

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f26P1ftbCco>

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

# EMBODIED BELIEVING



# Gathering Music



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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**Welcome and Announcements**



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

# EMBODIED BELIEVING



## Prelude



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

# EMBODIED BELIEVING

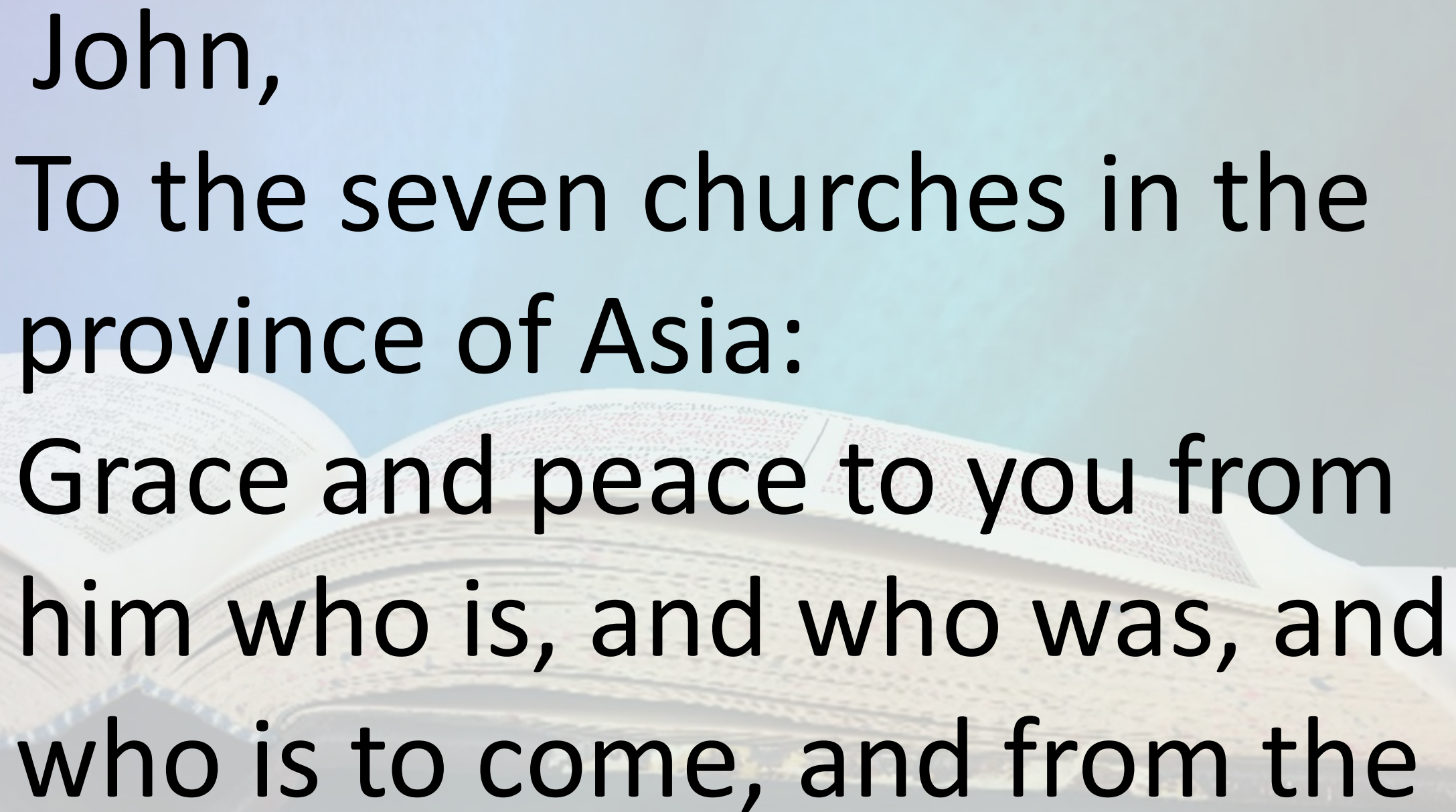


## Opening Prayer

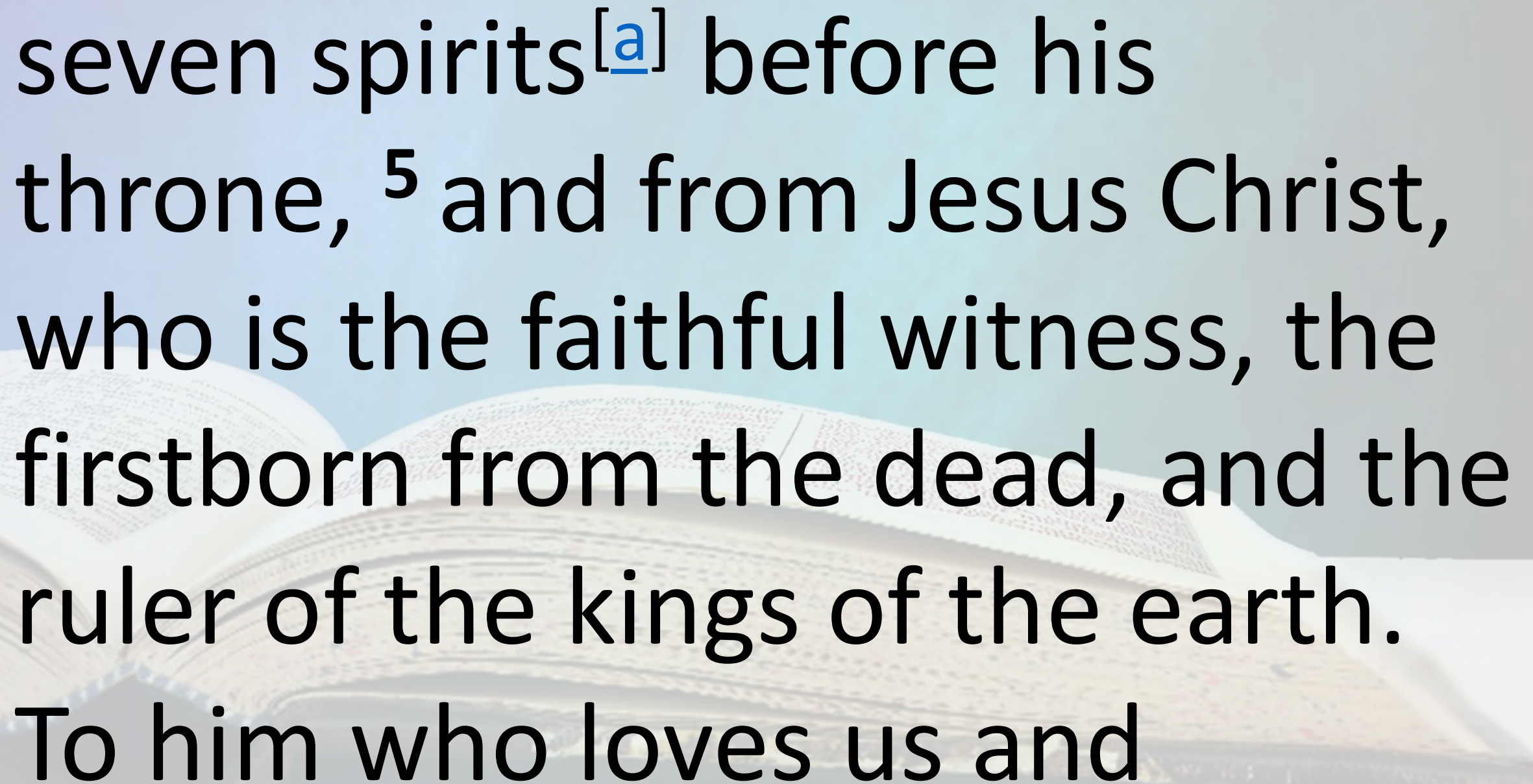
# Revelation 1:4-8

PG 1913

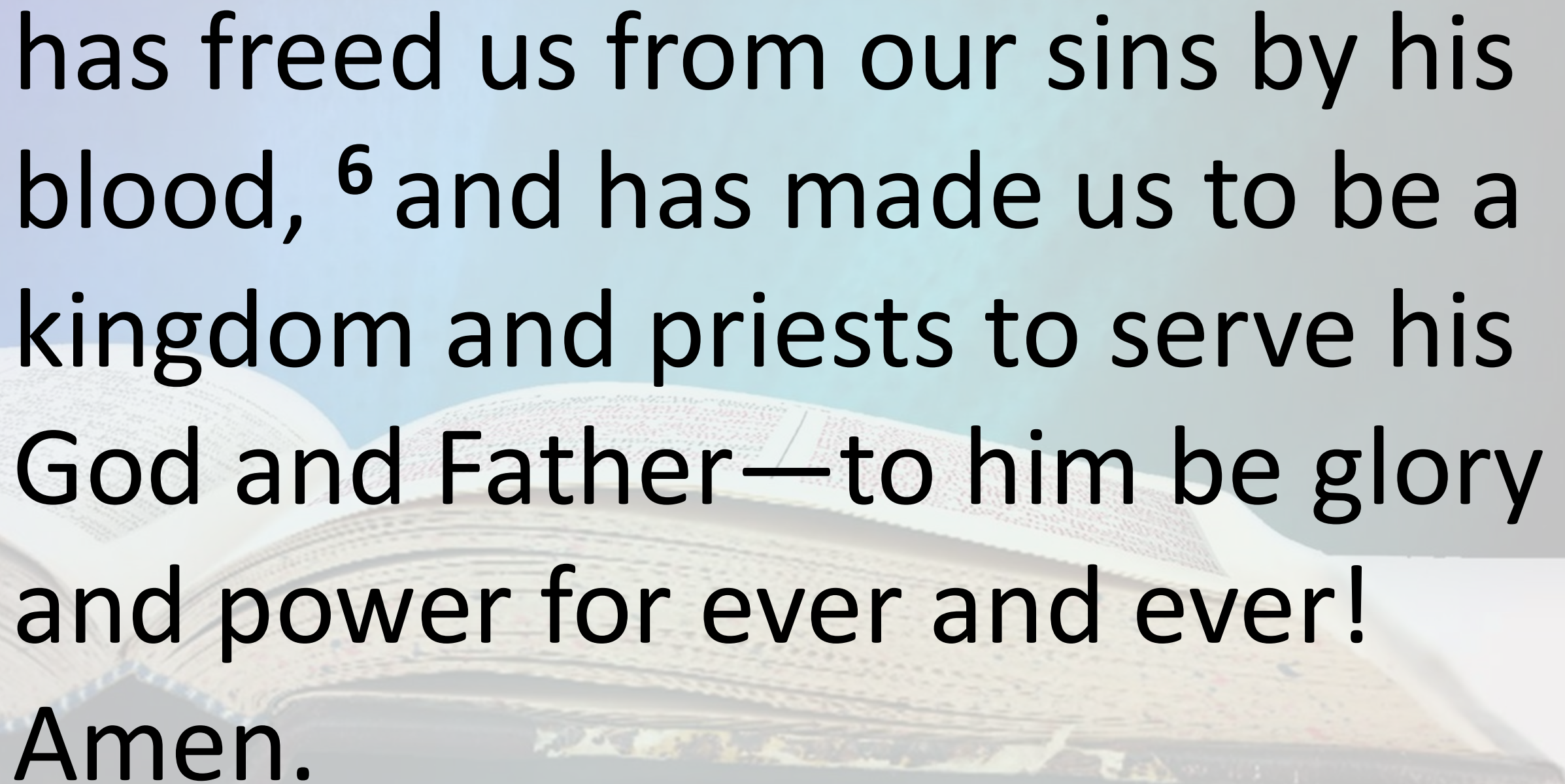




John,  
To the seven churches in the  
province of Asia:  
Grace and peace to you from  
him who is, and who was, and  
who is to come, and from the



seven spirits<sup>[a]</sup> before his throne,<sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and

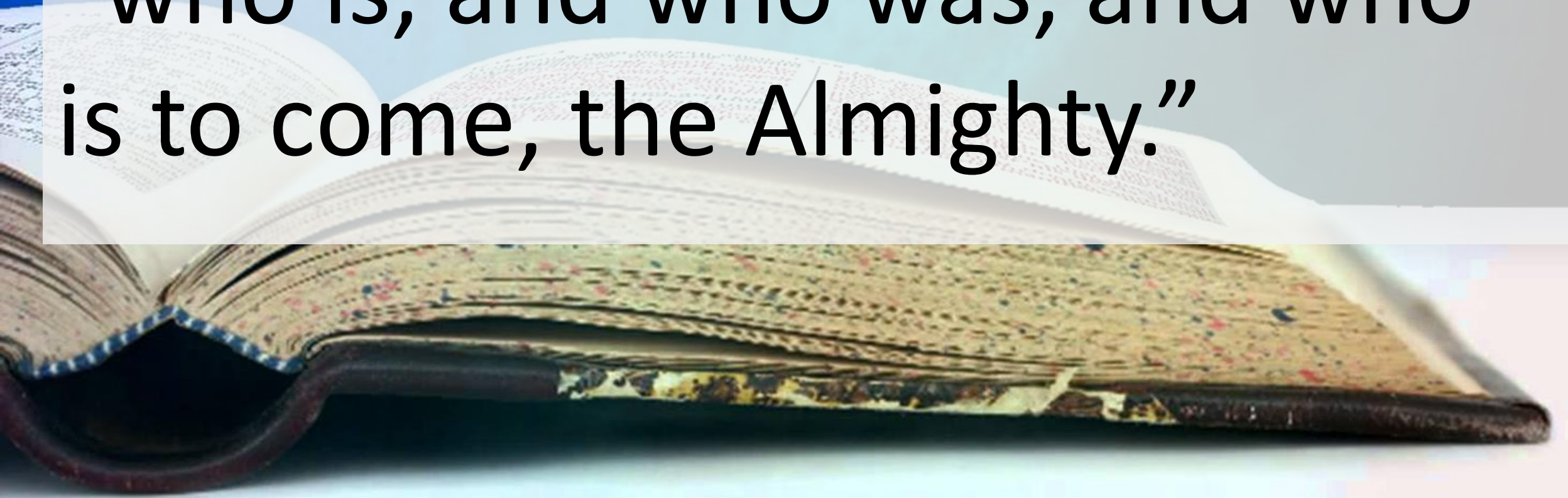
An open book with text overlaid. The text is in a large, black, sans-serif font. The background is a light blue gradient with a faint image of an open book.

has freed us from our sins by his  
blood, <sup>6</sup> and has made us to be a  
kingdom and priests to serve his  
God and Father—to him be glory  
and power for ever and ever!  
Amen.



7 “Look, he is coming with the clouds,”<sup>[b]</sup> and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”<sup>[c]</sup>  
So shall it be! Amen.

8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

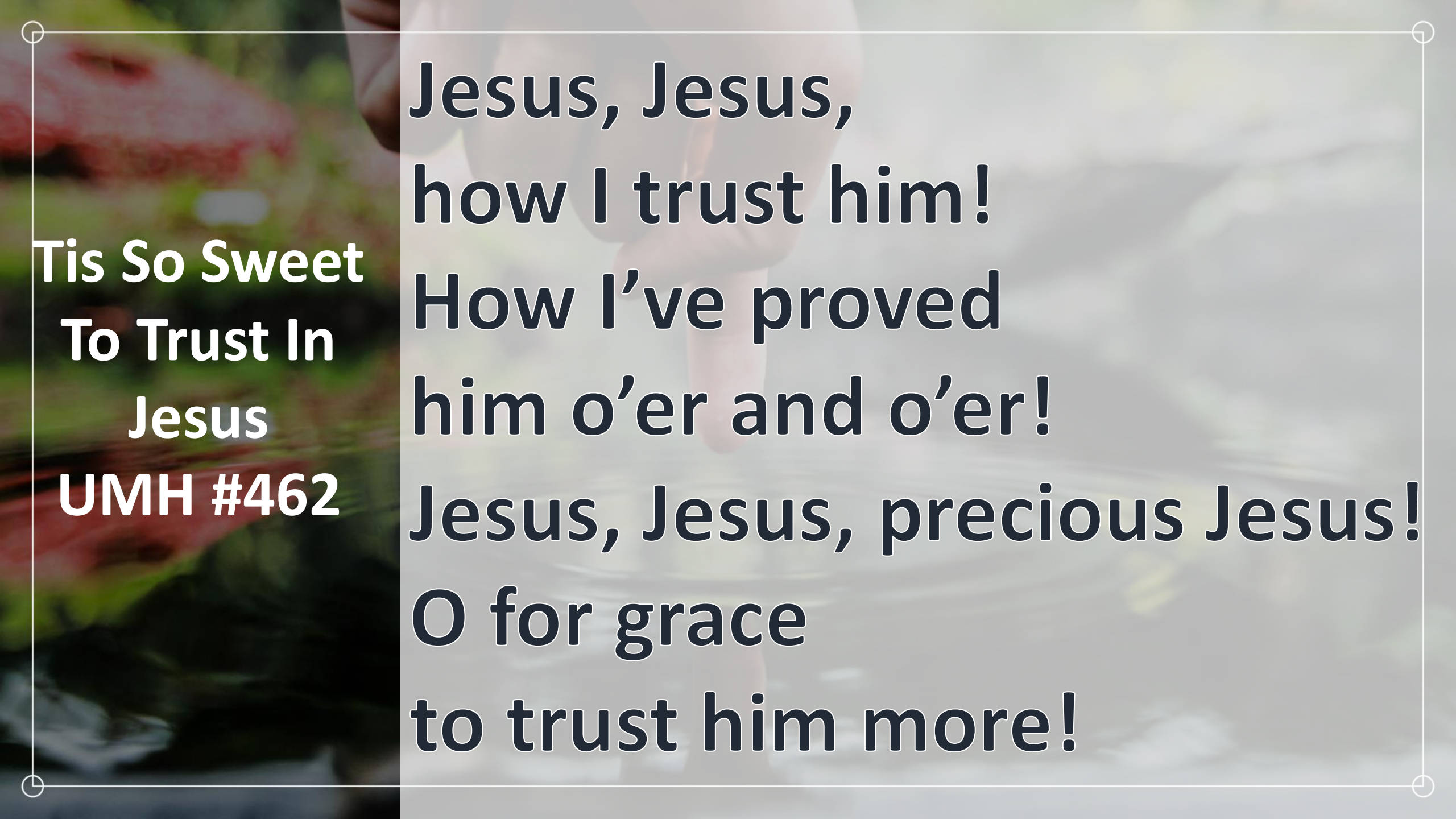


A close-up photograph of a hand holding a small, dark object just above a body of water. The object is positioned so that it is about to drop, as evidenced by the concentric ripples spreading out on the water's surface. The background is blurred, showing green foliage and a reddish-brown structure, possibly a building or fence. The overall lighting is soft and natural.

**Tis So Sweet  
To Trust In Jesus  
UMH #462**

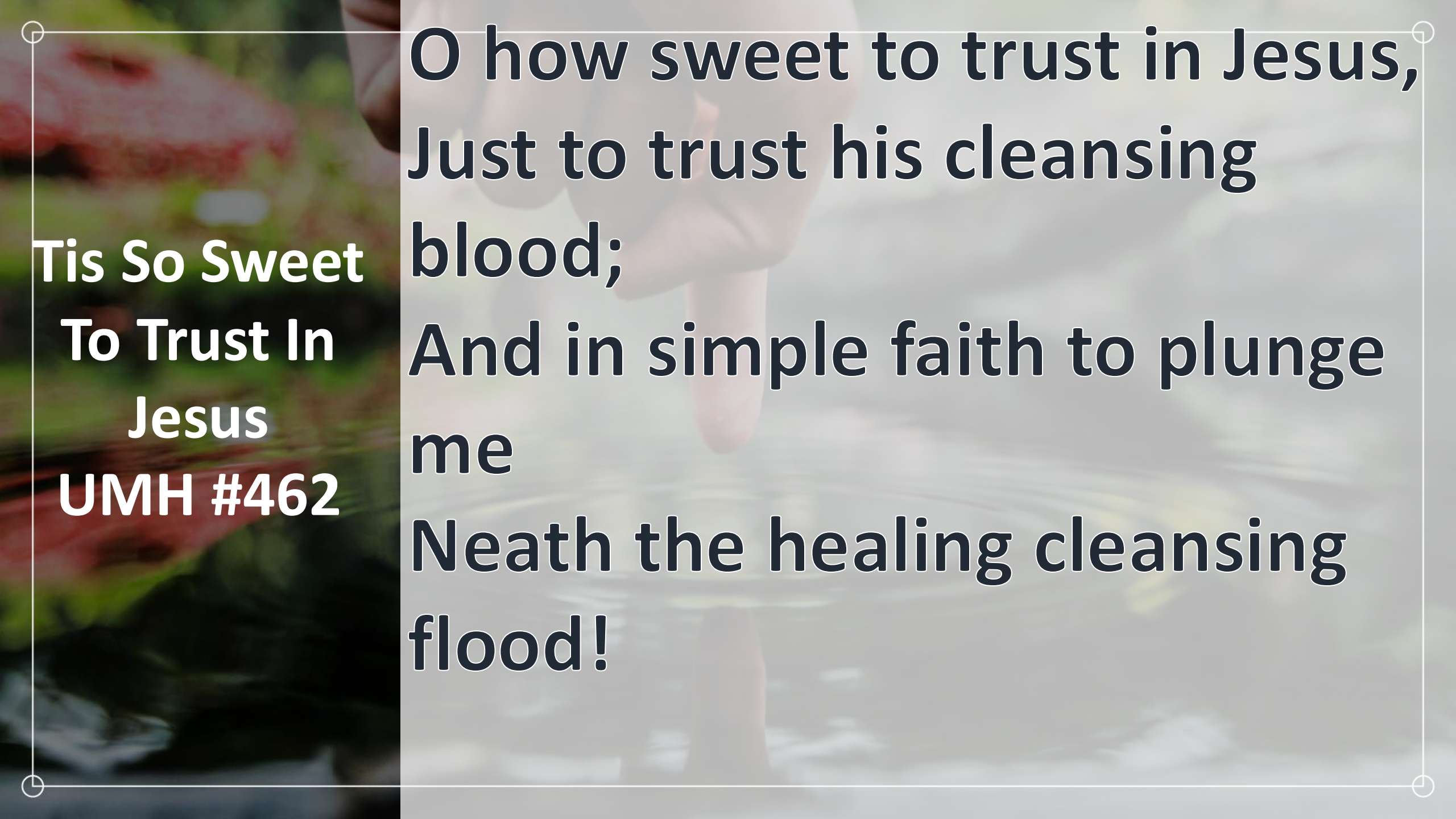
**Tis So Sweet  
To Trust In  
Jesus  
UMH #462**

**“Tis so sweet to trust in  
Jesus,  
And to take him at his word,  
Just to rest upon his  
promise,  
And to know, “Thus saith  
the Lord.”**

A photograph of a person's hands holding a white ceramic communion cup. The person is wearing a white garment, likely a vestment. The background is blurred, showing green foliage and a red object, possibly a host. The image is framed by a white border with small circles at the corners.

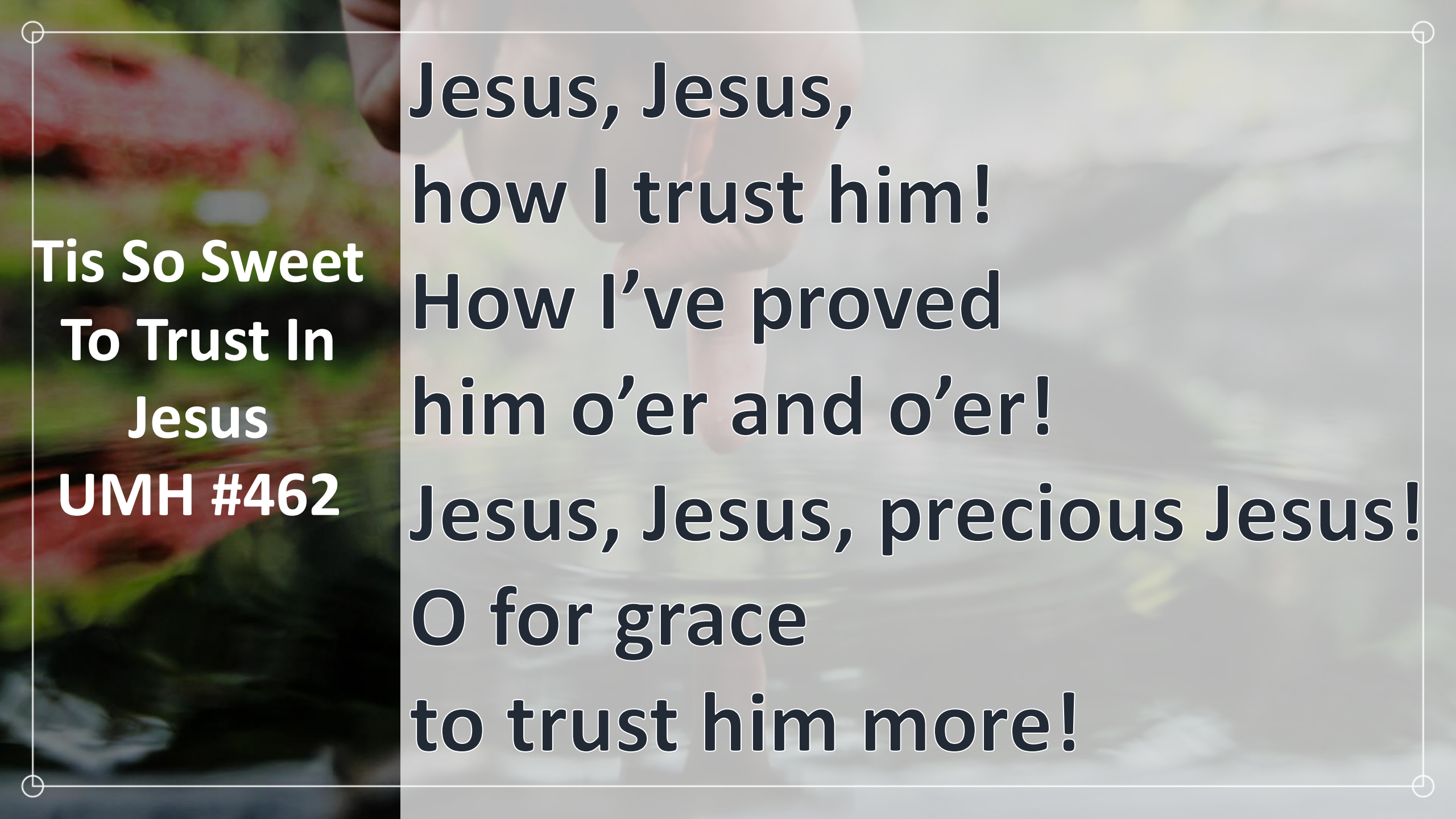
**Tis So Sweet  
To Trust In  
Jesus  
UMH #462**

**Jesus, Jesus,  
how I trust him!  
How I've proved  
him o'er and o'er!  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
O for grace  
to trust him more!**

A close-up photograph of a person's hand being washed in water. The water is clear and splashing, creating ripples. The background is blurred, showing green foliage and a red object, possibly a piece of clothing or a bag. The overall scene is bright and clean, symbolizing purification and cleansing.

**Tis So Sweet  
To Trust In  
Jesus  
UMH #462**

**O how sweet to trust in Jesus,  
Just to trust his cleansing  
blood;  
And in simple faith to plunge  
me  
Neath the healing cleansing  
flood!**



**Tis So Sweet  
To Trust In  
Jesus  
UMH #462**

**Jesus, Jesus,  
how I trust him!  
How I've proved  
him o'er and o'er!  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
O for grace  
to trust him more!**

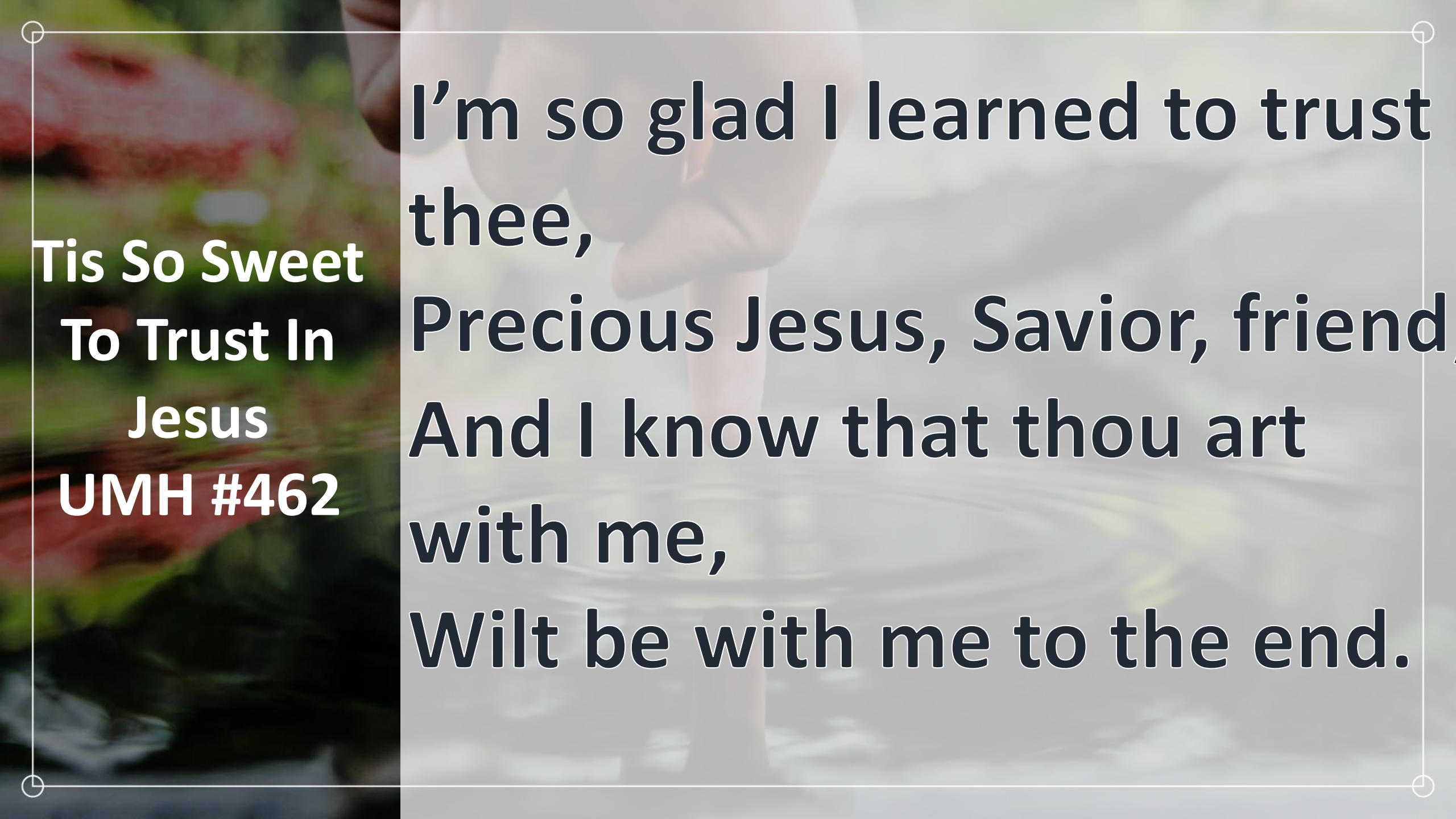
**Tis So Sweet  
To Trust In  
Jesus  
UMH #462**

**Yes, tis sweet to trust in  
Jesus,  
Just from sin and self to  
cease;  
Just from Jesus simply taking  
Life and rest, and joy and  
peace.**



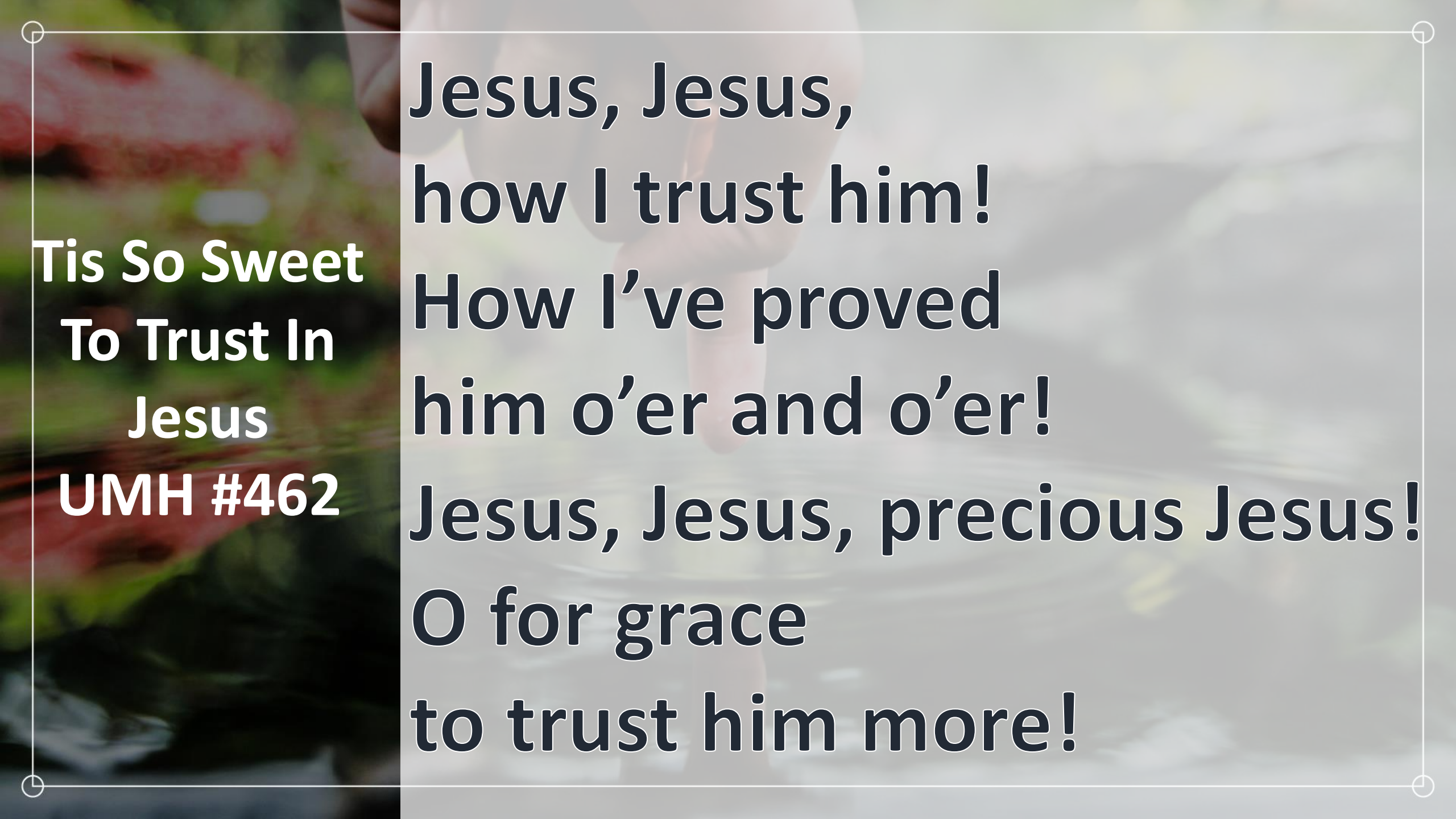
**Tis So Sweet  
To Trust In  
Jesus  
UMH #462**

**Jesus, Jesus,  
how I trust him!  
How I've proved  
him o'er and o'er!  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
O for grace  
to trust him more!**

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a small, white, cylindrical object, possibly a candle or a piece of paper, over a body of water. The water is dark and has some ripples. The background is blurred, showing green foliage and a red object. The overall scene is soft and focused on the hand and the object.

**Tis So Sweet  
To Trust In  
Jesus  
UMH #462**

**I'm so glad I learned to trust  
thee,  
Precious Jesus, Savior, friend,  
And I know that thou art  
with me,  
Wilt be with me to the end.**



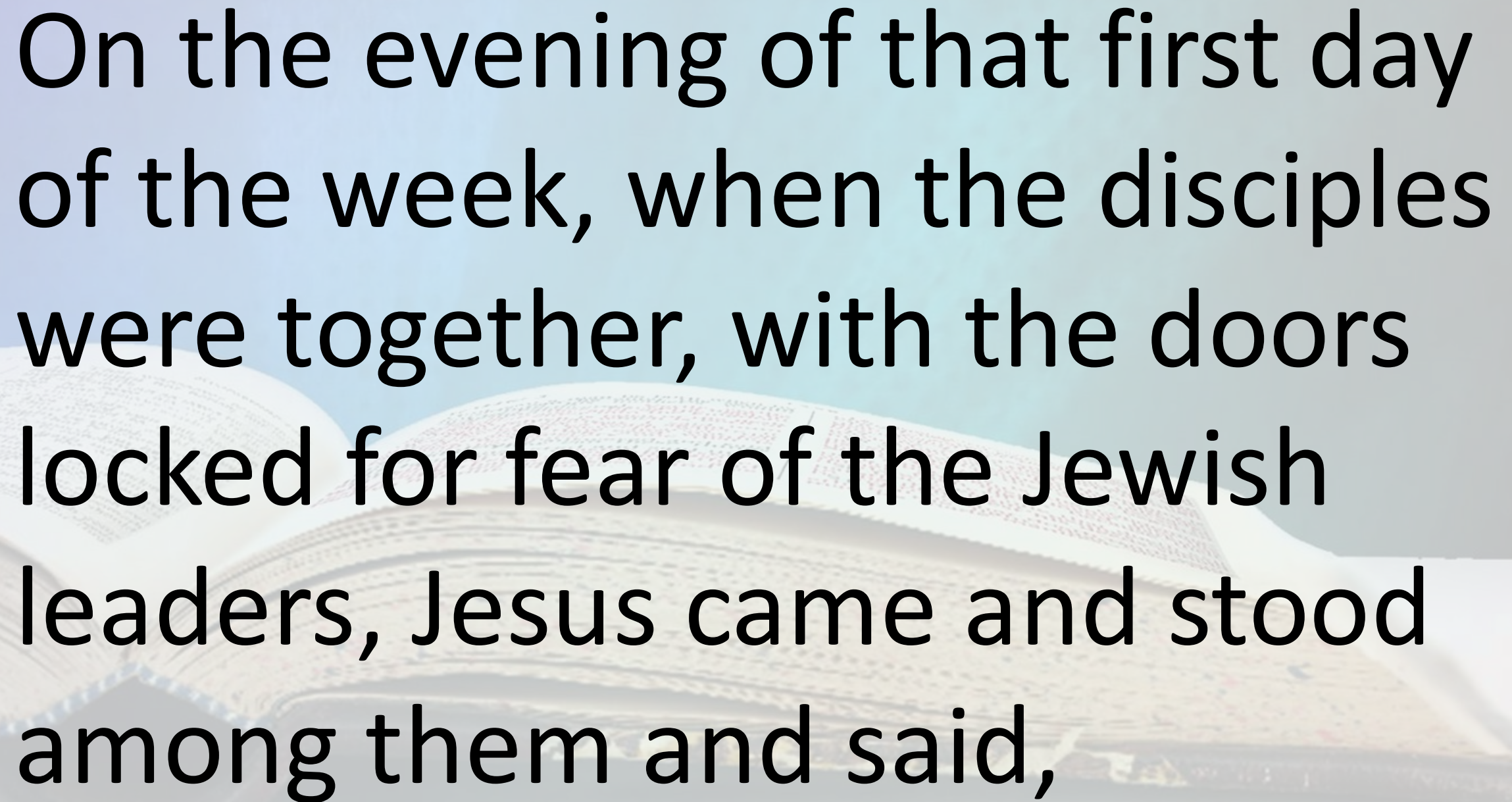
**Tis So Sweet  
To Trust In  
Jesus  
UMH #462**

**Jesus, Jesus,  
how I trust him!  
How I've proved  
him o'er and o'er!  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
O for grace  
to trust him more!**

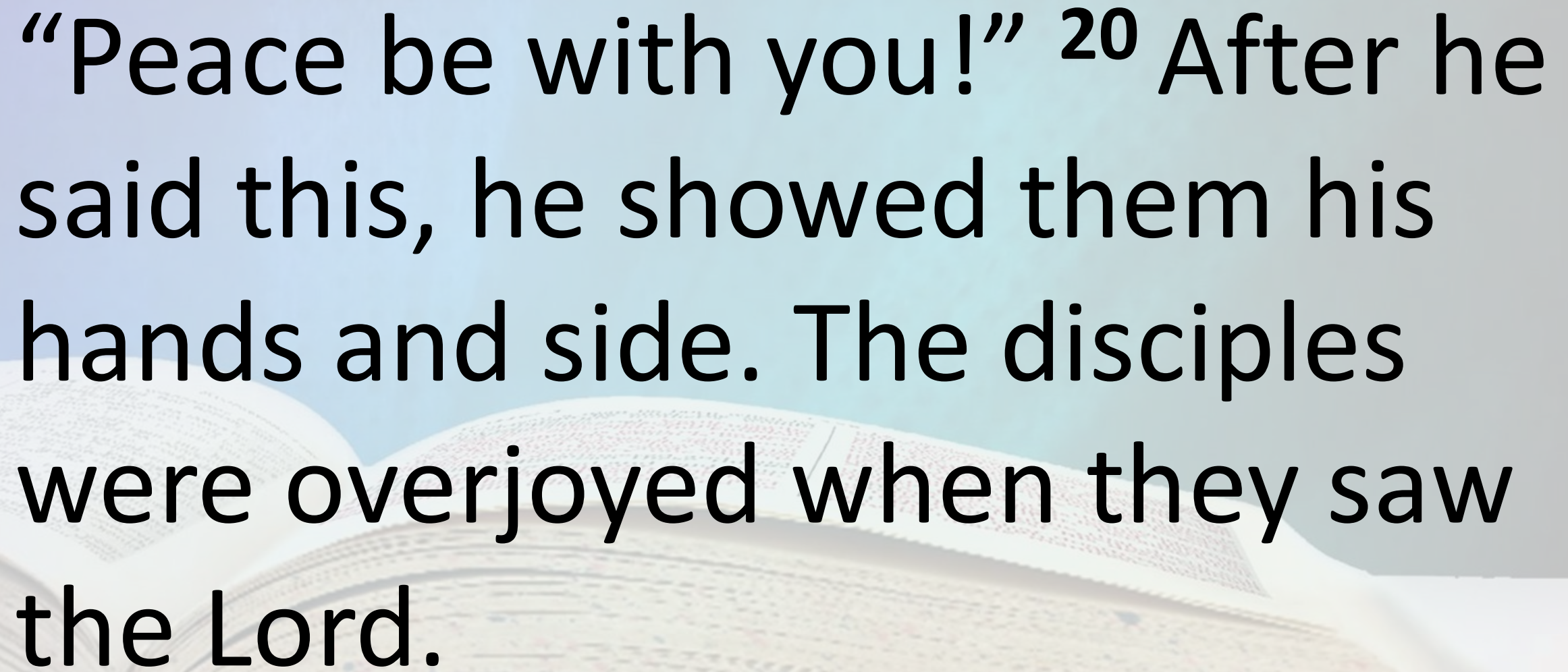
# John 20:19-31

PG 1684



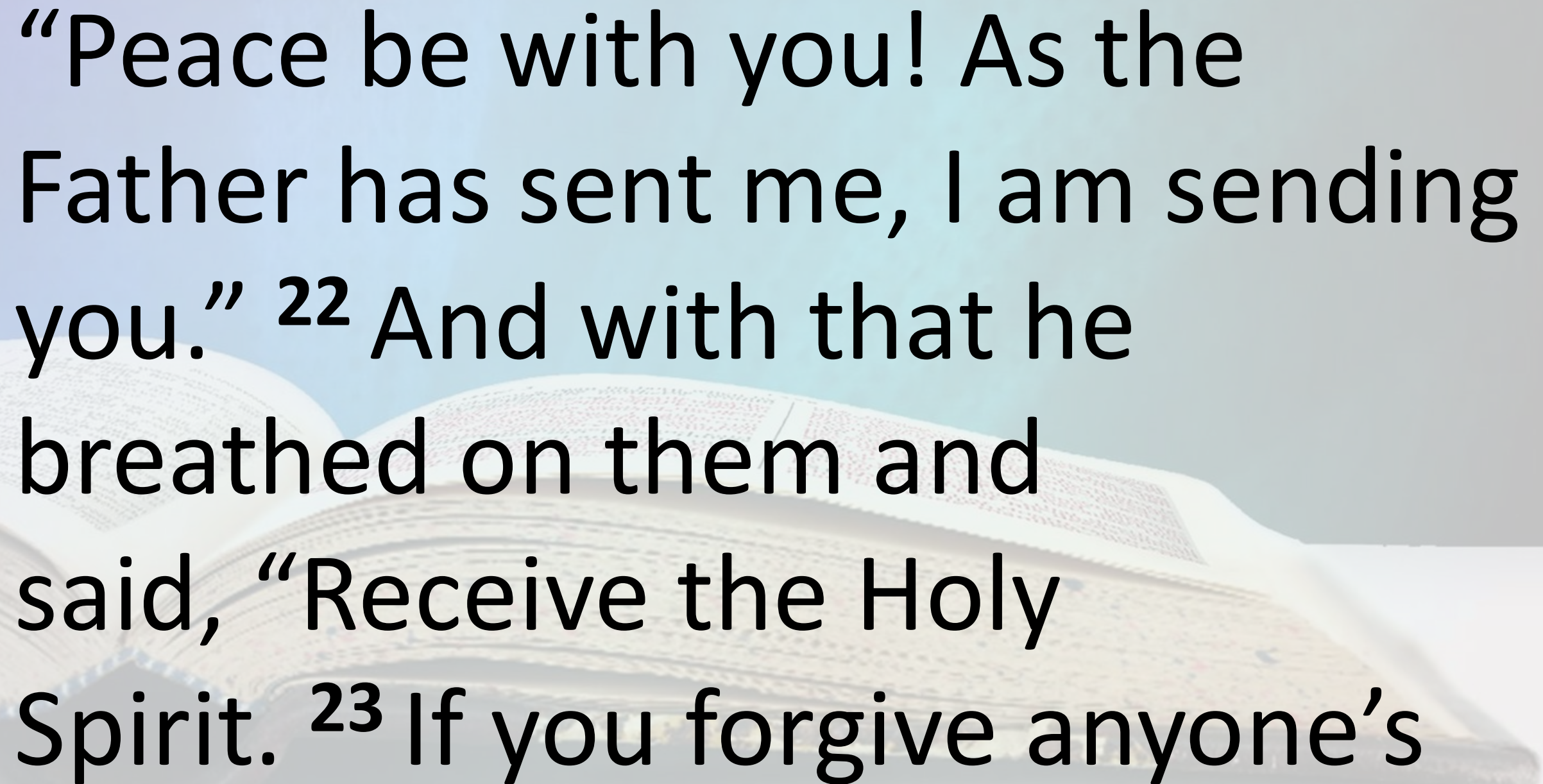
An open book with text overlaid. The book is open, showing two pages of text. The text is in a large, black, sans-serif font. The background is a light blue gradient. The book is positioned in the lower half of the image, with the text overlaid on top of it.

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said,



“Peace be with you!” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said,

An open book is shown in the background, with its pages slightly blurred. The text is overlaid on the book in a large, black, sans-serif font. The text is a quote from the Bible, specifically John 20:22-23, which describes Jesus breathing the Holy Spirit onto his disciples.

“Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone’s

sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

<sup>24</sup> Now Thomas (also known as Didymus<sup>[a]</sup>), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when

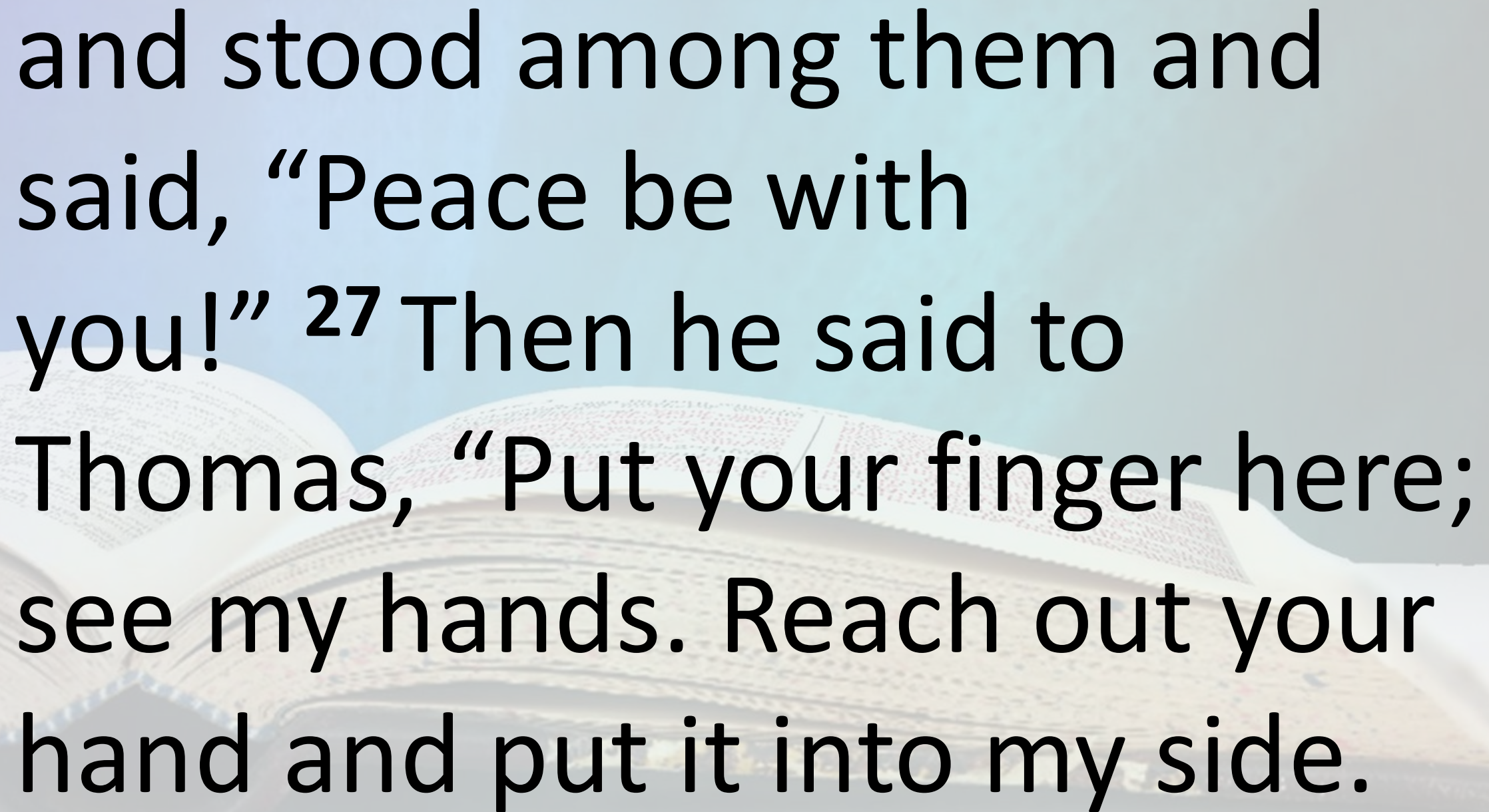


Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where

the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came

An open book with text overlaid. The text is in a large, black, sans-serif font. The background is a light blue gradient with a faint image of an open book.

and stood among them and  
said, “Peace be with  
you!” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to  
Thomas, “Put your finger here;  
see my hands. Reach out your  
hand and put it into my side.

An open book is shown in the background, with its pages slightly curved. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box. The background has a blue gradient at the top.

Stop doubting and believe.”

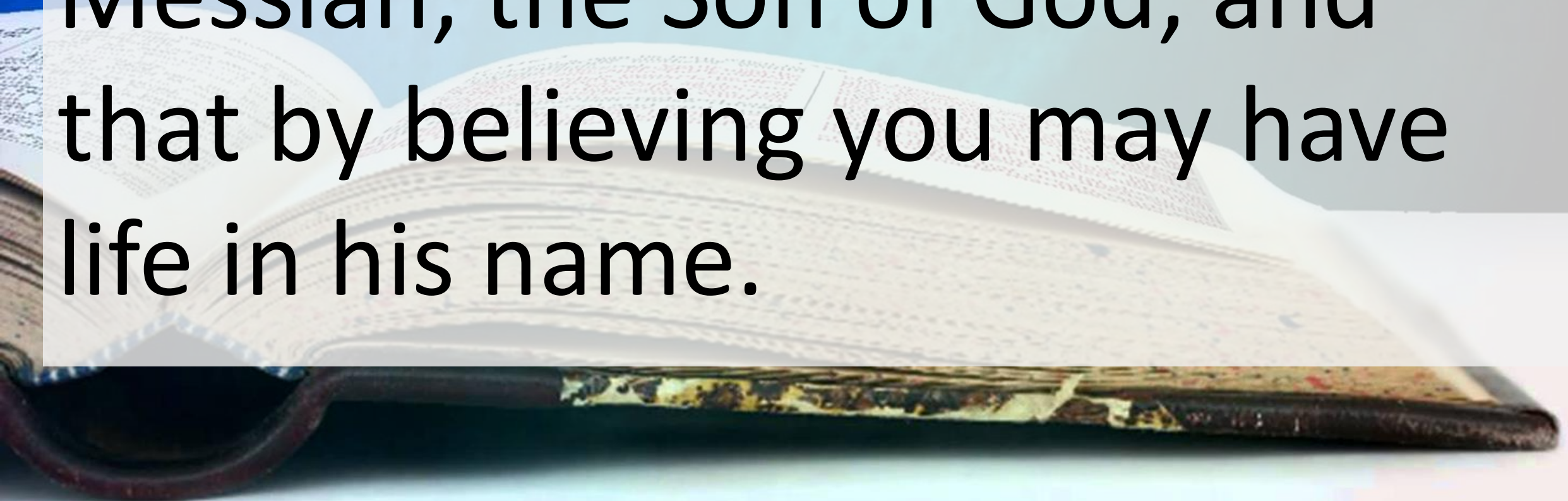
28 Thomas said to him, “My Lord  
and my God!”

29 Then Jesus told him, “Because  
you have seen me, you have  
believed;

blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

<sup>30</sup> Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

31 But these are written that you may believe [\[b\]](#) that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



**This is the Word of God for the people of God.**

**Thanks Be to God.**



A close-up photograph of a hand dropping a coin into a body of water. The coin is suspended in mid-air, just above the water's surface, which is creating concentric ripples. The background is a blurred natural setting with green foliage and a path.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

# EMBODIED BELIEVING



# CALL TO WORSHIP





In the rising of the morning sun,  
the Holy speaks:

**You are my children. Shine!**

A close-up photograph of a hand with the index finger pointing down towards a body of water. The water surface is dark and shows concentric ripples emanating from the point where the finger is just above. The background is a soft-focus natural setting with green foliage and a hint of a red flower. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

In the greening of the Earth and  
blooming of creation, the Holy  
speaks:

**You are my children. Grow!**

A close-up photograph of a hand reaching down towards a pool of water. The hand is positioned at the top center, with the index finger pointing downwards. The water is dark and has several concentric ripples emanating from the point where the finger is about to touch. The background is blurred, showing green foliage and a reddish-brown path. The overall tone is serene and contemplative.

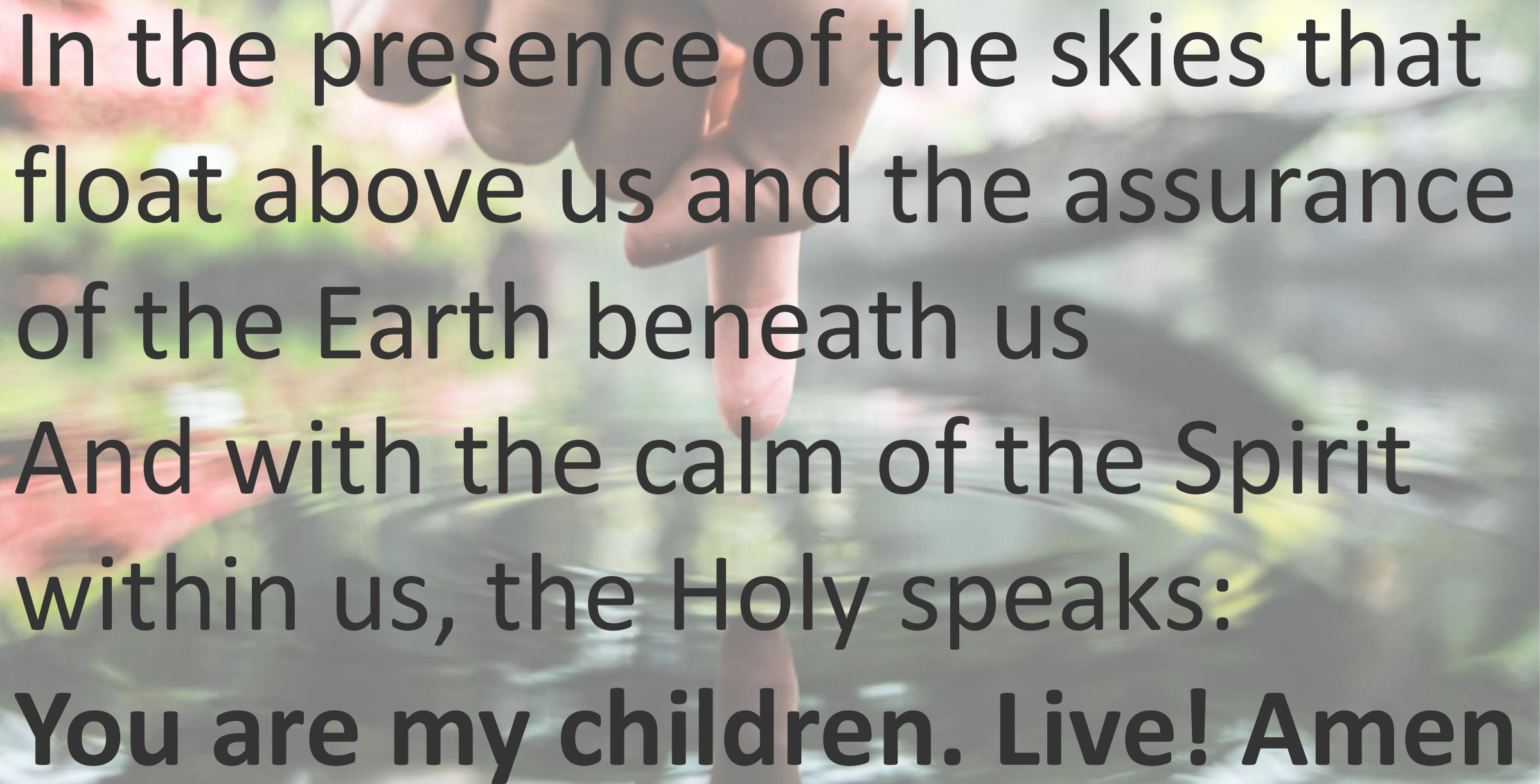
In the mountains reaching toward  
the sky, the Holy speaks:

**You are my children. Stand with  
strength!**

A close-up photograph of a hand with the index finger pointing down towards a small ripple in a body of water. The background is blurred, showing green foliage and a path. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

In the darkness of the winter days,  
the Holy speaks:

**You are my children. Trust!**

A close-up photograph of a hand with the index finger pointing down towards a pool of water. The water surface is covered in concentric ripples, and the background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with green foliage and a red brick path. The text is overlaid on this image in a clean, sans-serif font.

In the presence of the skies that  
float above us and the assurance  
of the Earth beneath us  
And with the calm of the Spirit  
within us, the Holy speaks:  
**You are my children. Live! Amen**

A close-up photograph of a hand with the index finger pointing down towards a pool of water. The water surface is dark and shows concentric ripples from a recent drop. The background is blurred, showing green foliage and a reddish-brown structure. The text is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**HE IS LORD**  
**UMH #177**  
**(2X)**



**He Is Lord  
UMH #177**

**He is Lord, He is Lord!  
He is risen from the dead  
and He is Lord!  
Every knee shall bow,  
every tongue confess  
That Jesus Christ is Lord.**



**He Is Lord  
UMH #177**

**He is Lord, He is Lord!  
He is risen from the dead  
and He is Lord!  
Every knee shall bow,  
every tongue confess  
That Jesus Christ is Lord.**



A close-up photograph of a hand with a finger touching the surface of water, creating concentric ripples. The background is a blurred natural setting with green foliage and a red flower. The entire image is framed by a thin white border with small circles at the corners.


SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

# EMBODIED BELIEVING

**Joys and Prayer Requests**

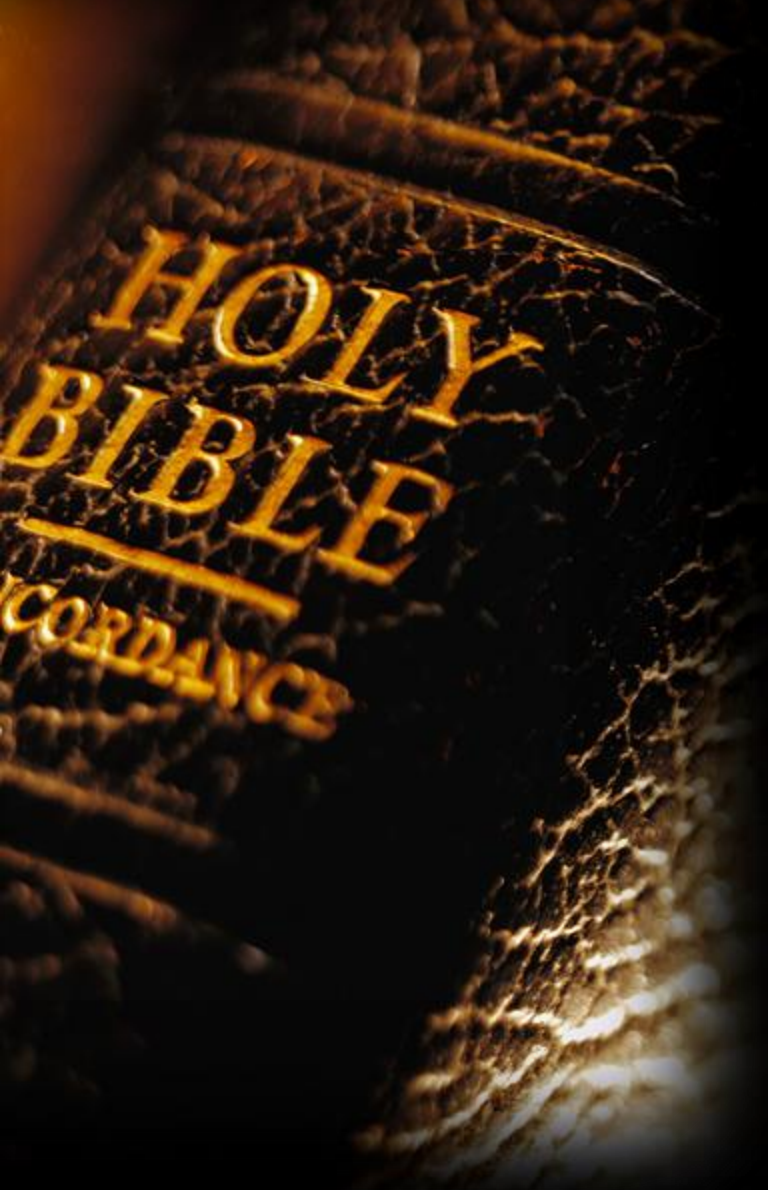
# The Lord's Prayer

**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**



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.**





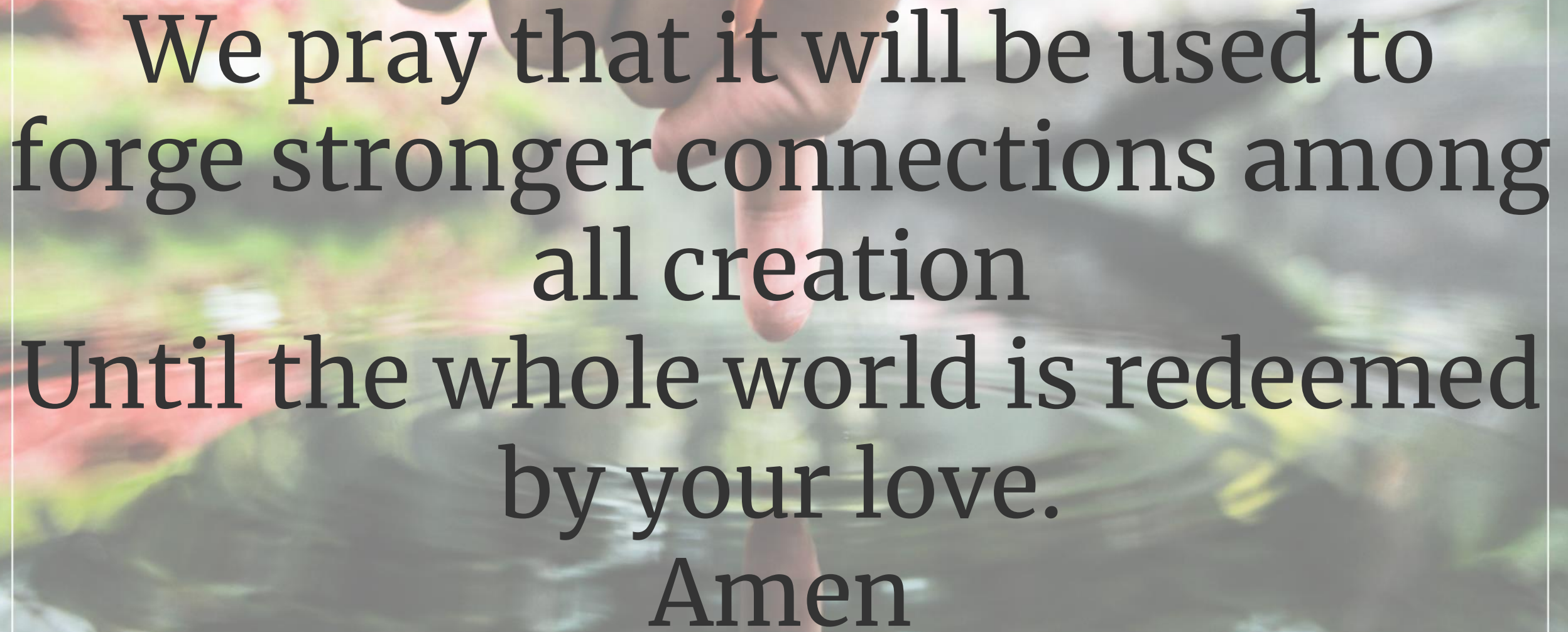
A close-up photograph of a hand holding a small, dark object, possibly a seed or a small insect, just above a body of water. The water is dark and reflects the light, creating a shimmering effect. The background is blurred, showing green foliage and a hint of a red object. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

God, from you comes every  
bounty.

Every sacrifice of life that sustains  
ours

is the sacrifice of your beloved.

As we return a small part of the  
bounty you have blessed us with,

A close-up photograph of a hand reaching down towards a body of water. The hand is positioned at the top center, with fingers slightly curled. The water below is dark and rippling, reflecting light. The background is blurred, showing green foliage and a reddish-brown structure, possibly a bridge or railing. The overall mood is contemplative and hopeful.

We pray that it will be used to  
forge stronger connections among  
all creation  
Until the whole world is redeemed  
by your love.  
Amen

A close-up photograph of a hand dropping a stone into a body of water. The stone is in the center, and the water is rippling outwards. The background is a blurred natural setting with green foliage and a reddish-brown path.

# Choir Anthem

*Back To The Church  
In The Wildwood*

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a lit candle, with the flame just above a surface of water. The water shows concentric ripples from the candle's heat. The background is a blurred natural setting with green foliage and a red flower. The entire image is framed by a thin white border with small circles at the corners.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

# EMBODIED BELIEVING



**Dr Ray Francis**

# Opening Prayer

- Heavenly Father, we come before You today with hearts ready to receive Your word. We thank You for the gift of life and the power of Your presence. As we gather in Your name, open our eyes to see Your eternal truth, our ears to hear Your voice, and our hearts to embrace the fullness of Your resurrection power. May the message today inspire us to live as witnesses to Your grace, truth, and love in the world. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

A close-up photograph of a hand with the index finger pointing down towards a pool of water. The water surface is covered in concentric ripples, and the background is a soft-focus green and blue, suggesting an outdoor setting. The entire image is framed by a thin white border with small circular corner markers.

## Key Point 1: Christ's Ever-Present Power in Our Lives

- Christ's grace and peace empower our journey.
  - Christ's grace and peace sustain us daily, initiating our relationship with God and stabilizing us through life's trials.
- Christ's eternal presence provides stability.
  - Christ's presence as the one who 'is, and who was, and who is to come' anchors us in faith, no matter the circumstances.
- Christ's victory over death brings life to His followers.
  - The resurrection demonstrates Christ's power over death, offering us eternal life.

A hand is shown from the top, with the index finger pointing downwards towards a pool of water. The water has ripples, and the background is a soft-focus green and blue, suggesting an outdoor setting. The entire image is framed by a thin white border with small circles at the corners.

## Key Point 2: The Call to Be a Faithful Witness to Christ

- We are commissioned to reflect Christ's truth.
  - As Christ is the 'faithful witness,' we are called to reflect His truth through our actions and words.
  - Remember Thomas.
- As the Father sent Jesus, so He sends us.
  - Our commission is to live as sent ones, just as Jesus was sent by the Father to bear witness.
- Our testimony of Christ's power brings transformation.
  - By sharing Christ's resurrection, we invite others to experience the life-changing power of the gospel.

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a small, dark object, possibly a seed or a small insect, just above a body of water. The water is dark and reflects the light, creating a shimmering effect. The background is blurred, showing green foliage and a bright light source, possibly the sun, creating a soft, ethereal atmosphere. The overall tone is contemplative and serene.

## Key Point 3: The Role of Doubt in Strengthening Faith

- Thomas' doubt shows our human limitations.
  - Thomas' doubt reflects our struggle with faith and the process of coming to trust in God's truth.
- Christ welcomes our doubts and meets us where we are.
  - Jesus' interaction with Thomas teaches us that doubt does not disqualify us from God's love; He meets us in our doubts.
- Faith is strengthened when we trust beyond sight.
  - Jesus encourages faith that transcends visible evidence, calling us to trust in the unseen.



## Key Point 4: The Peace of Christ Transforms Us

- Christ's peace overcomes fear.
  - Jesus' peace comforts us in times of fear, bringing assurance even in uncertain situations.
- Christ's peace brings forgiveness and healing.
  - The peace Christ offers enables reconciliation, healing relationships, and bringing forgiveness into our lives.
- Peace is a gift we are called to share.
  - As believers, we are commissioned to share the peace of Christ with others, spreading His love and grace.

A hand is shown from the top, with the index finger pointing downwards towards a body of water. The water has ripples and is reflecting light. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with greenery and a path.

## Key Point 5: Christ's Resurrection is the Source of New Life

- Christ's resurrection empowers our personal transformation.
  - Through Christ's resurrection, we are given new life, transforming us from death to life.
- We are resurrected in Christ through the Holy Spirit.
  - The Holy Spirit, who raised Jesus from the dead, empowers us to live in accordance with God's will.
- Christ's resurrection guarantees our future hope.
  - Christ's resurrection assures us of our own resurrection to eternal life.

# Key Point 6: We Are Called to Live as Priests of the Kingdom

- We are made priests to serve God and others.
  - As priests in God's kingdom, we serve Him and others, interceding on behalf of the world.
- Through the Holy Spirit, we have the authority to forgive.
  - We are given the authority to forgive sins through the Holy Spirit, continuing Christ's work in the world.
- Our lives are living sacrifices to God.
  - Living as priests means offering ourselves in service to God, living out His will in all areas of our lives.

# Key Point 7: Christ's Return Brings Justice and Hope

- Christ will return to judge the living and the dead.
  - Christ's return brings justice, as He will set all things right and judge the living and the dead.
- We are called to live in anticipation of His return.
  - Christ's return should stir us to live faithfully and eagerly await His coming, sharing His message of salvation.
- Christ's return will bring final victory over sin and death.
  - His return will mark the final defeat of sin and death, establishing His eternal reign of peace and justice.

# Key Point 8: The Power of the Holy Spirit in Our Lives

- The Holy Spirit empowers us to live out the gospel.
  - The Holy Spirit strengthens us to live as witnesses to the gospel and carry out God's mission in the world.
- The Holy Spirit helps us overcome fear and doubt.
  - Through the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to live boldly, overcoming fear and doubt in our faith journey.
- The Holy Spirit unites us as the body of Christ.
  - The Holy Spirit unites all believers, forming one body to serve God's purposes in the world.

A close-up photograph of a hand with the index finger pointing downwards towards a body of water. The background is a blurred natural setting with green foliage and a body of water. The image is framed by a thin white border with small circles at the corners.

# Closing Prayer

- Heavenly Father, thank You for the truth of Your word that has been shared today. We pray that Your Holy Spirit would empower us to live as embodied believers, reflecting Christ in every area of our lives. May we walk in the peace, power, and presence of Jesus, being faithful witnesses to His resurrection and His coming kingdom. Guide us, protect us, and use us for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

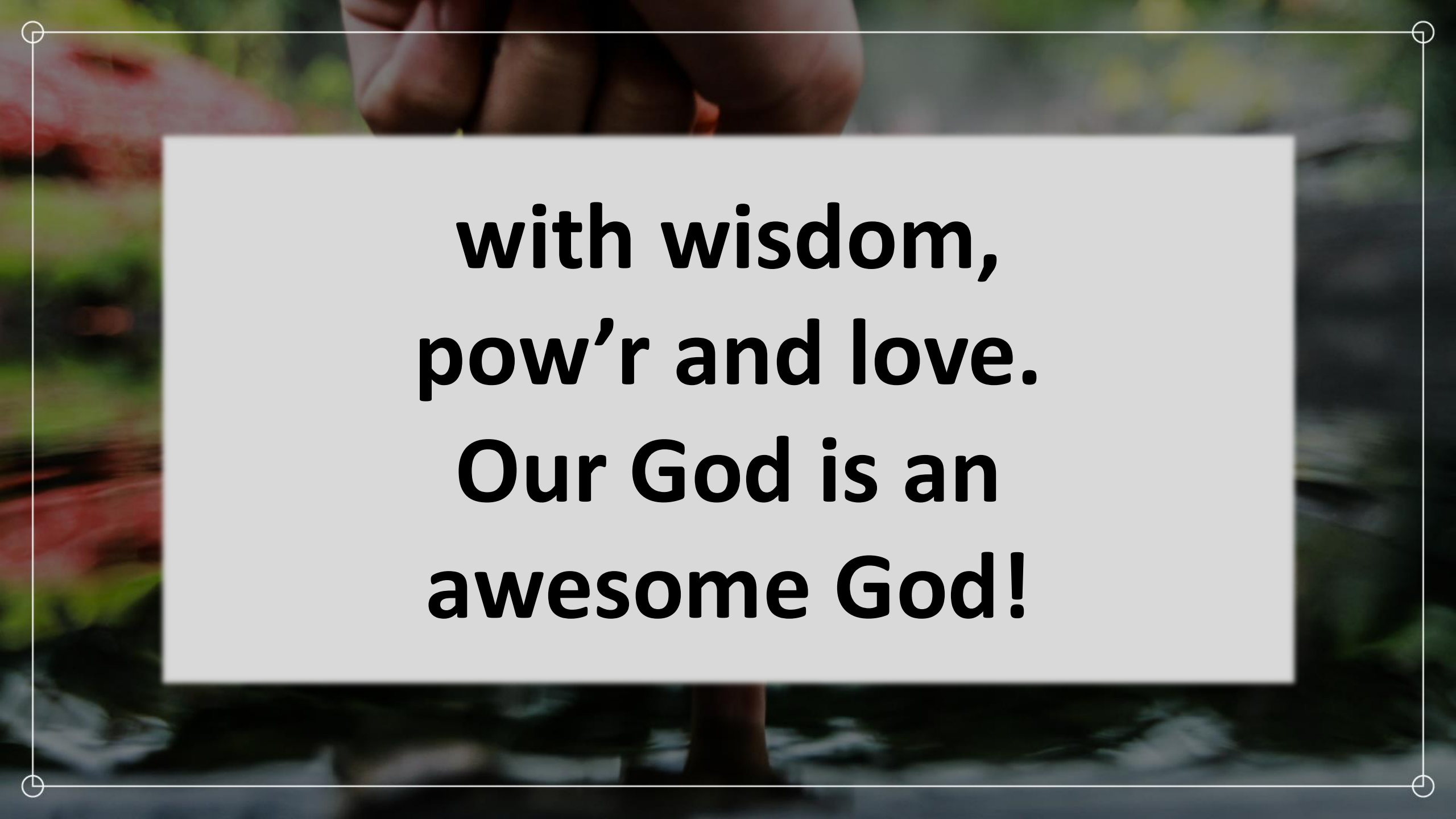
A close-up photograph of a hand dropping a coin into a pool of water. The coin is in mid-air, just above the water's surface, which is creating concentric ripples. The background is blurred, showing green foliage and a red object. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**AWESOME GOD**  
**TFWS #2040**  
**(3X)**



**Our God  
is an awesome God;  
he reigns  
from heaven above**






**with wisdom,  
pow'r and love.  
Our God is an  
awesome God!**



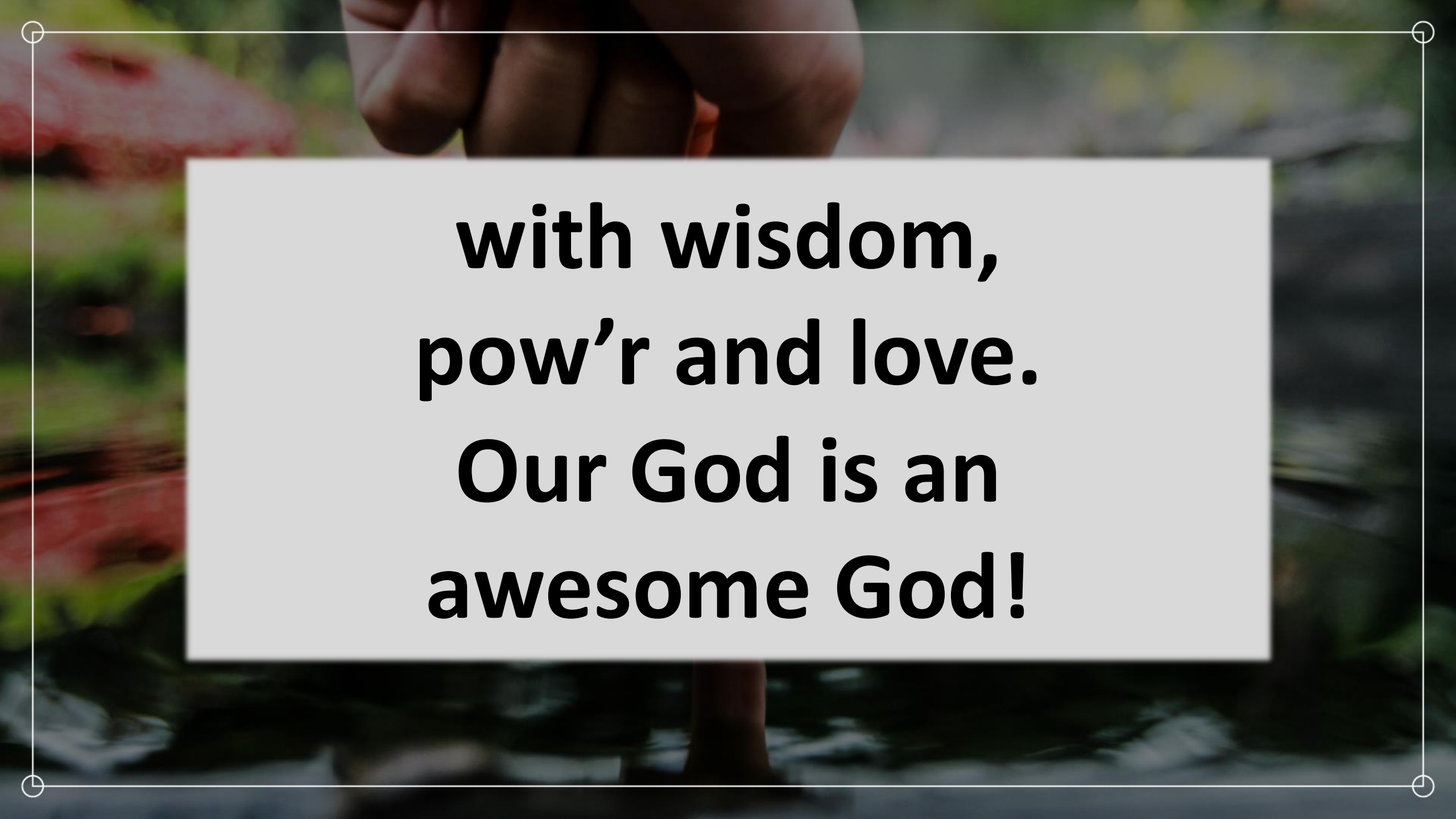
**Our God  
is an awesome God;  
he reigns  
from heaven above**

A close-up photograph of a person's hands, likely of African descent, holding a small, dark object (possibly a seed or a small insect) over a body of water. The background is blurred, showing green foliage and water. The image is framed by a thin white border with small circles at the corners.

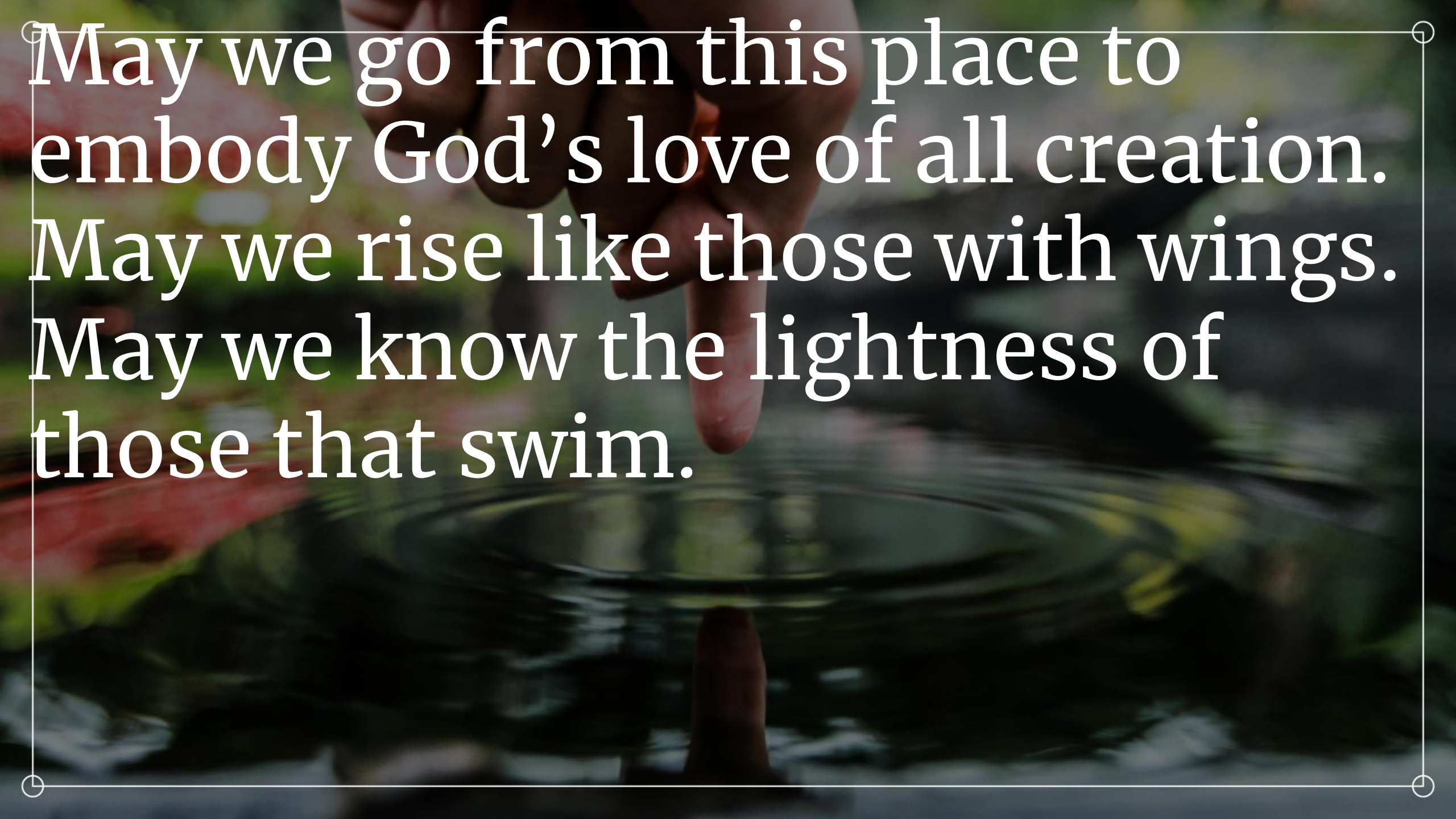
**with wisdom,  
pow'r and love.  
Our God is an  
awesome God!**



**Our God  
is an awesome God;  
he reigns  
from heaven above**

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a small, light-colored object, possibly a seed or a small piece of wood, between their fingers. The background is a blurred natural setting with green foliage and a wooden structure. The image is framed by a thin white border with small circles at the corners.

**with wisdom,  
pow'r and love.  
Our God is an  
awesome God!**



May we go from this place to  
embody God's love of all creation.  
May we rise like those with wings.  
May we know the lightness of  
those that swim.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a small, dark object, possibly a seed or a small insect, over a body of water. The water is dark and has some ripples. The background is blurred, showing green foliage. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

May we have the courage of the  
four-leggeds.

And may the Holy be embodied in  
all our comings and goings, this  
day and every day.

Go in peace to love and serve our  
God. Amen



BELIEVING INTO CHRIST