

OPEN THE GATES



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CfaQgfiK_V4

Gathering Music

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

OPEN THE GATES

Welcome and Announcements

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

OPEN THE GATES

A photograph of a wooden gate partially covered by green foliage and white flowers, set against a dark, shadowed background. The gate is made of horizontal wooden planks and is partially obscured by a dense cluster of green leaves and small white flowers. The background is a dark, almost black, textured surface, possibly a wall or a large shadow, which makes the green foliage stand out. The overall mood is mysterious and inviting.

Prelude

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

OPEN THE GATES

Opening Prayer

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

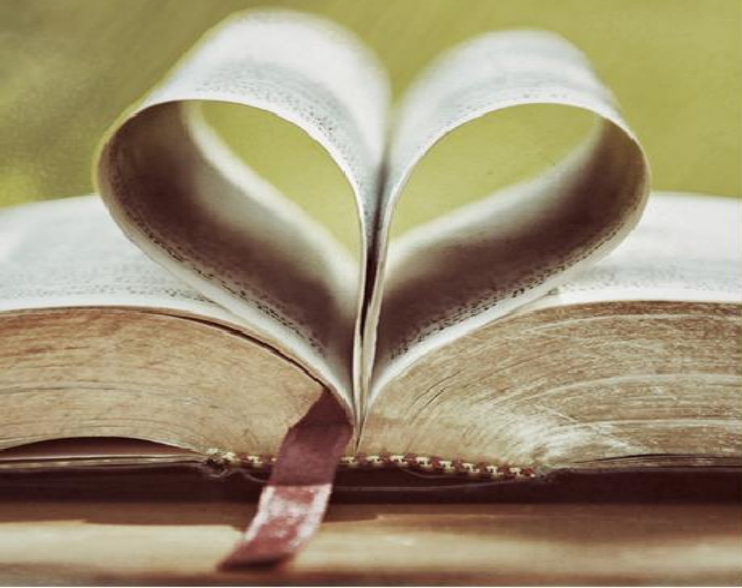
Scripture

PSALM

118:1-2, 19-29

PG 956





Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

² Let Israel say: “His love endures forever.”

Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may



enter.

21 I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

22 The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

23 the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.



²⁴ The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.

²⁵ LORD, save us!

LORD, grant us success!

²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you. [[b](#)]



²⁷ The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine on us.

With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up^[c] to the horns of the altar. You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.



**Come, Christians
Join To Sing
UMH #158**

*Come, Christians
join to sing:*

Al-le-lu-ia! Amen

Loud praise to

Christ our King:

Al-le-lu-ia! Amen!

*Let all, with heart and
voice,
Before his throne
rejoice;
Praise is his gracious
choice.
Al-le-lu-ia! Amen!*

*Come, lift your
hearts on high:
Al-le-lu-ia! Amen
Let praises fill the
sky:
Al-le-lu-ia! Amen!*

*He is our guide and
friend;*

*To us he'll
condescend;*

*His love shall never
end:*

Al-le-lu-ia! Amen!

Praise yet the Lord

again:

Al-le-lu-ia! Amen

Life shall not end

the strain:

Al-le-lu-ia! Amen!

*On heaven's blissful
shore*

*His goodness we'll
adore,*

*Singing forevermore:
Al-le-lu-ia! Amen!*

Scripture

LUKE

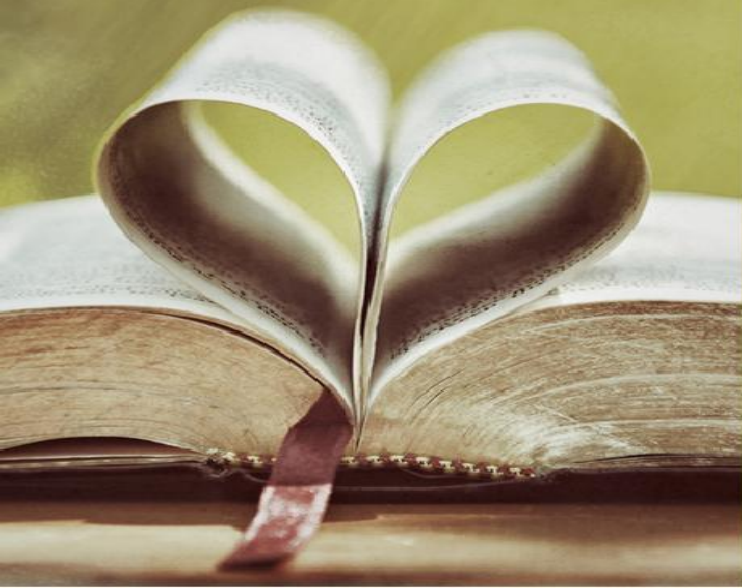
19:28-40

PG 1631





After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰ “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there,



which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

³² Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them,



“Why are you untying the colt?”

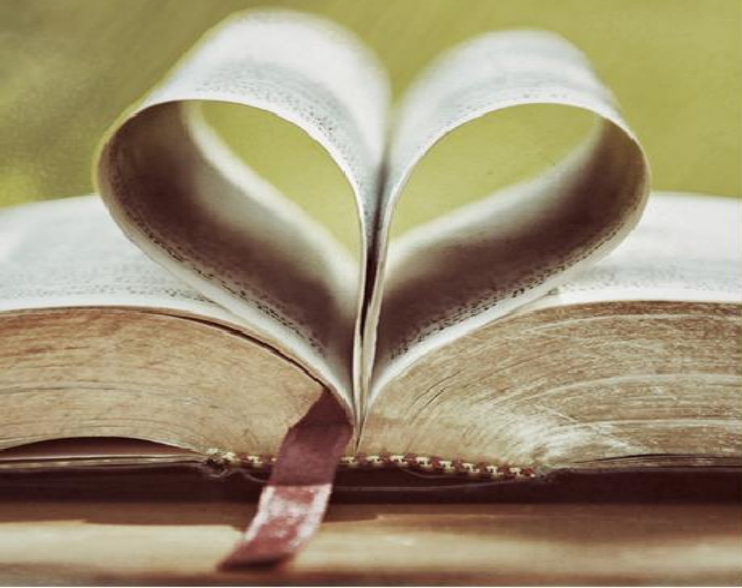
³⁴ They replied, “The Lord needs it.”

³⁵ They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.



37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

38 “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” [\[b\]](#)



“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

⁴⁰ “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”



**This is the word of God,
for the people of God.**

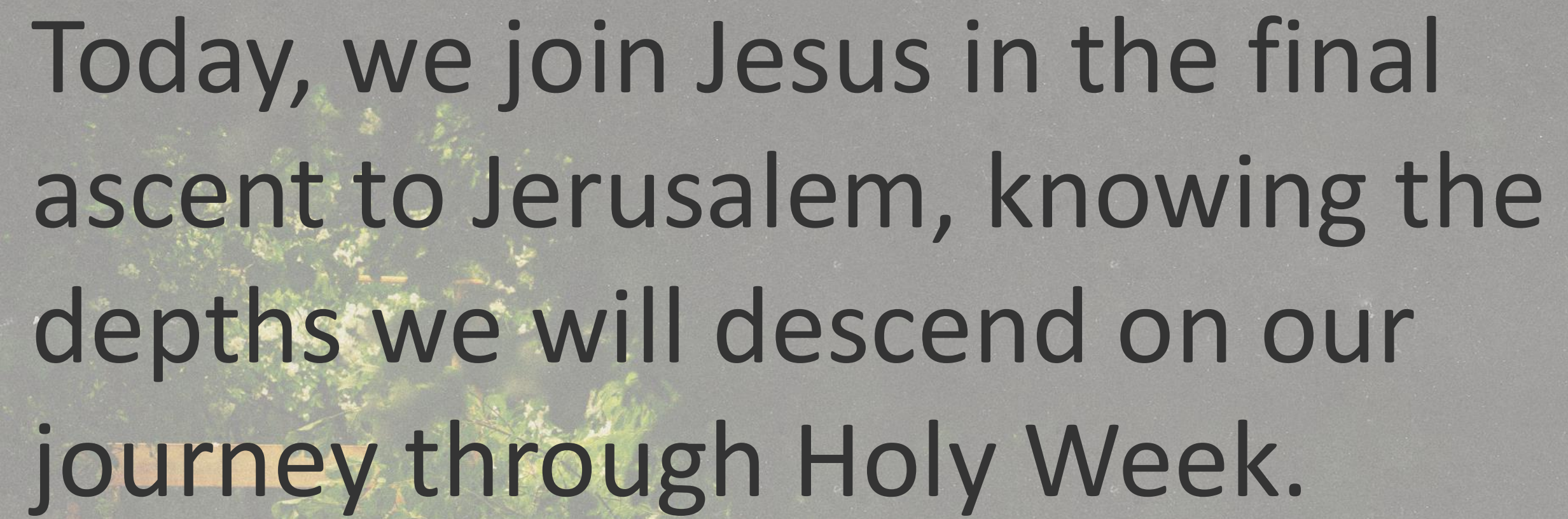
All:

Thanks be to God.

OPEN THE GATES

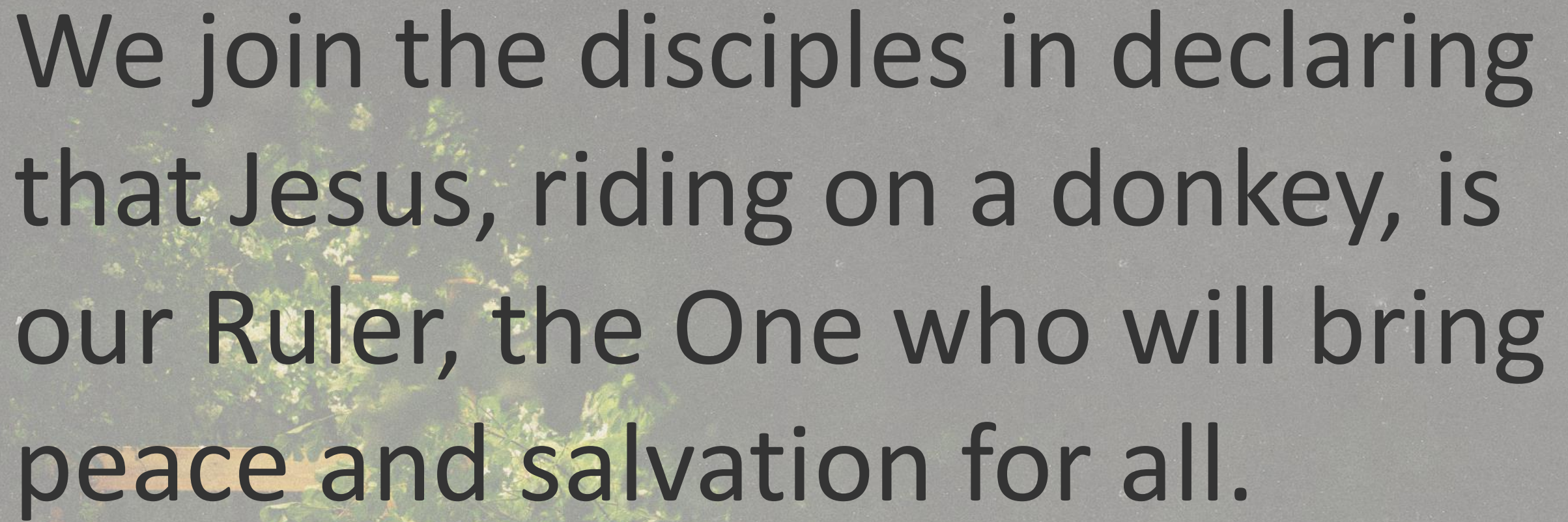
CALL TO WORSHIP

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY



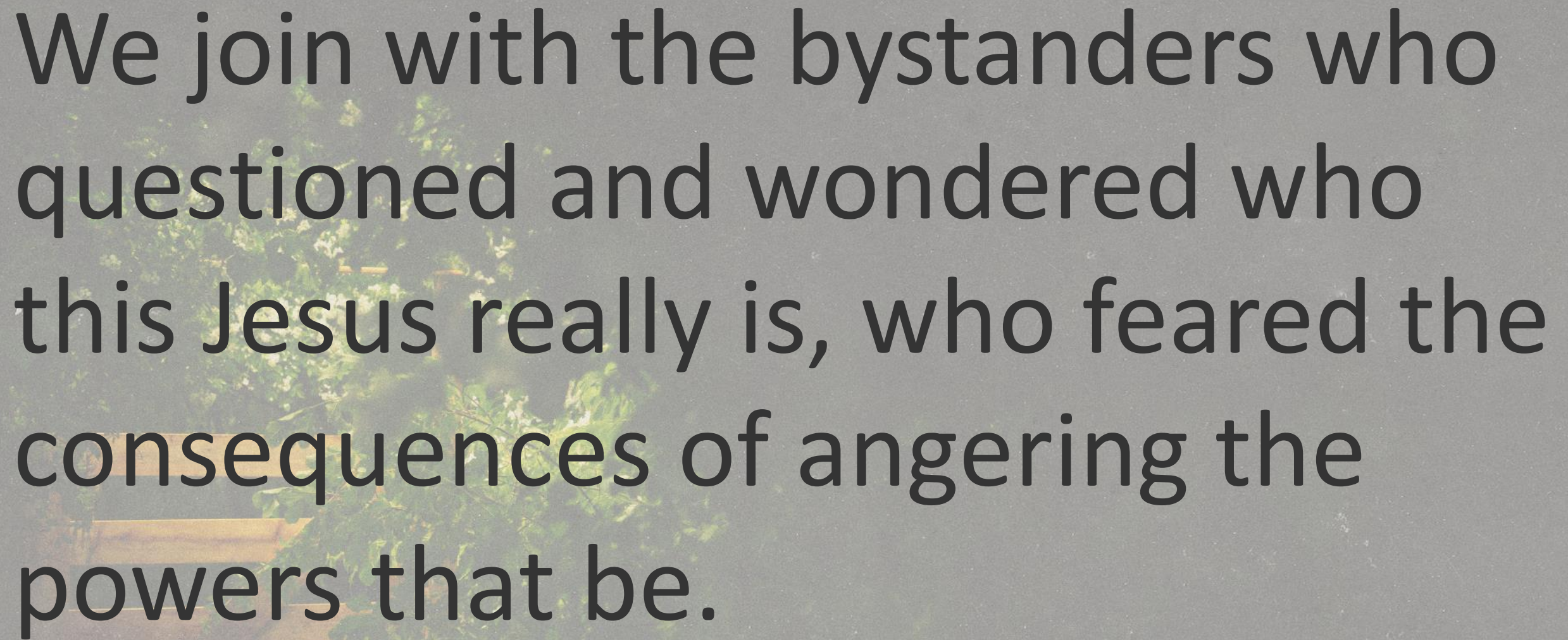
Today, we join Jesus in the final ascent to Jerusalem, knowing the depths we will descend on our journey through Holy Week.

**Open the gates of righteousness,
that we may come worship God!**

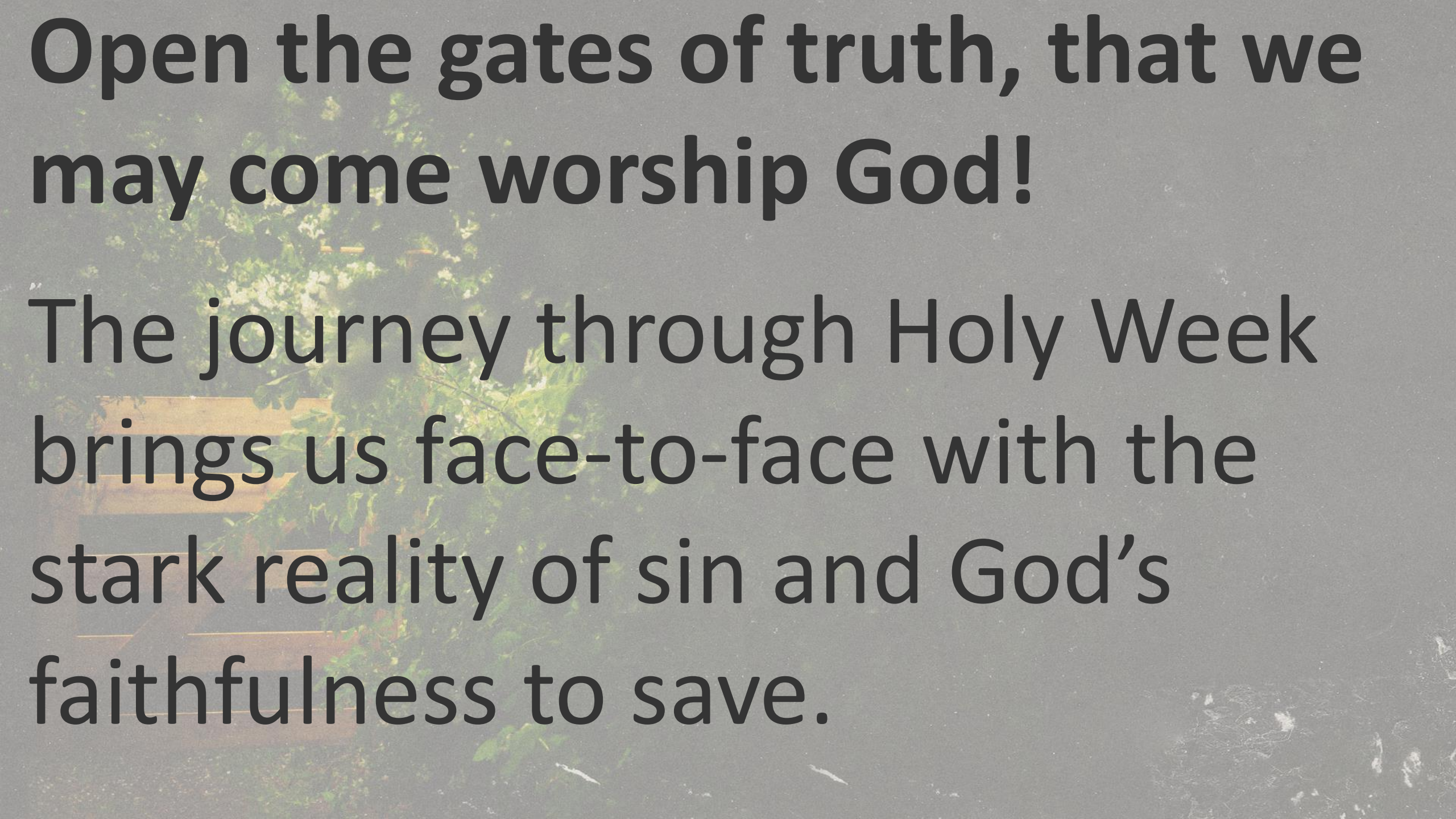


We join the disciples in declaring that Jesus, riding on a donkey, is our Ruler, the One who will bring peace and salvation for all.

Open the gates of peace, that we may come worship God!

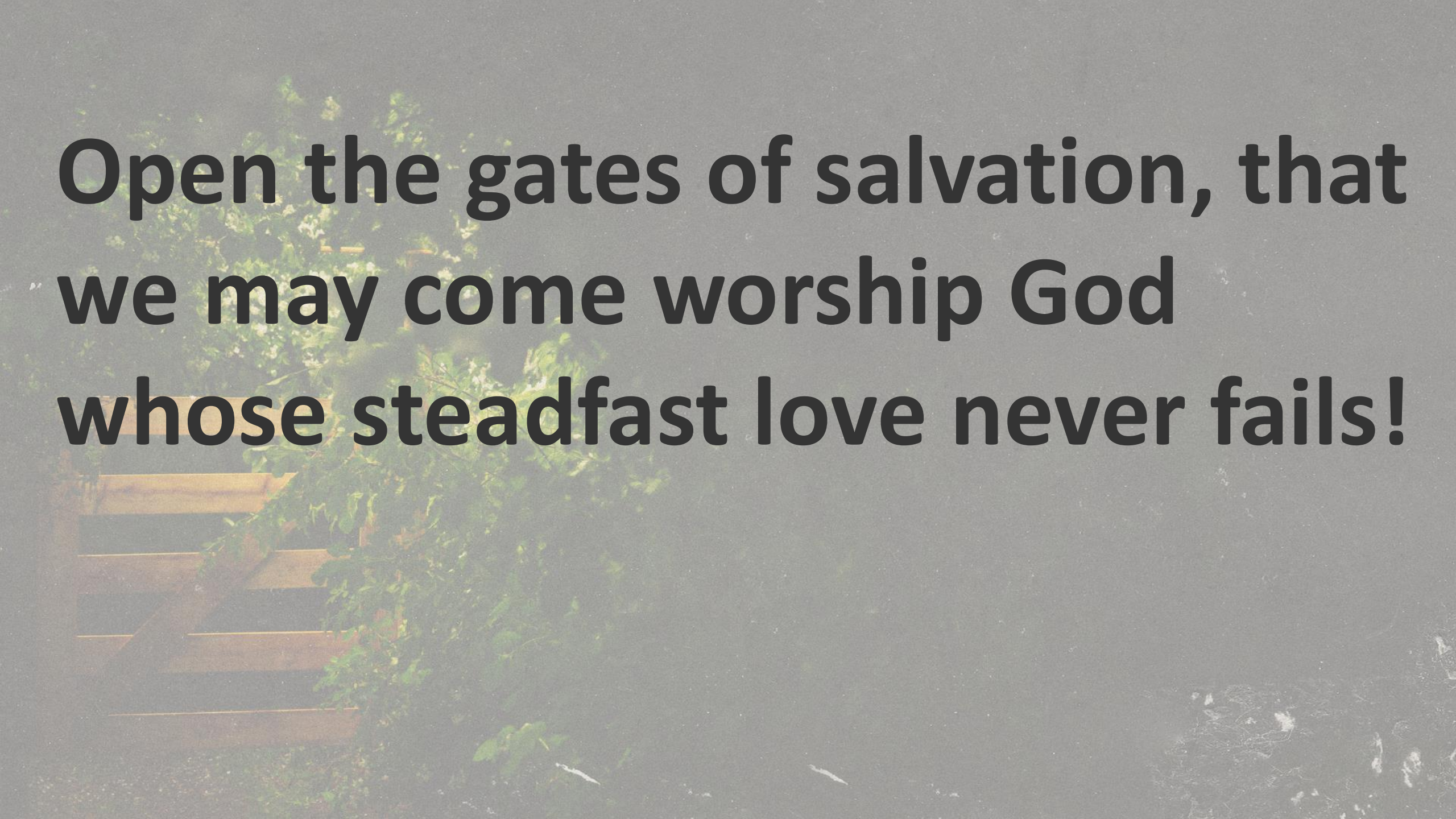


We join with the bystanders who questioned and wondered who this Jesus really is, who feared the consequences of angering the powers that be.



**Open the gates of truth, that we
may come worship God!**

The journey through Holy Week
brings us face-to-face with the
stark reality of sin and God's
faithfulness to save.



**Open the gates of salvation, that
we may come worship God
whose steadfast love never fails!**



**TELL ME THE
STORIES OF JESUS
UMH #277**

**Tell Me The
Stories Of
Jesus
UMH #277**

**Tell me the stories of
Jesus**

**I love to hear;
Things that I would ask
him to tell me
if he were here:**

**Tell Me The
Stories Of
Jesus
UMH #277**

**Scenes by the wayside,
Tales of the sea,
Stories of Jesus,
Tell them to me.**

**Tell Me The
Stories Of
Jesus
UMH #277**

**First let me hear how the
children
Stood round his knee,
And I shall fancy his
blessing
Resting on me;**

**Tell Me The
Stories Of
Jesus
UMH #277**

**Words full of kindness,
Deeds full of grace,
All in the love light
Of Jesus' face.**

**Tell Me The
Stories Of
Jesus**

UMH #277

**Into the city I'd follow
The children's band,
Waving a branch of the
palm tree
High in my hand;**

**Tell Me The
Stories Of
Jesus
UMH #277**

**One of his heralds,
Yes, I would sing
Loudest hosannas,
“Jesus is King!”**

OPEN THE GATES


A photograph of a wooden gate partially obscured by green foliage and white flowers, set against a dark, misty background. The gate is made of horizontal wooden planks. The foliage is dense and vibrant green, with some white flowers visible. The background is a dark, silhouetted hillside or mountain range under a grey, overcast sky. The overall mood is serene and somewhat mysterious.

Joys and Prayer Requests

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

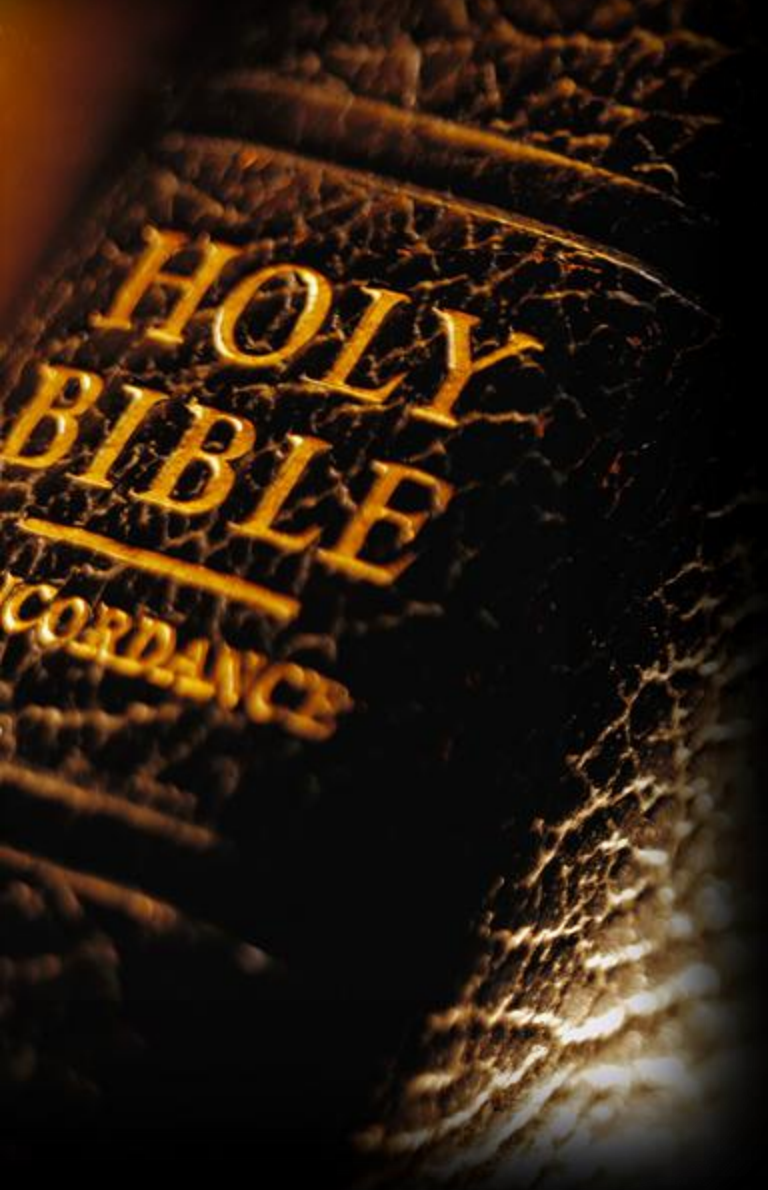
The Lord's Prayer

**Our father,
Who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done**



HOLY
BIBLE
CORDANCE

The Lord's Prayer



**On earth
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day
Our daily bread
And forgive us
Our trespasses**

The Lord's Prayer

**As we forgive those
Who trespass against us.
And lead us not into
Temptation
But deliver us from evil**



HOLY
BIBLE
CORDANCE

The Lord's Prayer

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

A close-up, low-angle shot of a dark, textured Bible cover. The words "HOLY BIBLE" are embossed in large, gold, serif capital letters. Below it, the word "CORDANCE" is also embossed in smaller gold letters. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the cover and the metallic sheen of the gold lettering.

HOLY
BIBLE
CORDANCE

Offering



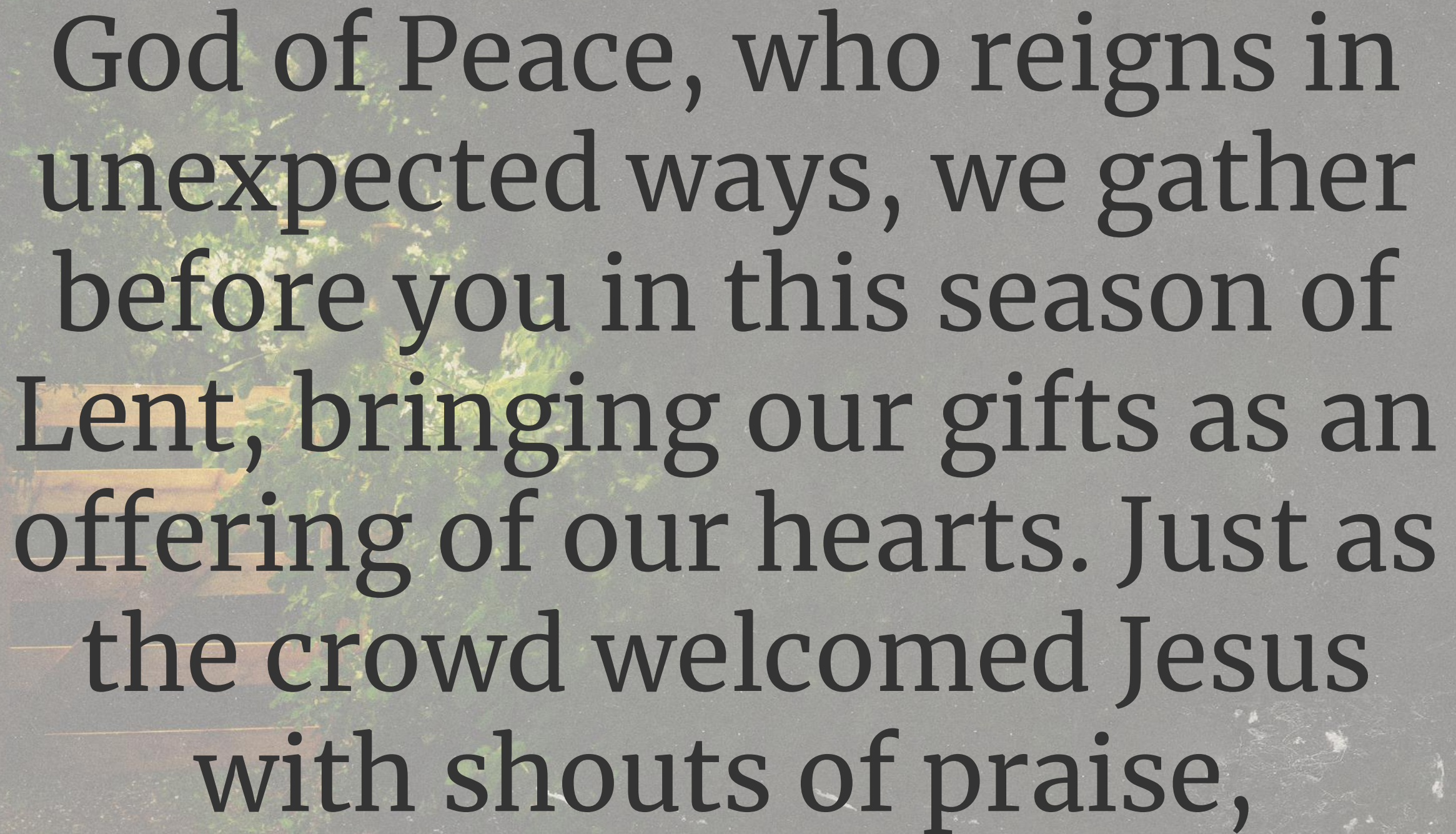
Doxology

**Praise the Lord who
reigns above and
Keeps his court below;
Praise the holy God of
love and
All his greatness show;**

Doxology

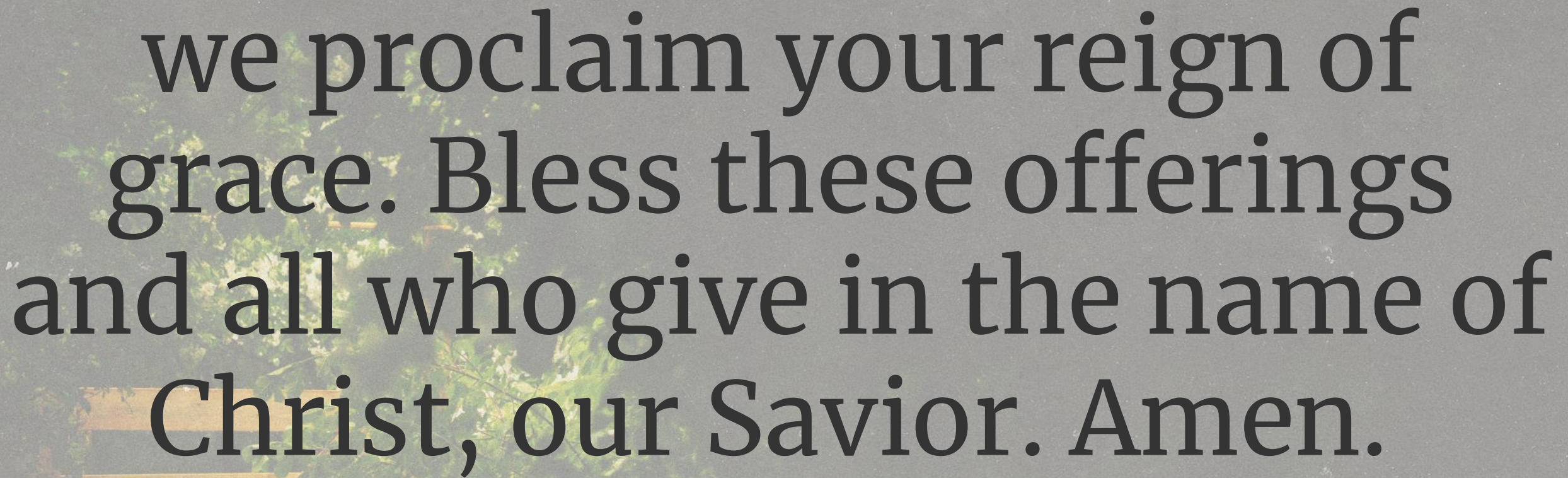
**praise him for his noble
deeds,
Praise him for his
matchless power;
Him from whom all good
proceeds let
Earth and heaven adore.**





God of Peace, who reigns in unexpected ways, we gather before you in this season of Lent, bringing our gifts as an offering of our hearts. Just as the crowd welcomed Jesus with shouts of praise,

we offer our lives in service to
your kingdom. Use these gifts
to bring hope, healing, and
love to a world longing for
your peace. Guide us to give
generously with joyful hearts,
knowing that in our giving,



we proclaim your reign of
grace. Bless these offerings
and all who give in the name of
Christ, our Savior. Amen.



Choir Anthem

Keep The Lamp Burning

OPEN THE GATES

Dr Ray Francis

Song within the sermon –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oq9FILVh6yg>

You Will Be Found

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

Prayer Over The Message

Heavenly Father,

We come before You today with hearts full of gratitude and praise. We thank You for the opportunity to gather in Your presence and to reflect on Your Word. As we explore the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem from Luke 19:28-40, we ask that You open our hearts to the deeper truths You want to reveal to us. Help us to understand the significance of keeping our lamps burning in faith and the importance of opening the gates of our hearts to You, our King.

Prayer Over The Message

Lord, just as the people in Jerusalem welcomed Jesus with shouts of praise, may we also welcome Him into our lives with the same passion and reverence. We pray for the perseverance to remain faithful, to endure through life's challenges, and to keep our faith alive, waiting with hope for His return. Fill us with a renewed desire to serve You, to keep our lamps burning brightly, and to open the gates of our lives to Your transformative power.

- May Your Holy Spirit guide us through this message, opening our eyes to Your love and calling us to a deeper relationship with You. We ask this in the mighty name of Jesus, our Savior and King. Amen.

Introduction

- In this message, we reflect on the importance of staying faithful, keeping our lamps burning as Christians, and understanding the role of perseverance in our walk with Christ. The phrase 'open the gates' highlights the readiness to welcome Christ into our lives and share His message of hope with the world.



REMEMBER

KEEP YOUR LAMP BURNING

OPEN THE GATES

YOU WILL BE FOUND!!!

Perseverance and Faith in Christ

- 1. Constant Vigilance in Faith
 - - Keep lamps burning through daily prayer, Scripture, and service.
- 2. The Struggle to Endure
 - Keep your light burning - always

Perseverance and Faith in Christ

- 3. Faith in God's Promises
 - - Root perseverance in trust that God's promises will be fulfilled.
- 4. Hope in Christ's Return
 - - Anticipate Christ's return as the motivation for enduring faith

Cultural Context at the Time of Jesus

- 1. Roman Occupation
 - - The Jewish people faced oppression under Roman rule.
- 2. Messianic Expectations
 - - The expectation for a Messiah to free Israel from oppression.

Cultural Context at the Time of Jesus

- 3. The Passover Festival
 - - A time of pilgrimage when Jesus entered Jerusalem.

Cultural Context at the Time of Jesus

- 4. Symbolism of the Donkey
 - - Jesus' humble entry signified peace, not war
 - Peaceful Conqueror
 - - Humility of Jesus
 - - Fulfillment of Zechariah's Prophecy - the coming King, the shepherd, and the ultimate triumph of God's kingdom. [Zechariah 9:9](#) prophesies the coming of a humble king riding on a donkey, a prophecy fulfilled in the New Testament with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Meaning of Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem

- 1. Fulfillment of Prophecy
 - - Jesus' entry fulfills Zechariah's prophecy of the Messiah.
- 2. Declaration of Jesus as King
 - - Jesus declared Himself the King of Peace.
- 3. Offer of Salvation
 - - Jesus entered to bring salvation through His sacrificial death.

Meaning of Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem

- 4. Fulfillment of God's Timing
 - - Jesus entered at the perfect time in God's plan.
- 5. Public Acknowledgment
 - - Crowds declared Jesus as Messiah, but misunderstood His mission.

Lessons from the People of That Time

- 1. Faithful Expectation
 - - We must have faith aligned with God's will, not our own desires.
- 2. Willingness to Follow Jesus
 - - Following Jesus requires obedience, even when it's difficult.

Lessons from the People of That Time

- 3. Humility in Worship
 - - True worship involves humility and recognizing Jesus' authority.
- 4. Responding to Christ's Invitation
 - - Respond to Jesus' call with open hearts, ready to follow Him.

Potential Meanings of 'Open the Gates'

- 1. Open Our Hearts to Christ
 - - Welcoming Christ into our lives and hearts.
- 2. Open Doors of Opportunity
 - - Embrace opportunities for ministry and service.

Potential Meanings of 'Open the Gates'

- 3. Open Minds to Truth
 - - Let God's Word guide our thoughts and actions.
- 4. Open the Gates of Heaven
 - - Live in anticipation of Christ's return, knowing heaven awaits.

Potential Meanings of 'Open the Gates'

- 5. Open Minds to Scripture
 - - Allow Scripture to penetrate our hearts
 - - Let the Word of God guide our thinking

Potential Meanings of 'Open the Gates'

- 6. Open Gates of Heaven
 - - Anticipate Christ's return
 - - The gates of heaven will be opened to believers



REMEMBER

KEEP YOUR LAMP BURNING

OPEN THE GATES

YOU WILL BE FOUND!!!

Sermon Closing Prayer

Father God,


We thank You for the message we have received today and for the reminder of the importance of keeping our lamps burning in faith. As we leave this place, may the truths we have heard take root in our hearts and guide our actions. Help us to be vigilant in our faith, to endure through the challenges, and to trust in Your promises. May we remain watchful, prepared, and ready for Your return.

Sermon Closing Prayer

Lord, we also pray that You would help us to open the gates of our hearts to You. May we welcome Jesus as the King of Peace and allow His love to transform our lives. Empower us to boldly proclaim His name and to serve others with the same humility and grace that He showed us.

- We ask for Your continued presence in our lives, that we may be faithful witnesses of Your love and truth. Bless us as we go from this place, and help us to live out the message of today's sermon in every area of our lives. We give You all the glory and honor, in Jesus' name. Amen.


THIS IS THE DAY
UMH #657
(2X)



**This Is The
Day**

UMH# 657


*This is the day,
this is the day
That the Lord has made,
that the lord has made.
Let us rejoice,
let us rejoice
And be glad in it,
and be glad in it.*



**This Is The
Day
UMH# 657**

***This is the day that the
Lord has made,
Let us rejoice and be glad
in it.***


***This is the day, this is the
day that the Lord has
made.***



**This Is The
Day**

UMH# 657

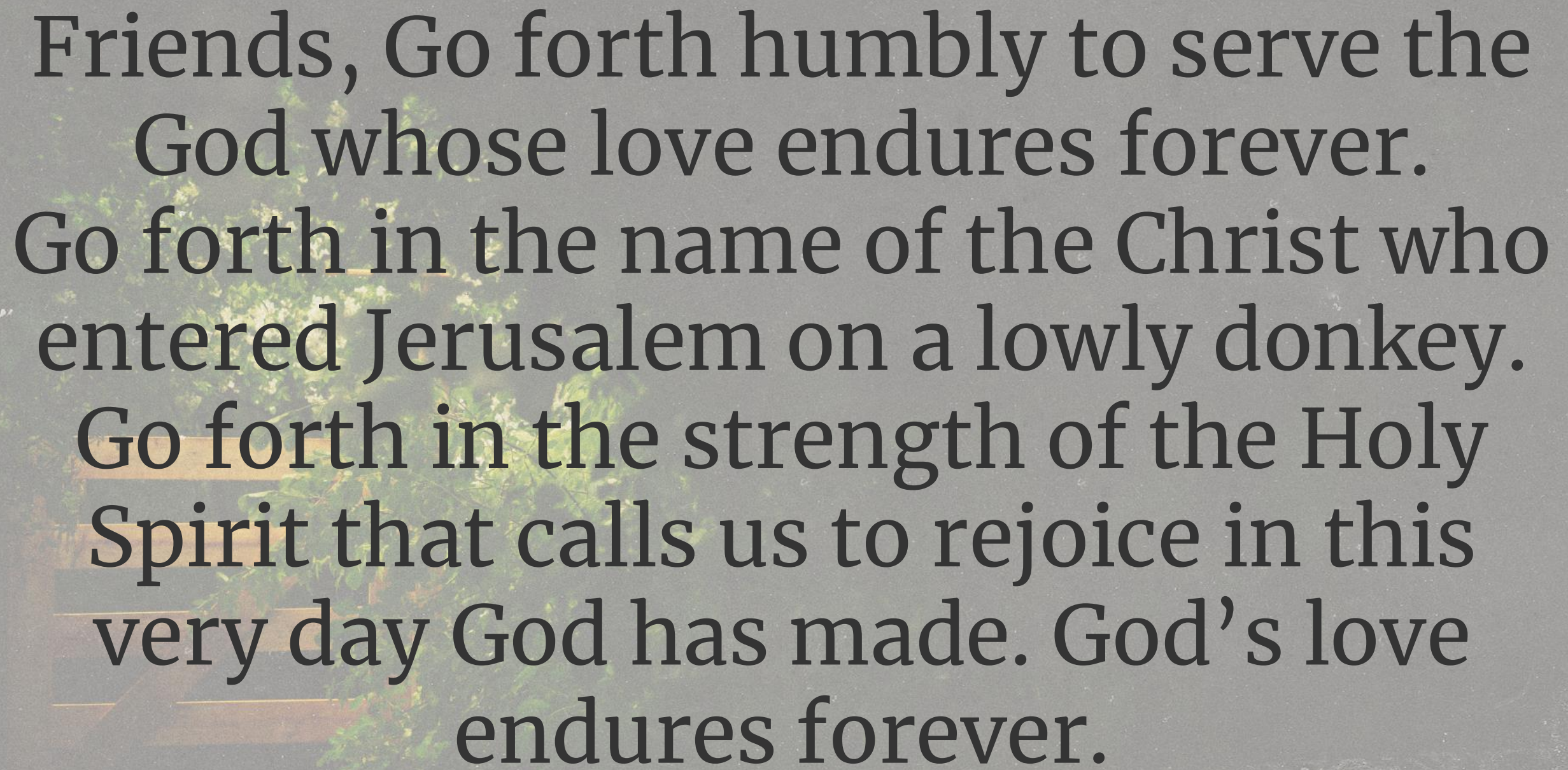
*This is the day,
this is the day
That the Lord has made,
that the lord has made.
Let us rejoice,
let us rejoice
And be glad in it,
and be glad in it.*



**This Is The
Day
UMH# 657**

***This is the day that the
Lord has made,
Let us rejoice and be glad
in it.***

***This is the day, this is the
day that the Lord has
made.***



Friends, Go forth humbly to serve the
God whose love endures forever.
Go forth in the name of the Christ who
entered Jerusalem on a lowly donkey.
Go forth in the strength of the Holy
Spirit that calls us to rejoice in this
very day God has made. God's love
endures forever.

STEADFAST LOVE

A LENTEN PLAYLIST

