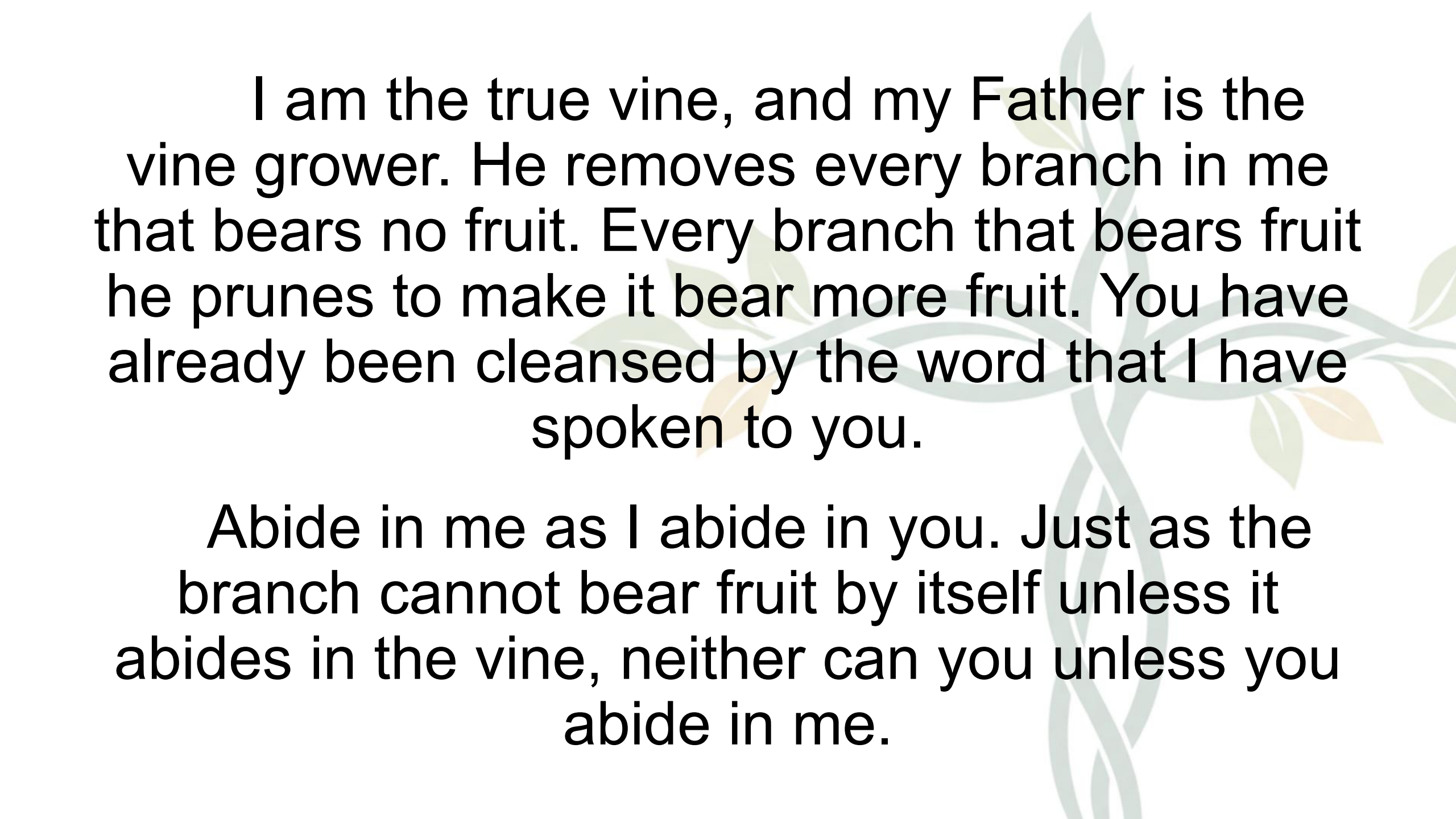


Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

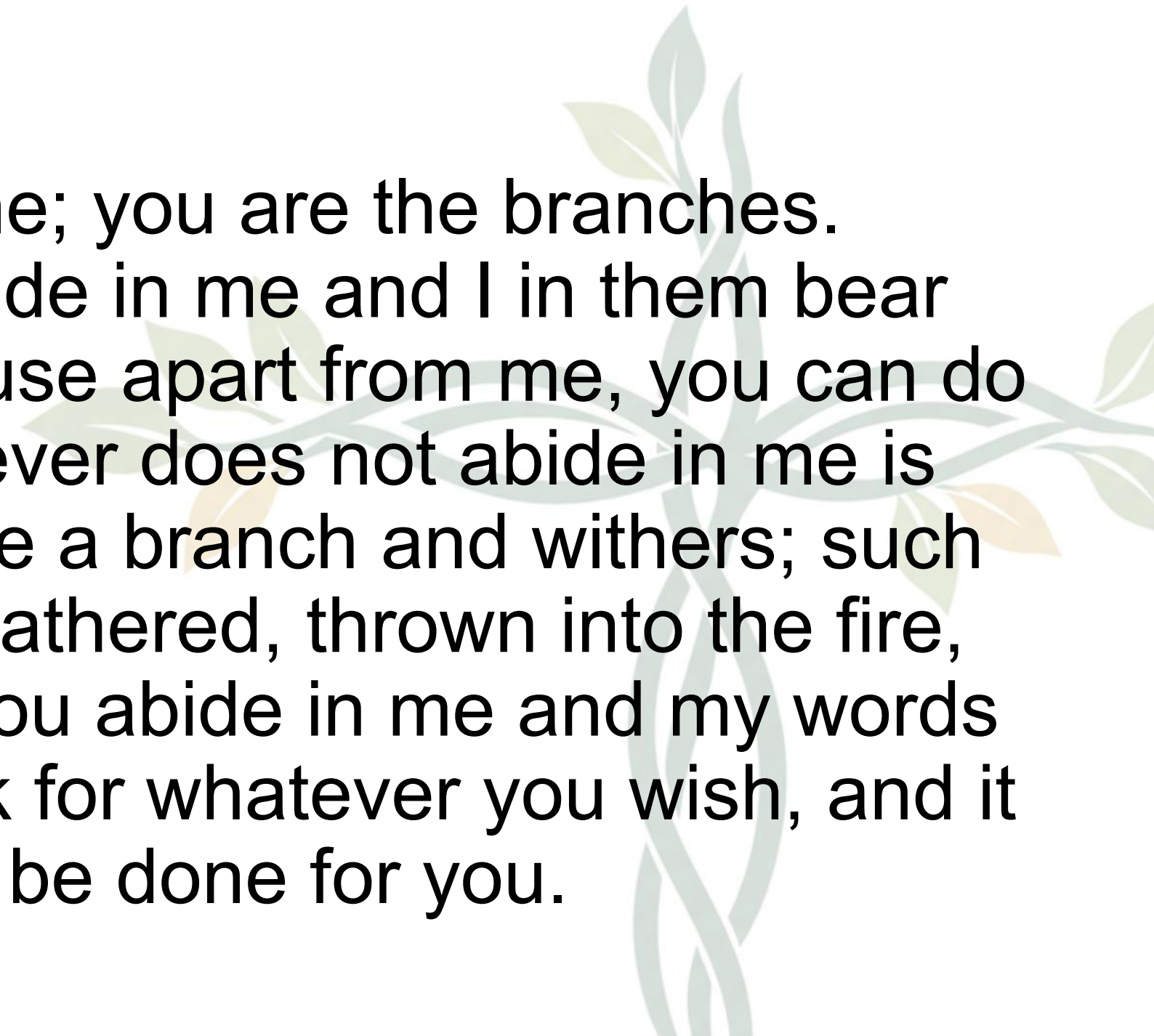


The holy Gospel according to
St John, the 15th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.



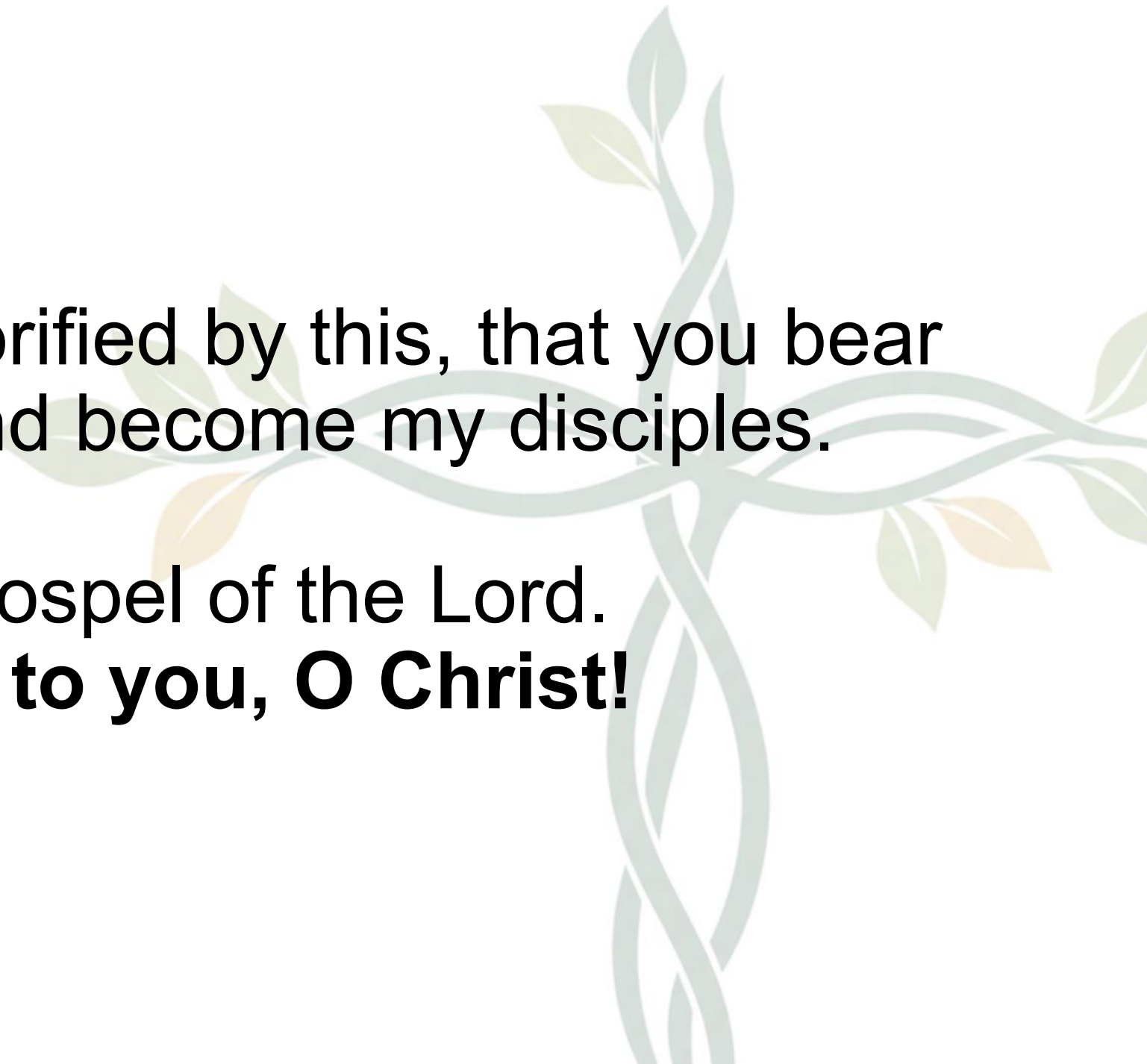
I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.

Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.



I am the vine; you are the branches.

Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me, you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.



My Father is glorified by this, that you bear
much fruit and become my disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ!



2026 CONFERENCE ON MINISTRY

Connecting • Sustaining • Reforming

John 15:1-5

Sermon: Bishop Pedro Suárez

A decorative graphic of a vine with green and yellow leaves, extending from the right side of the slide across the middle.

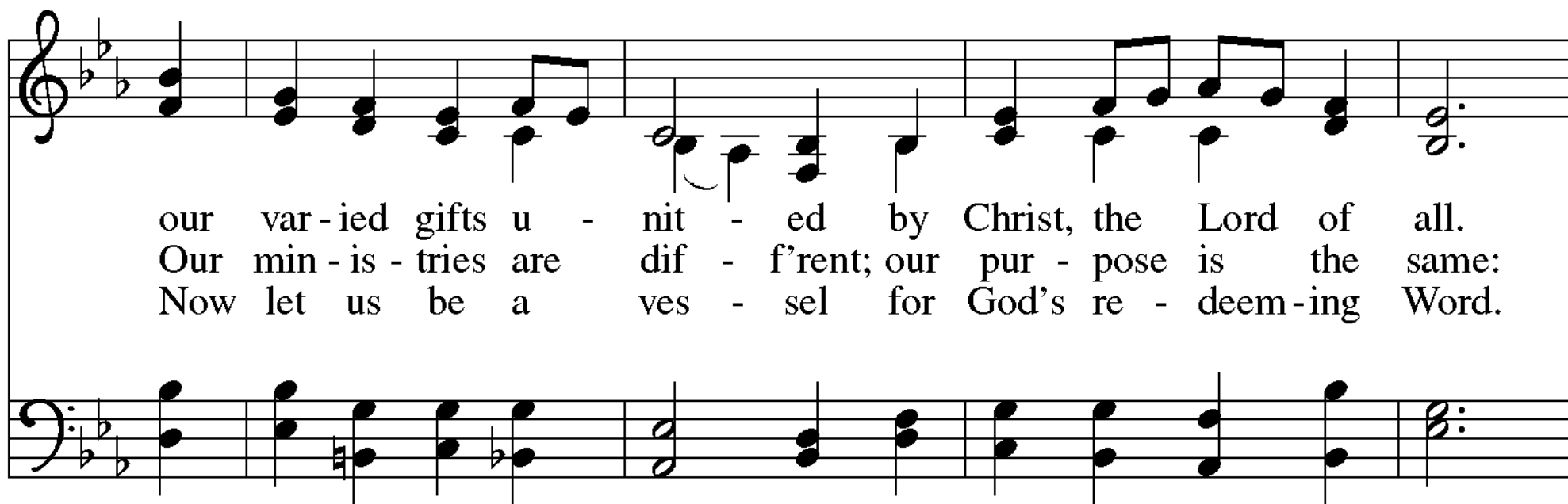
Hymn of the Day

We All Are One In Mission

ELW 576



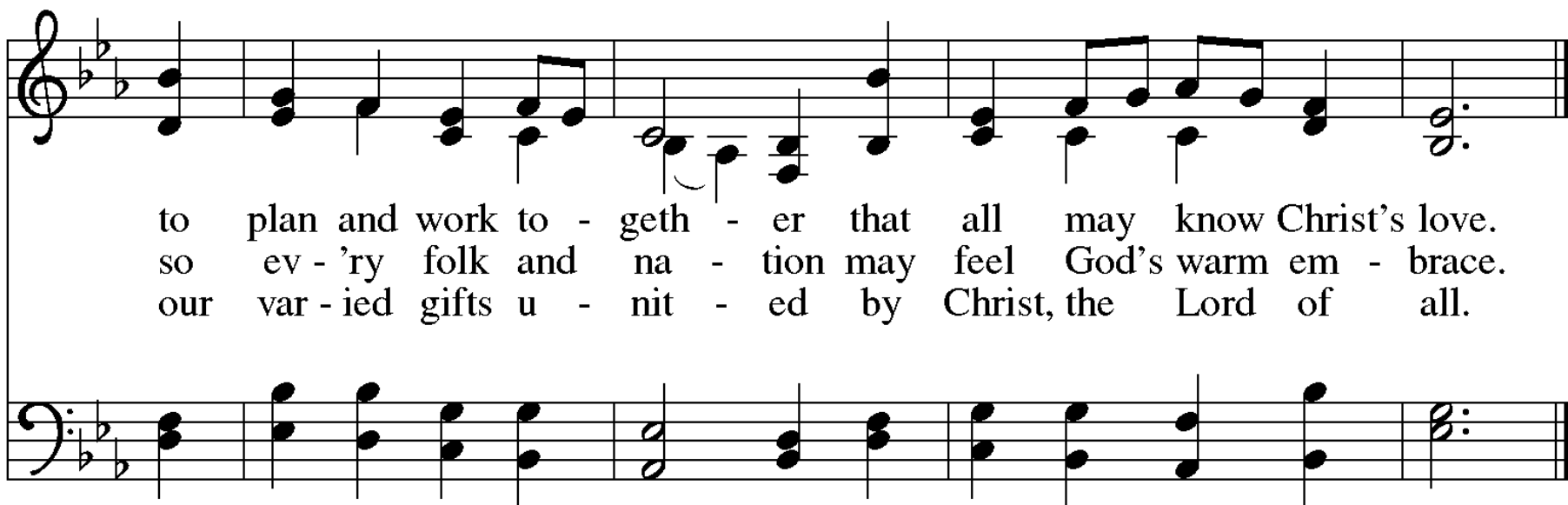
1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version

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Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.



Apostles' Creed



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

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,**

Apostles' Creed



**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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

Apostles' Creed



**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 Faithful



United in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

God of connection, **connect us** more deeply to Christ and to one another. Strengthen the bonds of love, trust, and partnership among your people.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God who sustains, **sustain all who serve your church.** Renew bishops, pastors, deacons, leaders, and all who give themselves to ministry. Give them courage, wisdom, and joy.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of reform and renewal, **reform your church** according to your Spirit. Give us courage to let go of what no longer gives life and imagination to embrace new ways of sharing the gospel.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Prayers of the Faithful



God of mission, **send us** to those who are seeking hope, belonging, and good news. Make us a welcoming and faithful witness to Christ in our communities and in the world.

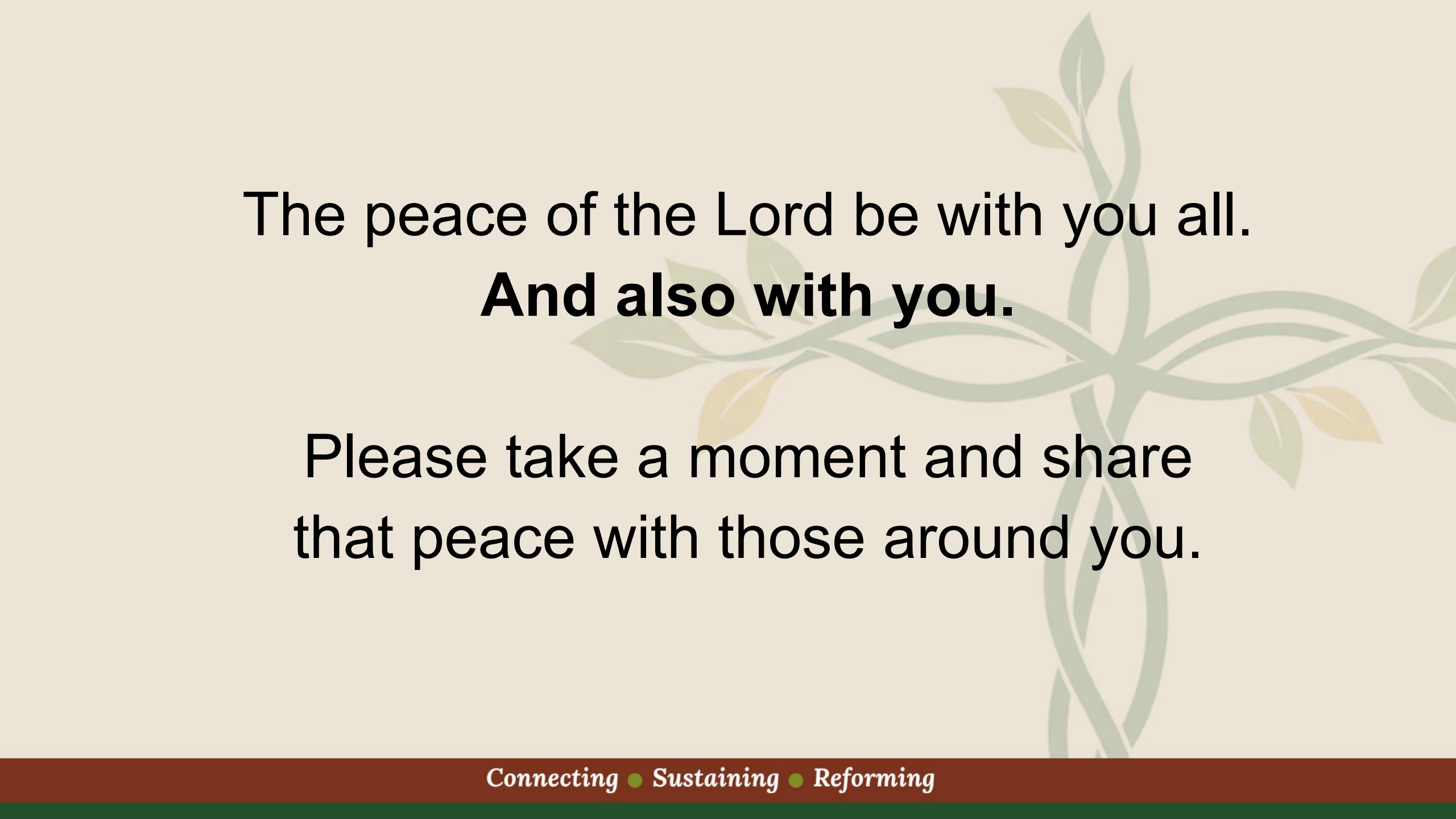
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of mercy, **hear the prayers of all who are in need**, especially those who are sick, grieving, lonely, or burdened. Surround them with your presence and care.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



The peace of the Lord be with you all.
And also with you.

Please take a moment and share
that peace with those around you.

Offertory

Bind Us Together
by The Porter's Gate



Offertory Prayer



Let us pray.

**God of goodness and growth,
all creation is yours, and your faithfulness
is sure. Word and water, wine and bread:
these are signs of your abundant grace.**

Offertory Prayer



**Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us
to proclaim your abiding love in our
communities and in the world, through
Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.
Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

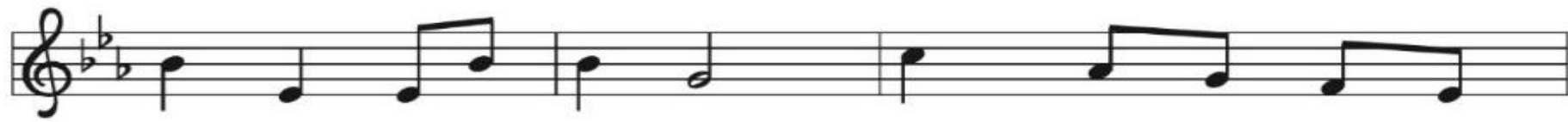
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Great Thanksgiving



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the

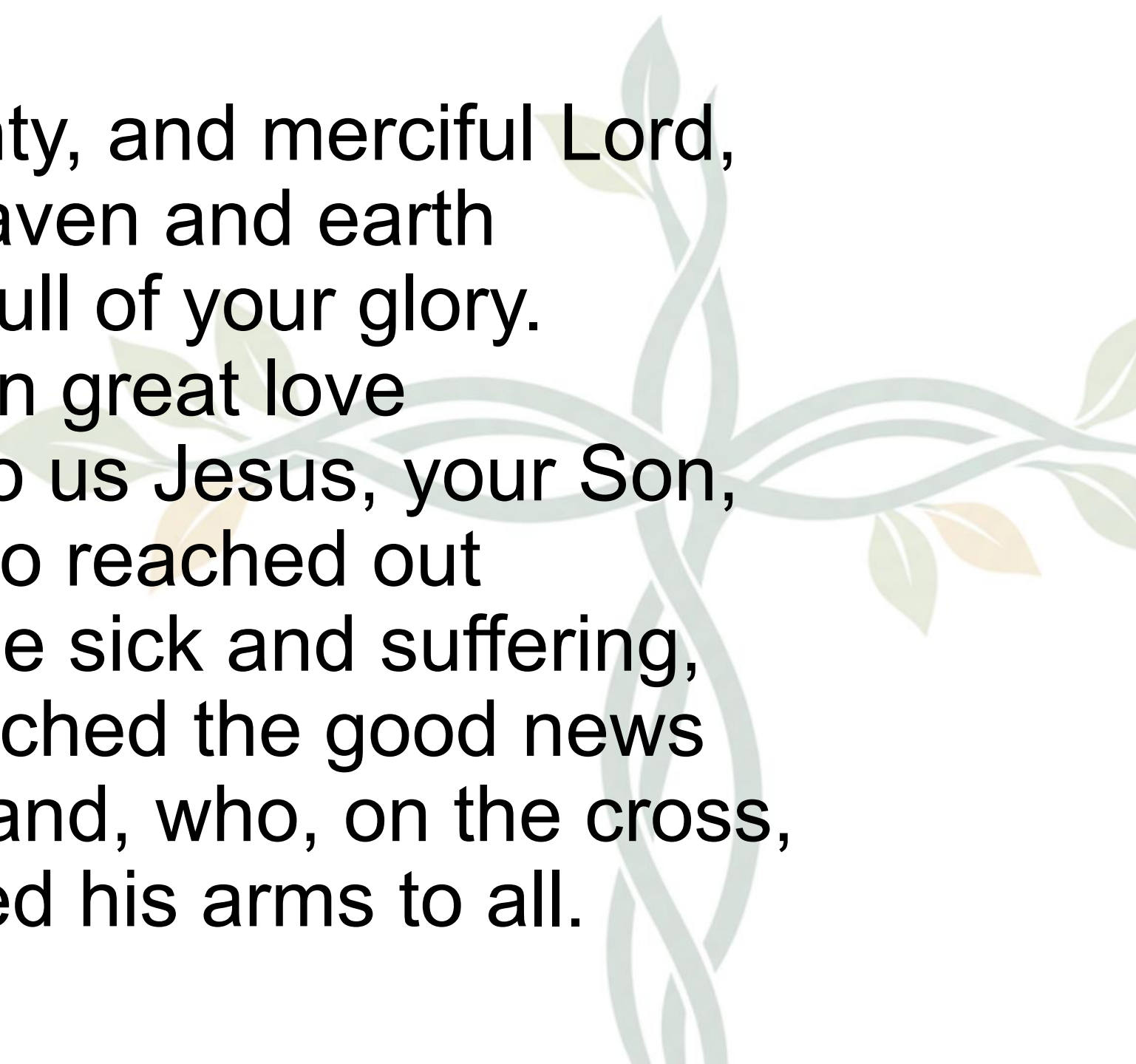


Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

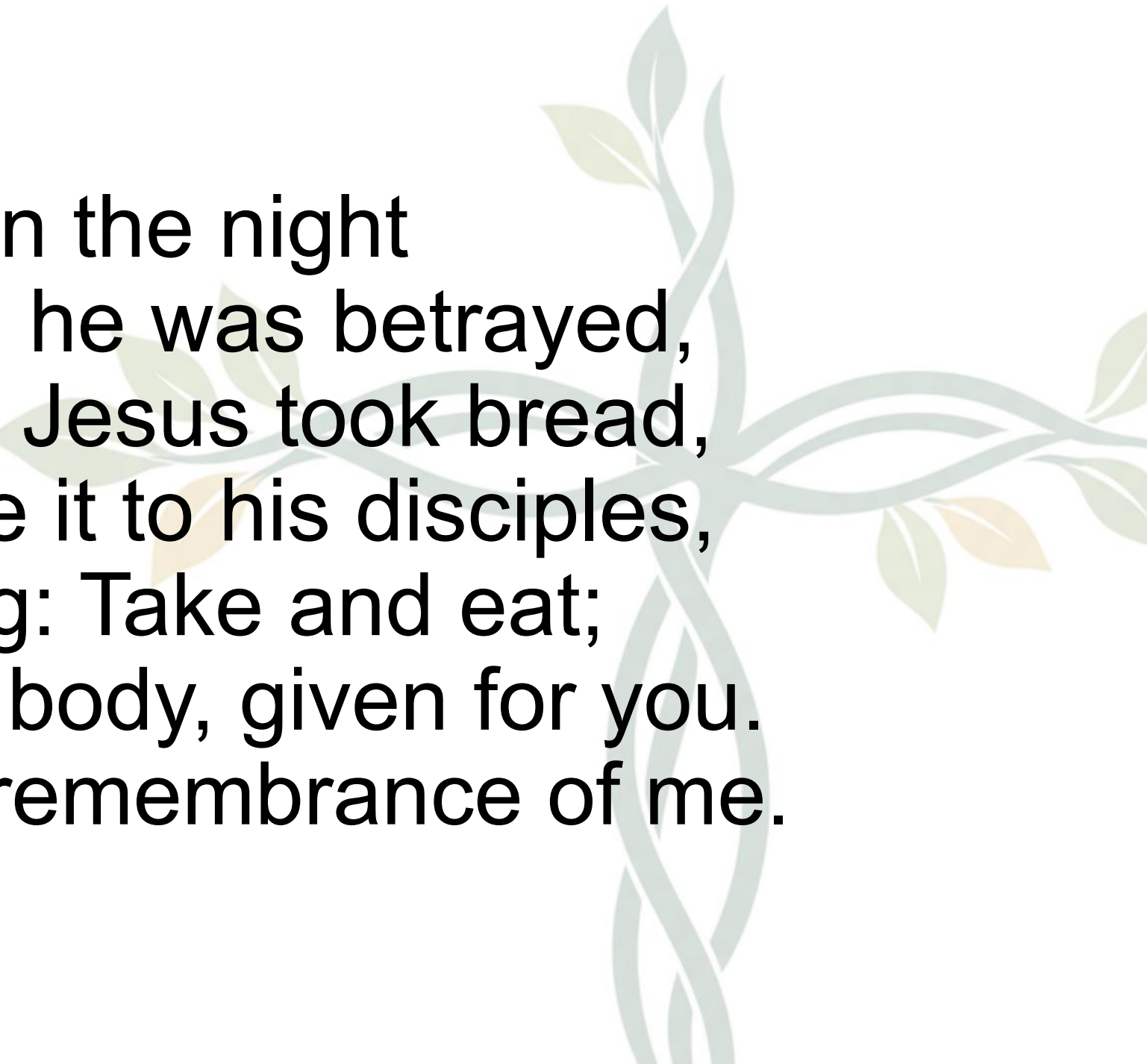


Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

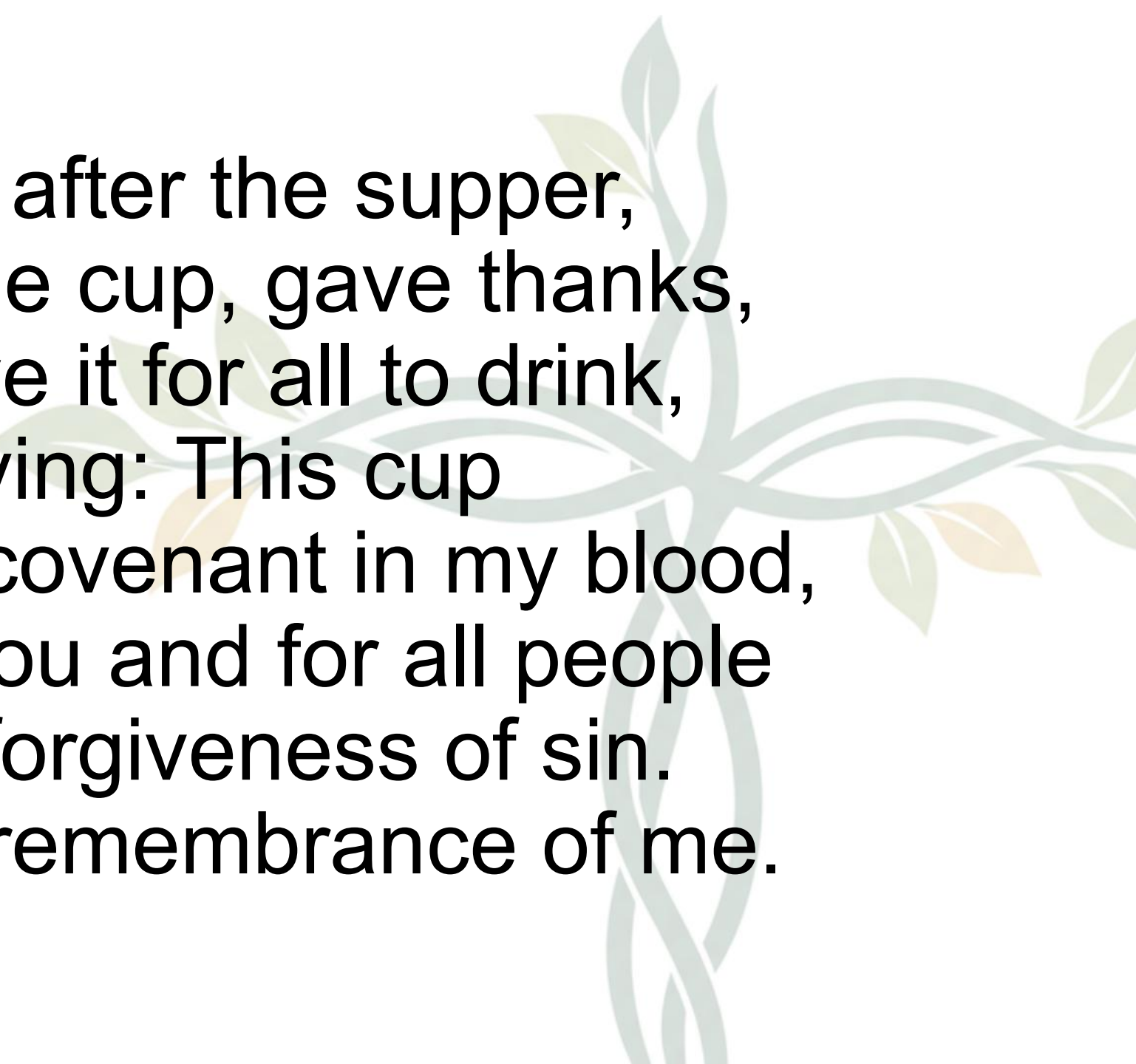




Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth
are full of your glory.
In great love
you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out
to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached the good news
to the poor, and, who, on the cross,
opened his arms to all.

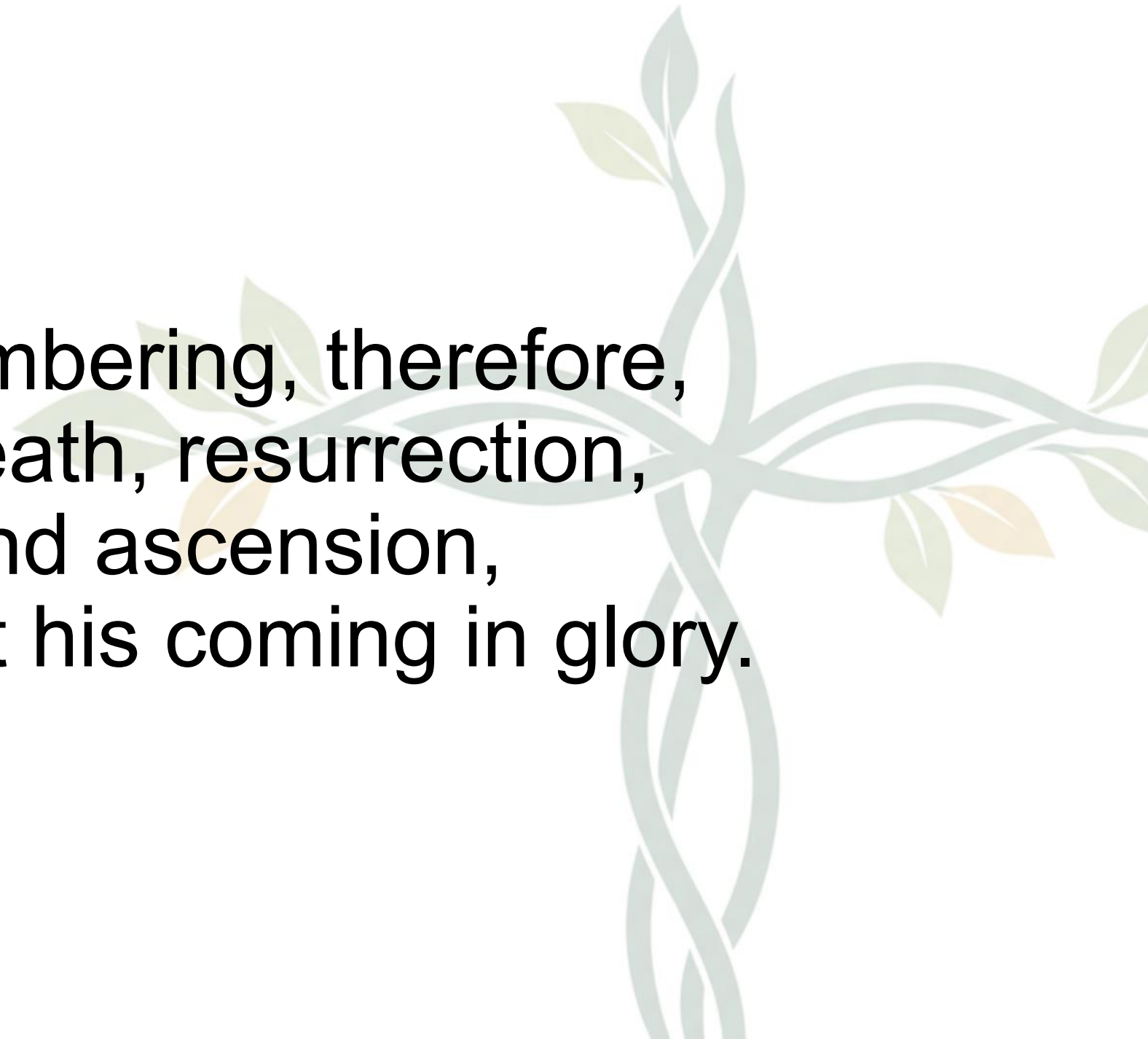
A decorative illustration of a light green vine with several leaves, some in shades of green and some in a pale yellow, extending from the right side of the image towards the center.

In the night
in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

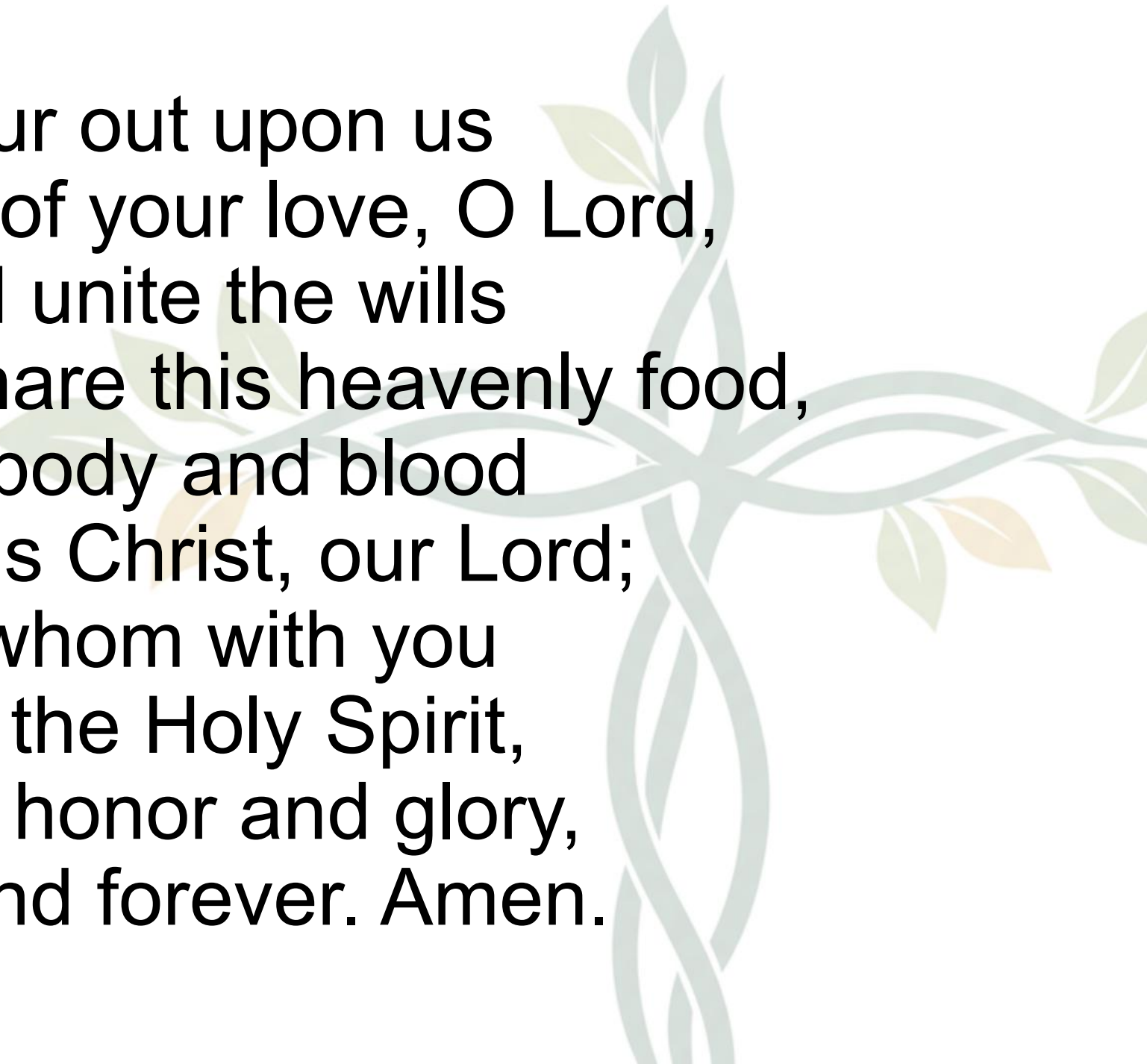


Again, after the supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink,
saying: This cup
is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his death, resurrection,
and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.



Pour out upon us
the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills
of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood
of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom with you
and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory,
now and forever. 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.
Give us today our daily bread.**

The Lord's Prayer



**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 forever. Amen.**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace.





One Bread, One Body

ELW 496



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bles-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1	Gen - tile	or Jew,	ser - vant	or free,
2	Man - y	the gifts,	man - y	the works,
3	Grain for	the fields,	scat-tered	and grown,



wom - an	or man,	no	more.
one in	the Lord	of	all.
gath - ered	to one	for	all.



A decorative graphic of a vine with several leaves, some green and some yellow, extending from the right side of the slide towards the center.

In this Feast of Love
ACS 962

Connecting ● Sustaining ● Reforming

Täs - sä pöy - däs - sä, *täs - sä*
 1 In this feast of love, in this
 2 In this bread and wine, in this
 3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us

pöy - däs - sä *syn - ti - sil - le*
 feast of love, Lord, you share your
 bread and wine, you have prom - ised,
 peace, O Lord; fill us with the

it - se - si an - nat, Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa!
 blood and your bod - y, Je - sus, Lamb of God.
 Lord, to be with us, Lamb . . of God div - ine.
 joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.

Communion Blessing



The body and blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you
in his grace.

Amen!

Benediction



Connecting ● Sustaining ● Reforming

A decorative graphic of a vine with several leaves, some green and some yellow, extending from the right side of the slide towards the center.

Sending Hymn

God's Work, Our Hands

ACS 1000

God's Work, Our Hands



God's work, our hands, working together
building a future, repairing the world.
Raising up homes, planting new gardens,
feeding the hungry and sheltering the cold.
Bless God our hands
as we work in your name,
Sharing the Good News of your Gospel!

God's Work, Our Hands



God's work, our feet, traveling together,
following Jesus to places unknown.
Walking as friends, marching for freedom,
running the race with God's future the goal!
Bless God our feet as we follow your way
Sharing the Good News of your Gospel!

God's Work, Our Hands



God's work, our voice; singing together,
praising, proclaiming to all who will hear.

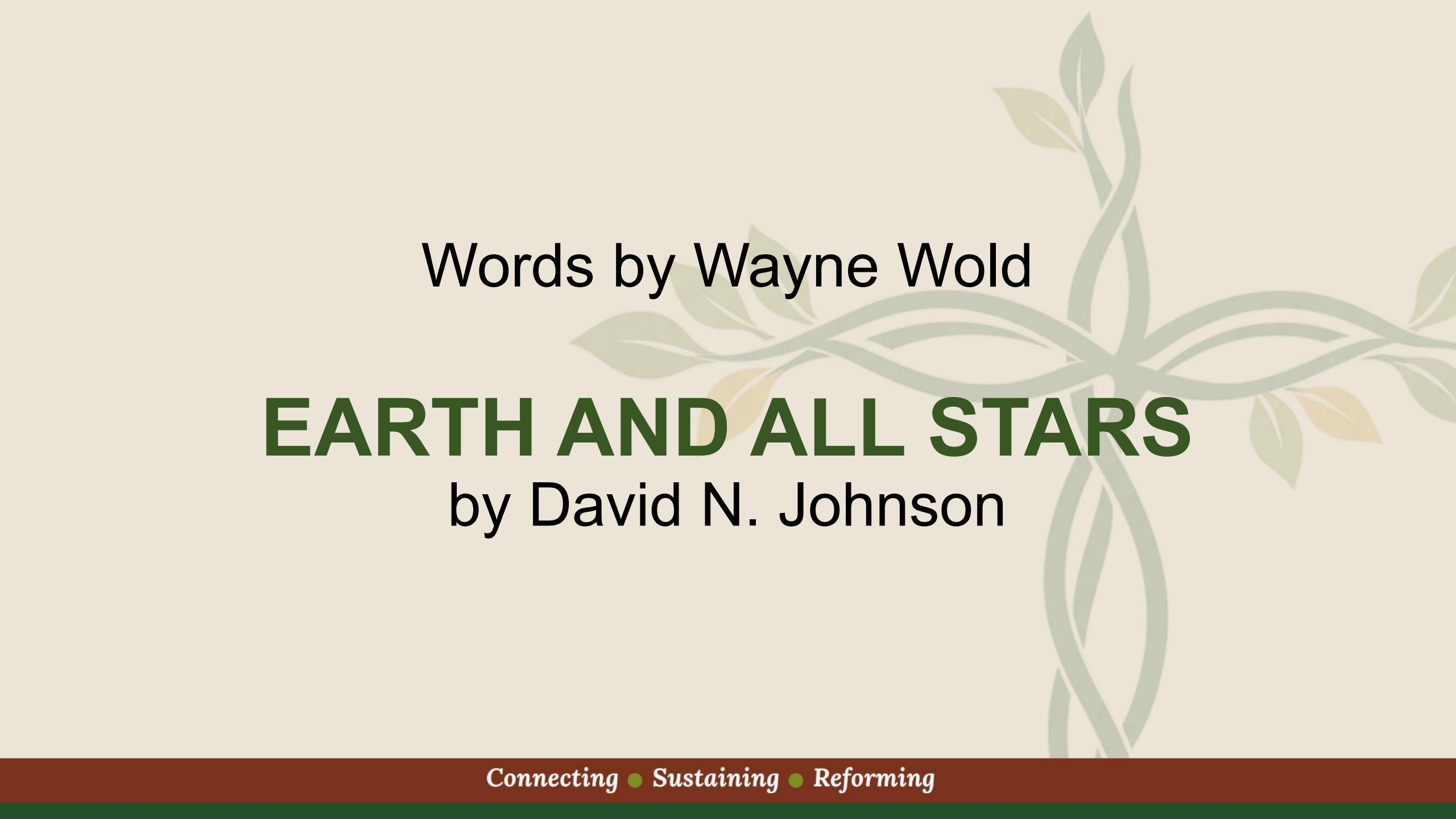
Praying for peace, shouting for justice,
claiming God's love for the lost and the least.

Bless God our voice
as we speak in your name
Sharing the Good News of your Gospel!

God's Work, Our Hands



God is at work, in and around us,
seedlings are sprouting & bread's on the rise.
Washed & set free, humbled & honored,
gifted by grace we respond in God's love.
Bless God our lives as we answer your call
Sharing the Good News of your Gospel!



Words by Wayne Wold

EARTH AND ALL STARS

by David N. Johnson



Go in peace. Serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God!