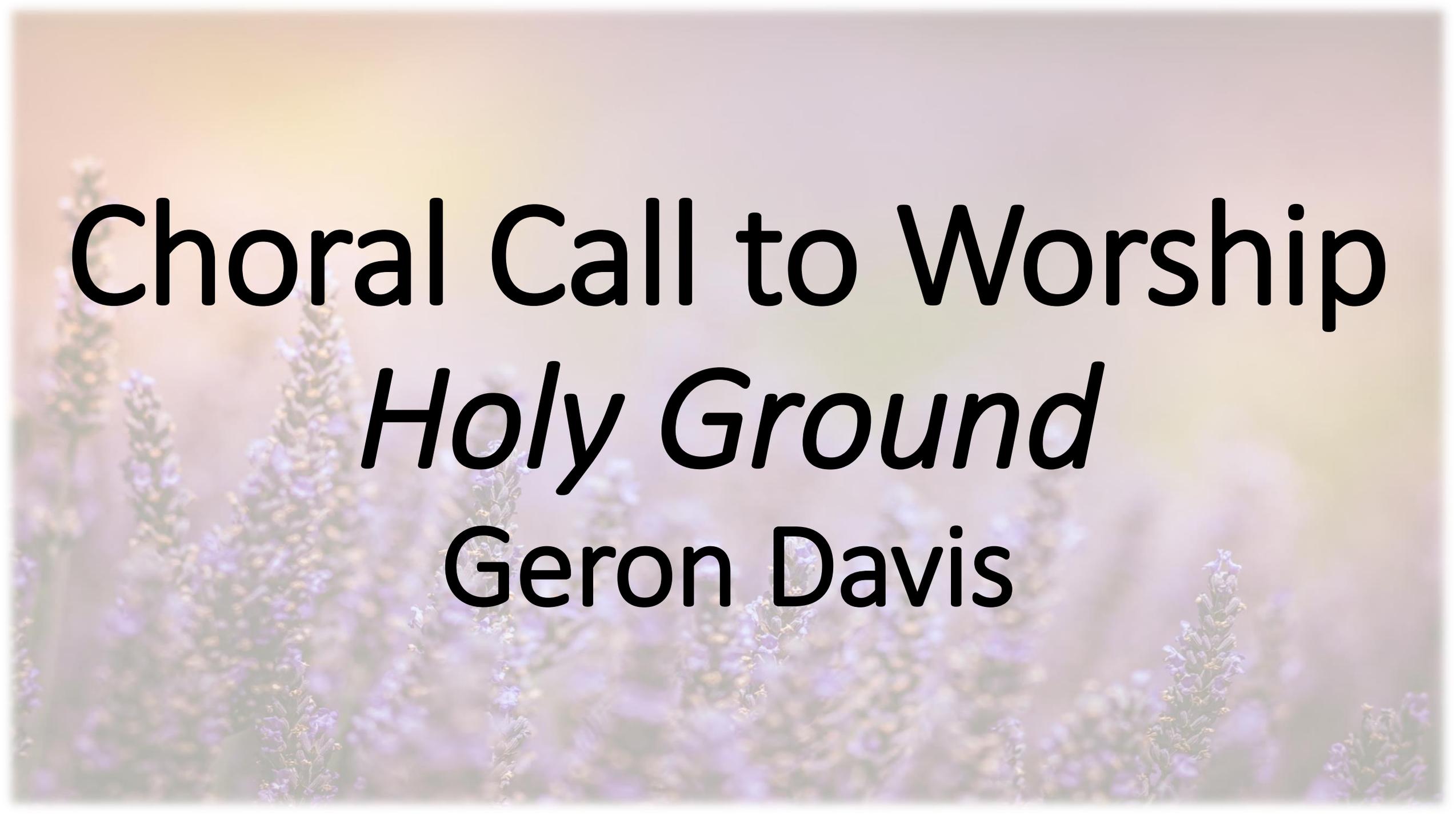


Welcome



Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2024
Fellowship Hall & Online

A soft-focus photograph of a field of lavender flowers in shades of purple and blue, with a warm, golden light filtering through the scene. The text is overlaid on this background.

Choral Call to Worship

Holy Ground

Geron Davis

A close-up photograph of a purple rose, with the petals showing detailed texture and color variations from light to dark purple. The rose is centered in the frame, and the background is a soft, out-of-focus purple.

Words of Welcome

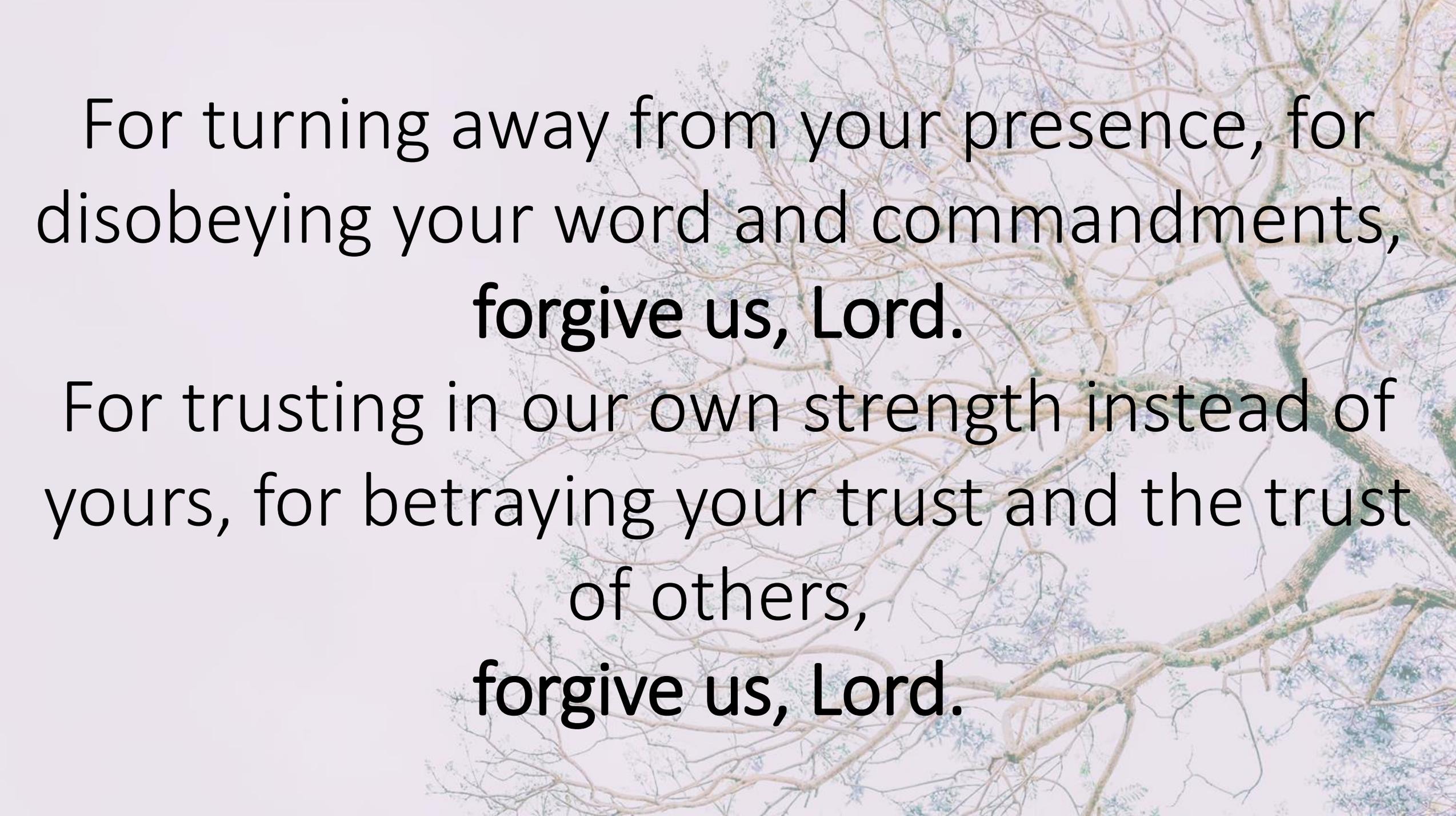
Rev. Laraine Waughtal

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, have mercy on us. Incarnate Word, redeemer of the world,

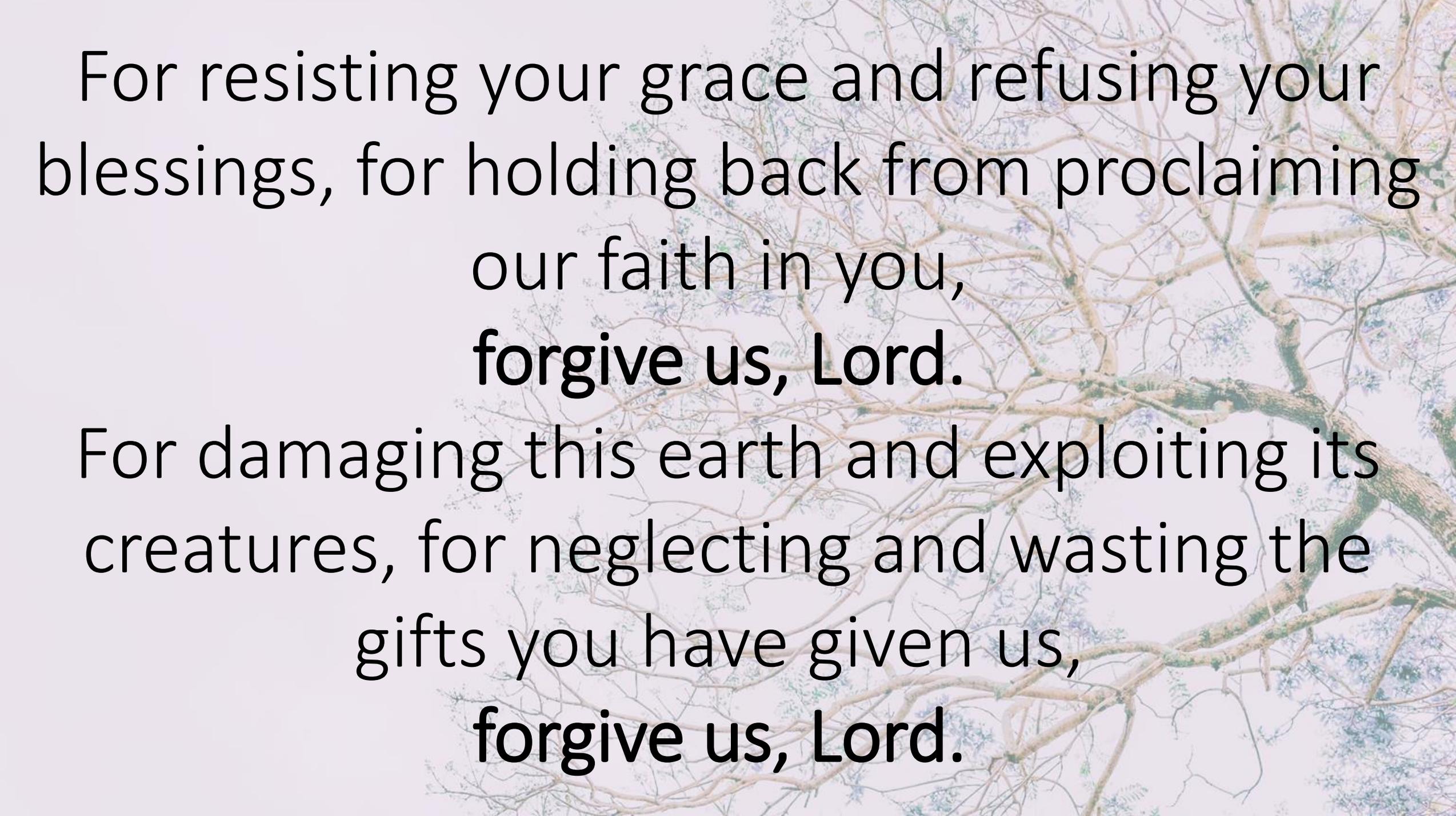
Congregation: have mercy on us.

Abiding Spirit, giver of light and life,
have mercy on us.



For turning away from your presence, for
disobeying your word and commandments,
forgive us, Lord.

For trusting in our own strength instead of
yours, for betraying your trust and the trust
of others,
forgive us, Lord.



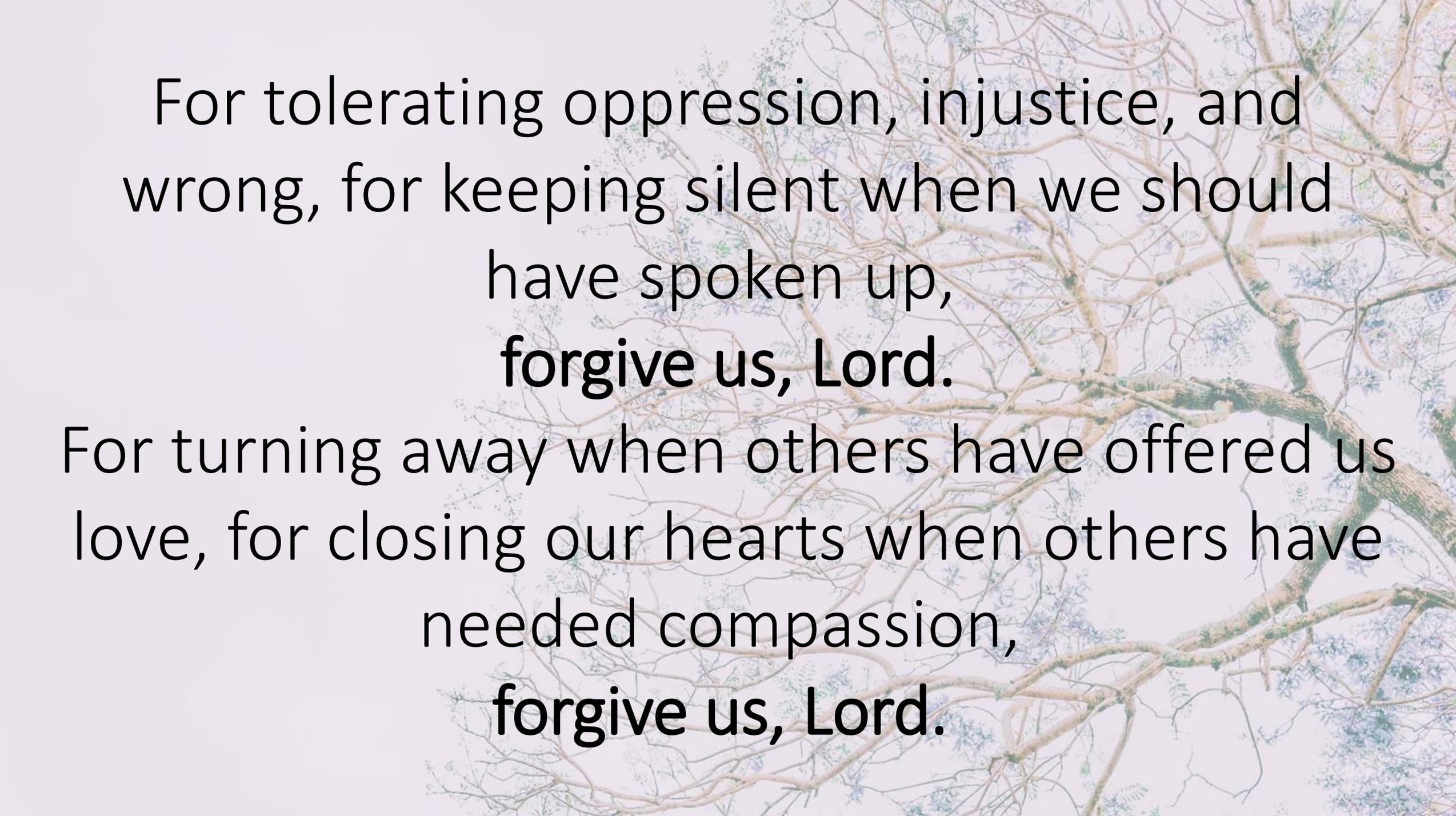
For resisting your grace and refusing your
blessings, for holding back from proclaiming
our faith in you,
forgive us, Lord.

For damaging this earth and exploiting its
creatures, for neglecting and wasting the
gifts you have given us,
forgive us, Lord.



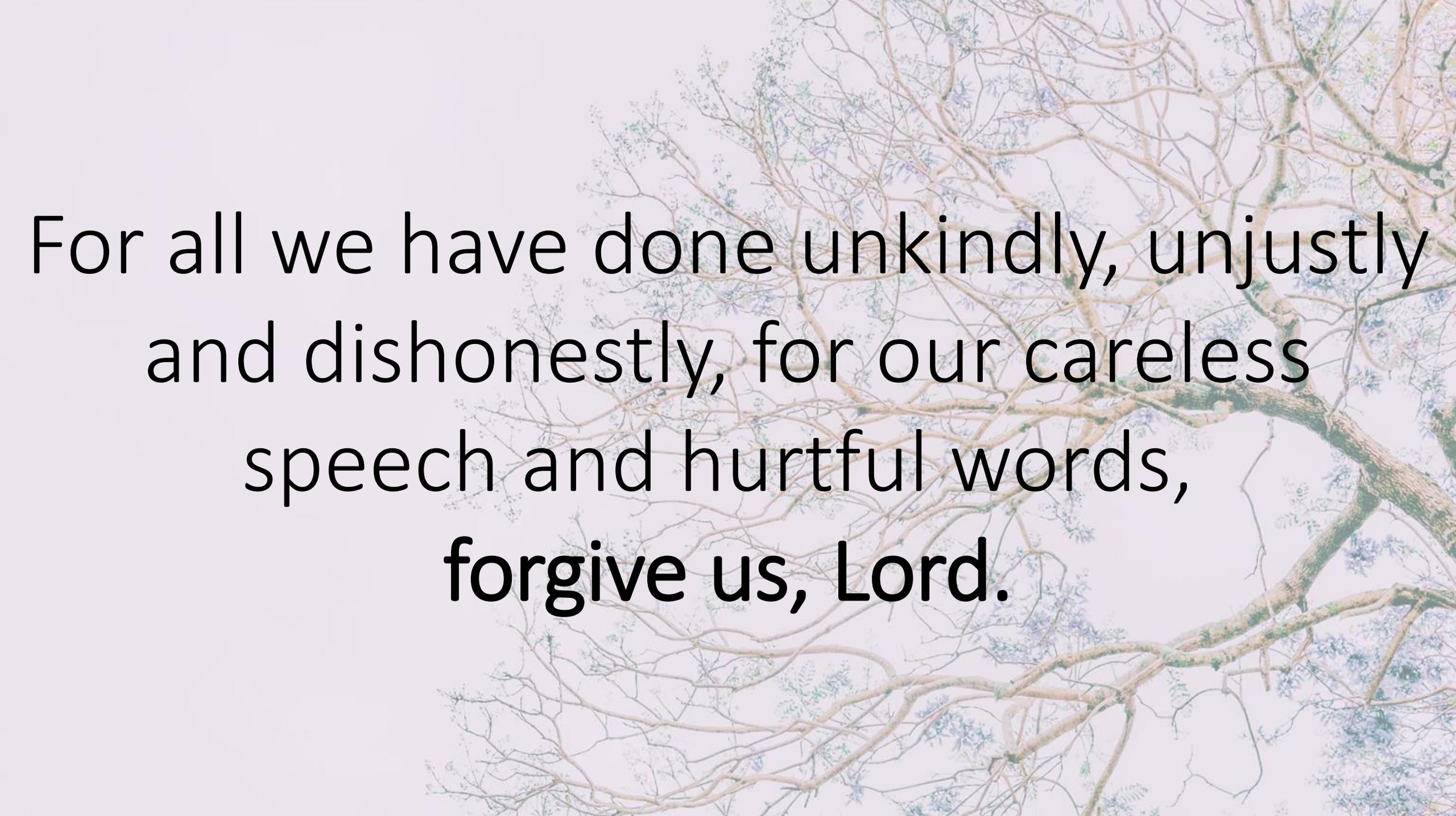
For failing to forgive as we have been
forgiven, for judging others and bearing
grudges,
forgive us, Lord.

For skimping on our commitments and
relationships, for failing in hospitality,
forgive us, Lord.

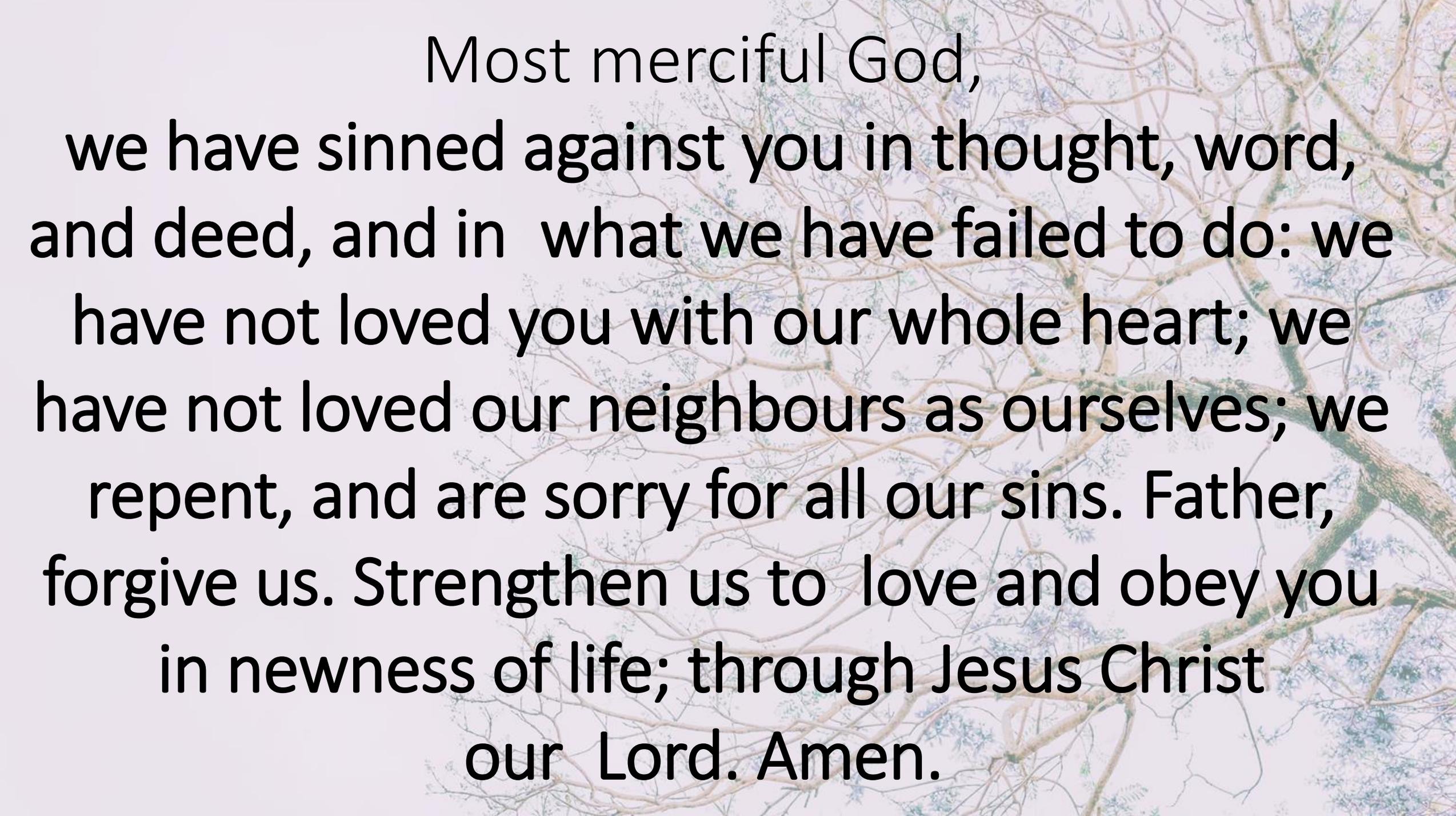


For tolerating oppression, injustice, and
wrong, for keeping silent when we should
have spoken up,
forgive us, Lord.

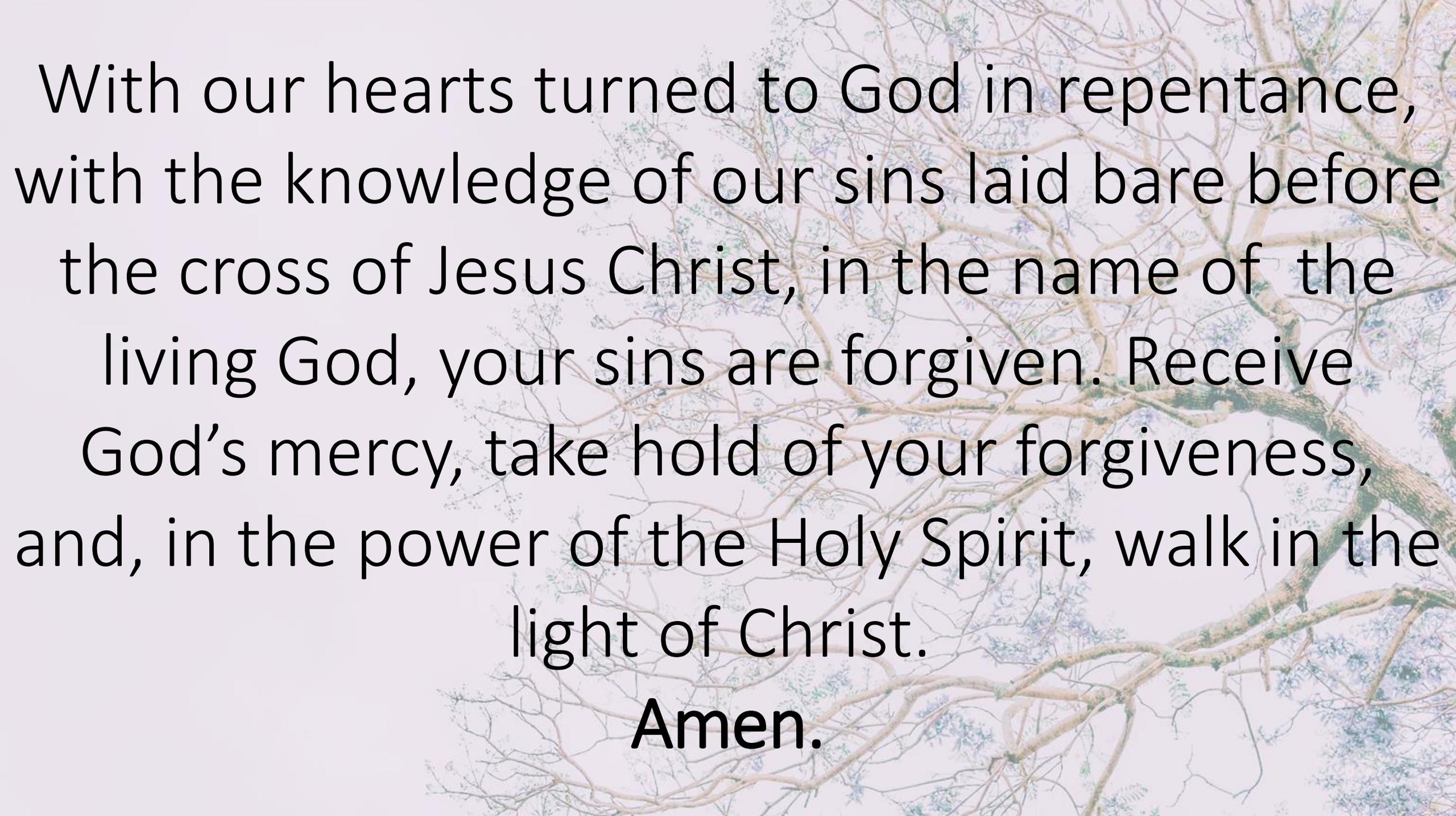
For turning away when others have offered us
love, for closing our hearts when others have
needed compassion,
forgive us, Lord.



For all we have done unkindly, unjustly
and dishonestly, for our careless
speech and hurtful words,
forgive us, Lord.



Most merciful God,
we have sinned against you in thought, word,
and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we
have not loved you with our whole heart; we
have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we
repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father,
forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life; through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.



With our hearts turned to God in repentance,
with the knowledge of our sins laid bare before
the cross of Jesus Christ, in the name of the
living God, your sins are forgiven. Receive
God's mercy, take hold of your forgiveness,
and, in the power of the Holy Spirit, walk in the
light of Christ.

Amen.

A person's hands are shown holding a blue Bible. The Bible cover has the words "HOLY BIBLE" and "ILLUSTRATED" printed on it. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and purple gradient.

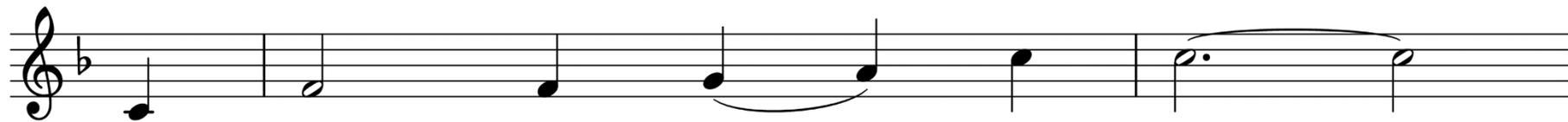
***Hymn**

*Lord, Who Throughout
These Forty Days*

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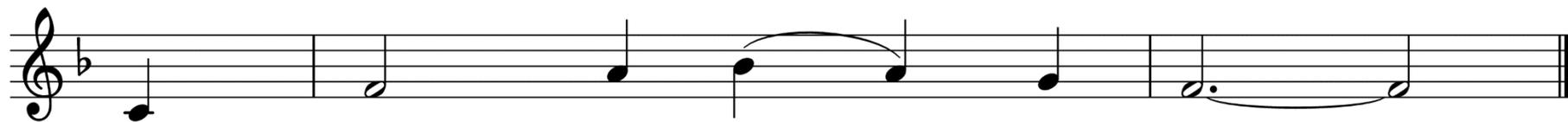
1. Lord, who through-out these for-ty days



for us didst fast and pray,



teach us with thee to mourn our sins



and close by thee to stay.

WORDS: Claudia F. Hernaman, 1873 (Mt. 4:1-11; Mk. 1:12-13; Lk. 4:1-13)

MUSIC (LAND OF REST, CM): USA folk melody; arr. by Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938, © 1938, renewed 1966 J. Fischer and Bro. Co.; harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1988, © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House



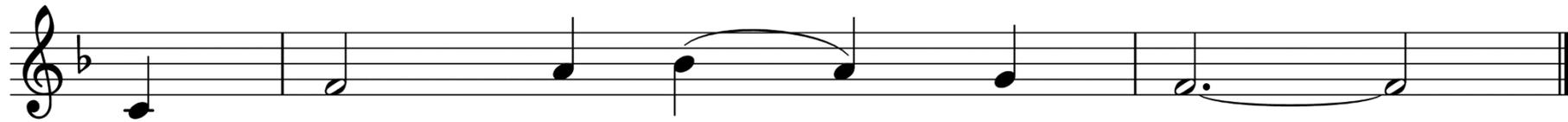
2. As thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend,



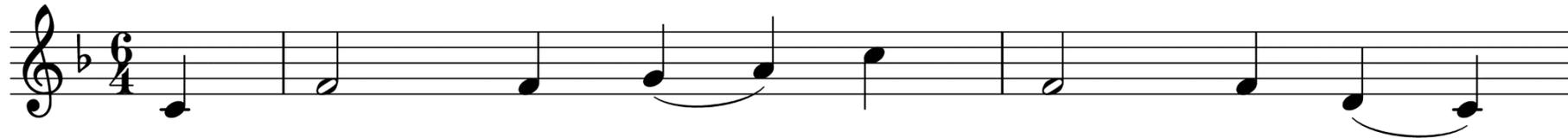
and didst the vic - tory win,



O give us strength in thee to fight,



in thee to con - quer sin.



3. As thou didst hun - ger bear, and thirst,



so teach us, gra - cious Lord,



to die to self, and chief - ly live



by thy most ho - ly word.



4. And through these days of pen - i - tence,



and through thy pas - sion - tide,



yea, ev - er - more in life and death,



Je - sus, with us a - bide.

*Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Brothers and sisters in Christ, what do you believe?

Congregation: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried;

the third day he rose from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn *Old Rugged Cross*

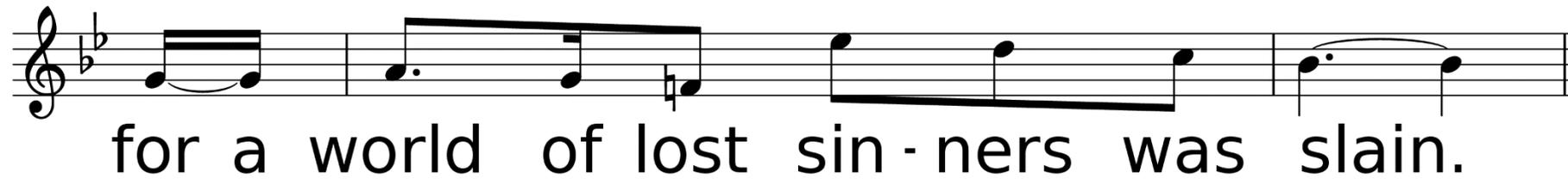
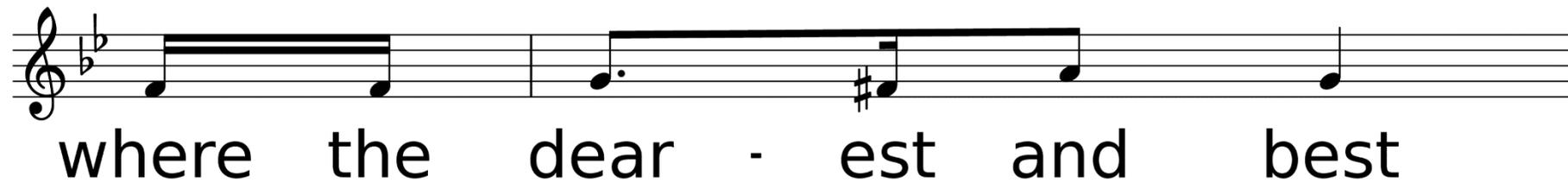
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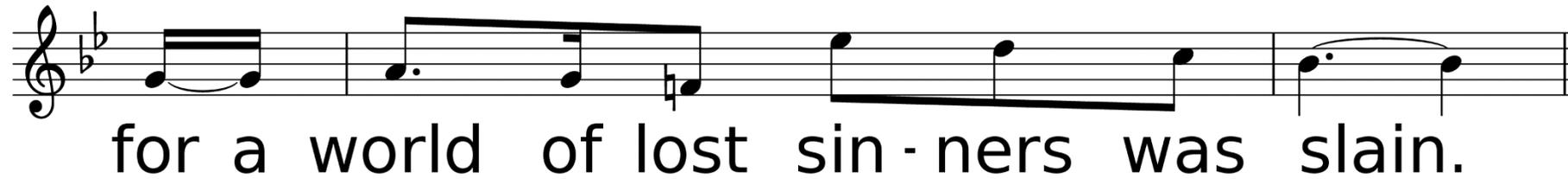
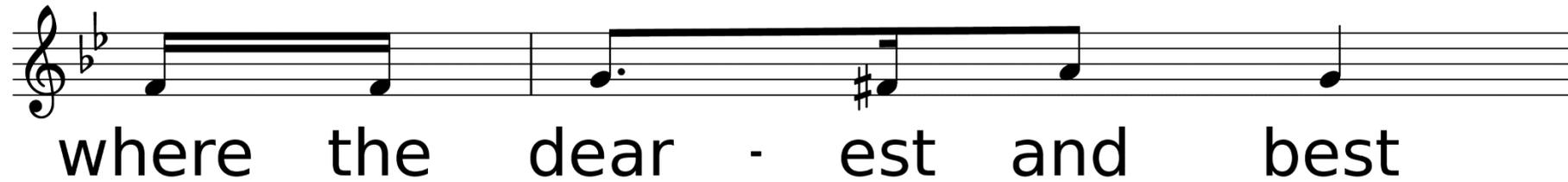


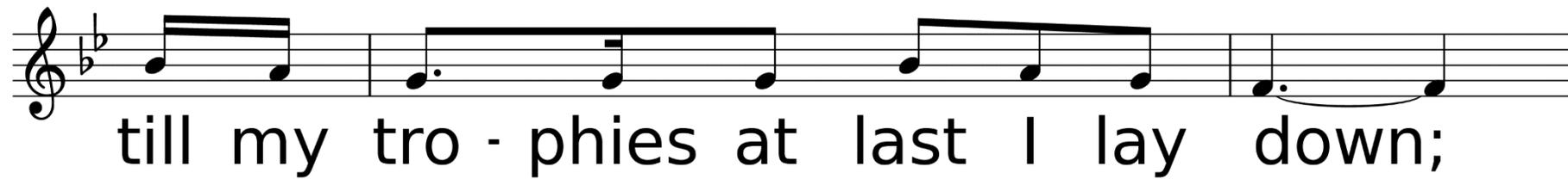


1. On a hill far a - way
stood an old rug - ged cross,
the em - blem of suf - fering and shame;

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "1. On a hill far a - way". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "stood an old rug - ged cross,". The third staff contains the melody for the third line: "the em - blem of suf - fering and shame;". The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

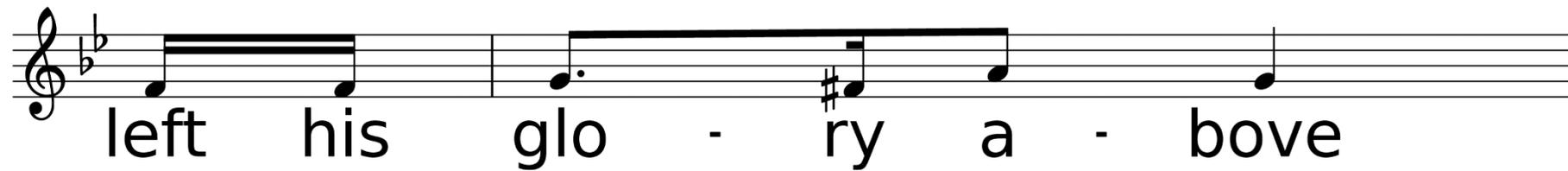
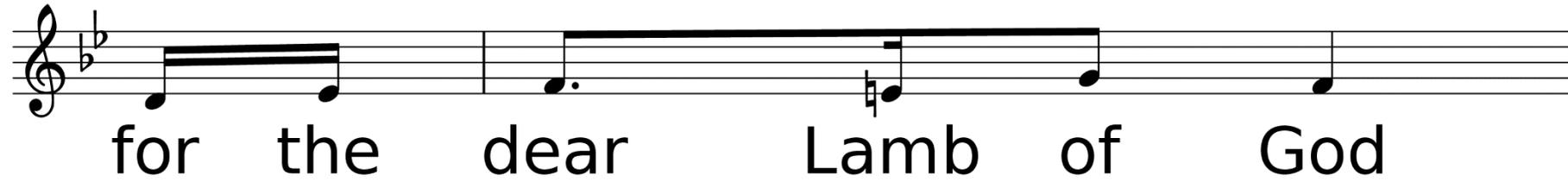


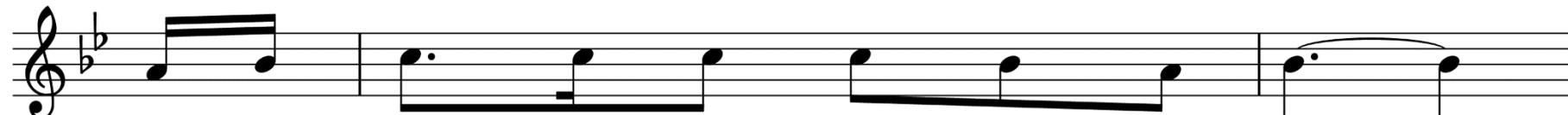




2. O that old rug - ged cross,
so de - spised by the world,
has a won - drous at - trac - tion for me;

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'The Old Rugged Cross'. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one flat) and 6/8 time. The lyrics are: '2. O that old rug - ged cross, so de - spised by the world, has a won - drous at - trac - tion for me;'. The melody is simple and features a prominent tritone interval between the notes for 'ged' and 'cross' in the first line, and 'spised' and 'by' in the second line.

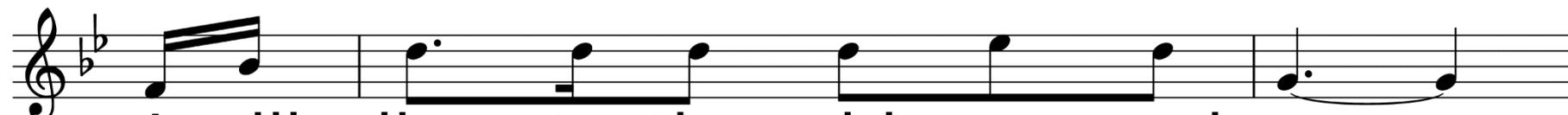




So I'll cher - ish the old rug - ged cross,



till my tro - phies at last I lay down;



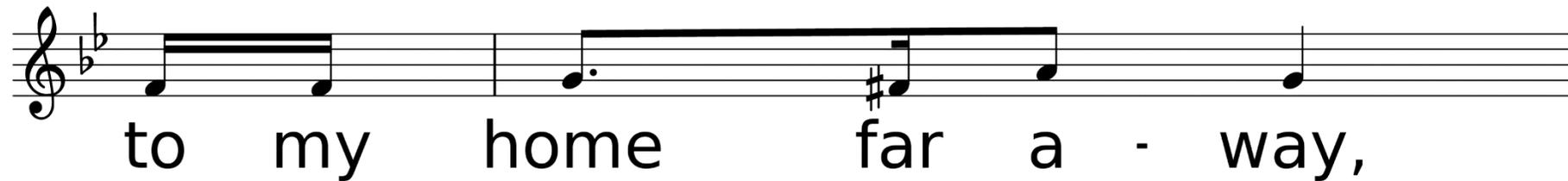
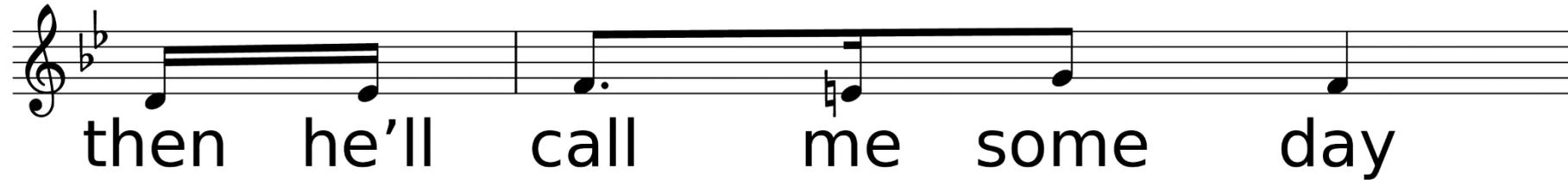
I will cling to the old rug - ged cross,

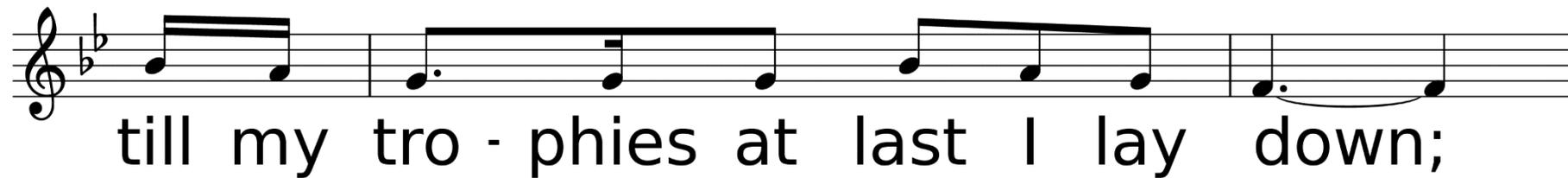


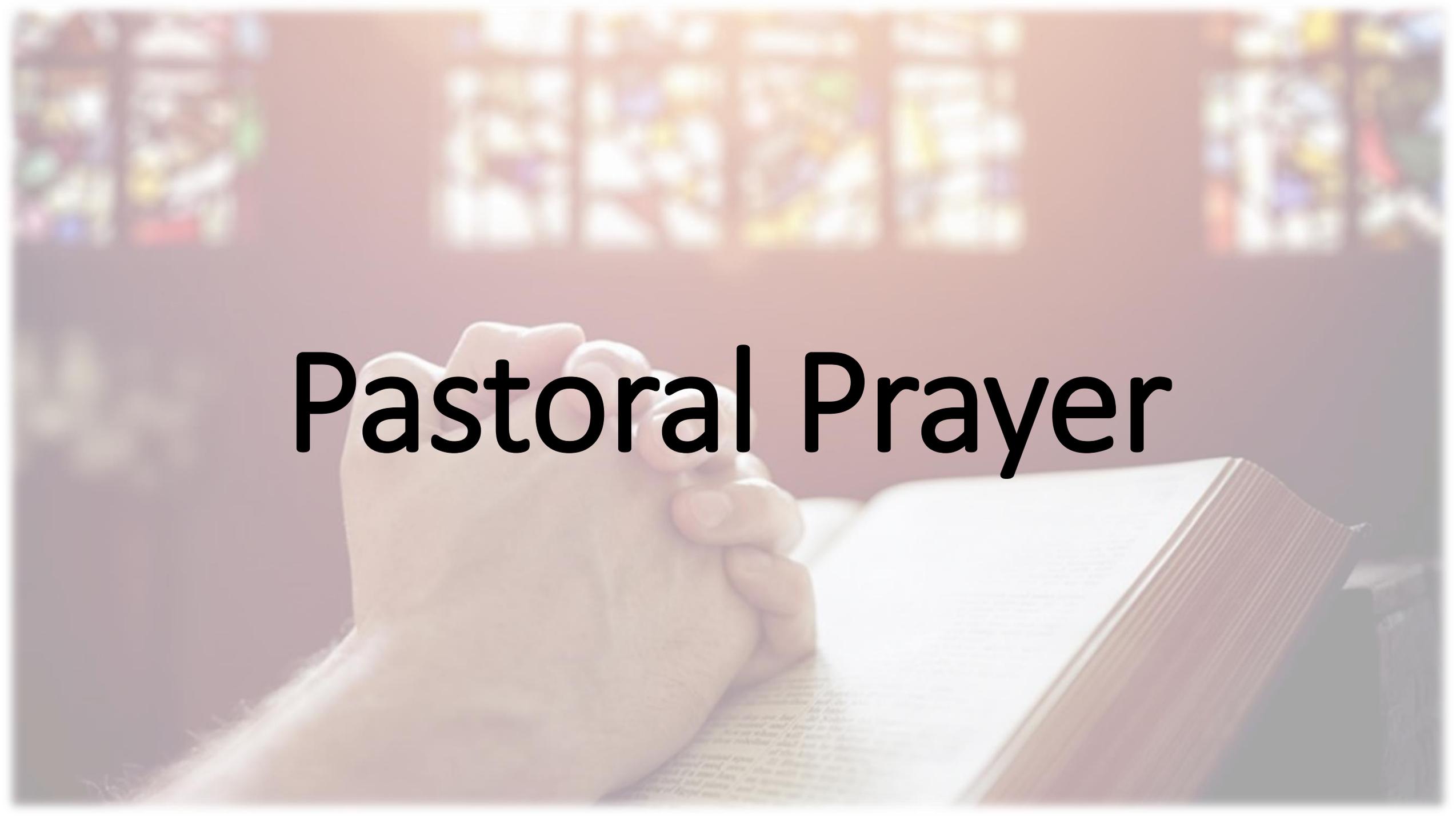
and ex - change it some day for a crown.

4. To the old rug - ged cross
I will ev - er be true,
its shame and re - proach glad - ly bear;

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'The Old Rugged Cross'. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: '4. To the old rug - ged cross I will ev - er be true, its shame and re - proach glad - ly bear;'. The first staff contains the first line of lyrics, the second staff the second line, and the third staff the third line. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat.





A photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer, resting on an open book. The background shows a church interior with stained glass windows. The text "Pastoral Prayer" is overlaid in the center.

Pastoral Prayer

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy
hill. Let all who live in the land
tremble, for the day of
the LORD is coming. It is close at
hand

**“Even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your
heart, with fasting and
weeping and mourning.” Rend
your heart and not your
garments.**

Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and
compassionate, slow to anger
and abounding in love, and he
relents from sending calamity.

Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing—grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God.

Blow the trumpet in Zion,
declare a holy fast, call a
sacred assembly. Gather
the people, consecrate the
assembly;

bring together the elders,
gather the children, those
nursing at the breast. Let the
bridegroom leave his room
and the bride her chamber.

Let the priests, who
minister before the LORD,
weep between the portico
and the altar. Let them say,
“Spare your people, LORD.

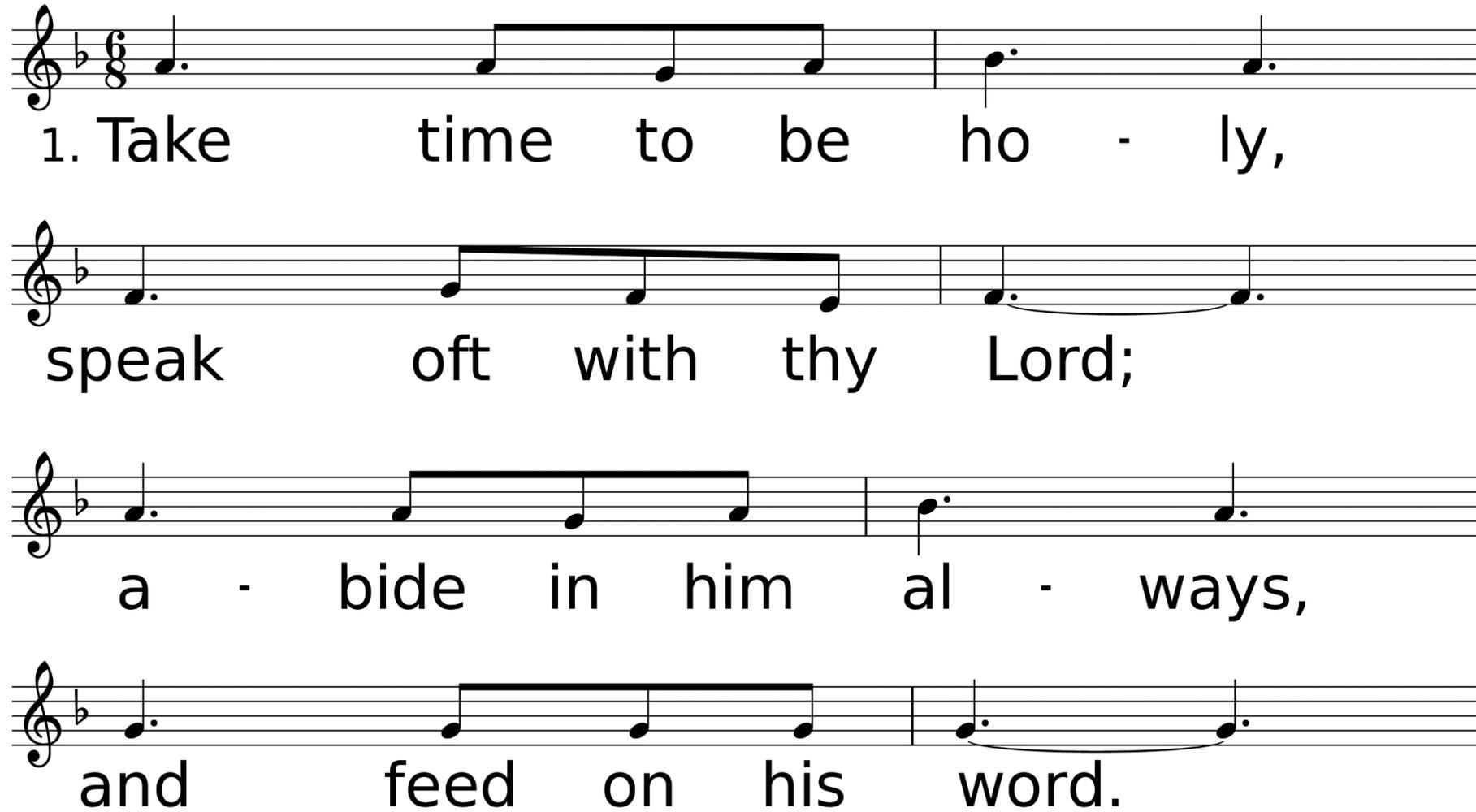
Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

“Rend Your Heart and Not Your Garments”

Sermon

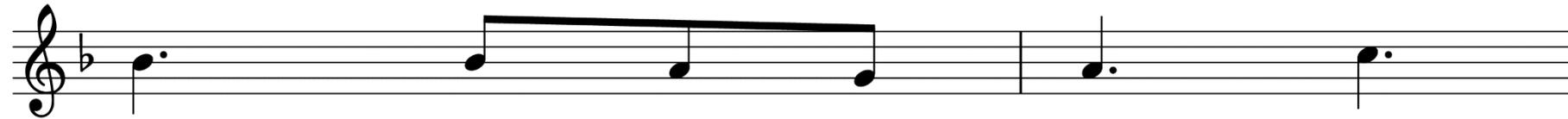
Rev. Laraine Waughtal



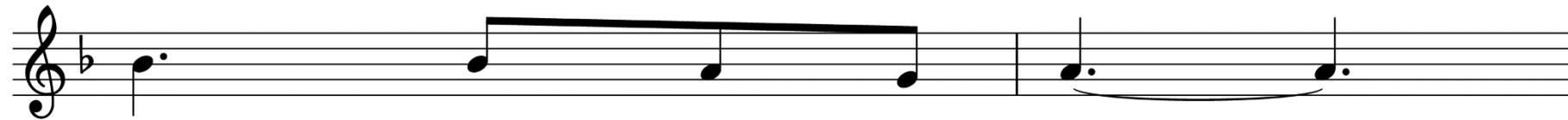


1. Take time to be ho - ly,
speak oft with thy Lord;
a - bide in him al - ways,
and feed on his word.

The image shows four staves of musical notation for the hymn. Each staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody is written on a five-line staff. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics '1. Take time to be ho - ly,'. The second staff contains 'speak oft with thy Lord;'. The third staff contains 'a - bide in him al - ways,'. The fourth staff contains 'and feed on his word.'.



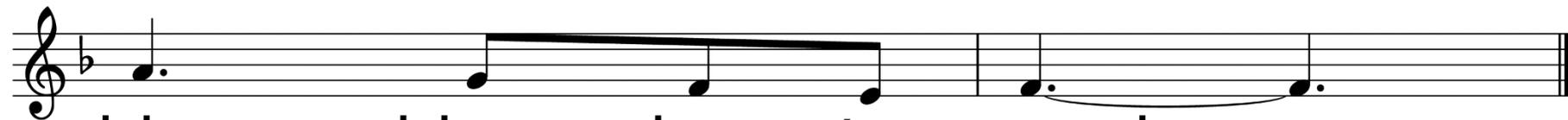
Make friends of God's chil - dren,



help those who are weak,



for - get - ting in noth - ing



his bless - ing to seek.

By look - ing to Je - sus,

like him thou shalt be;

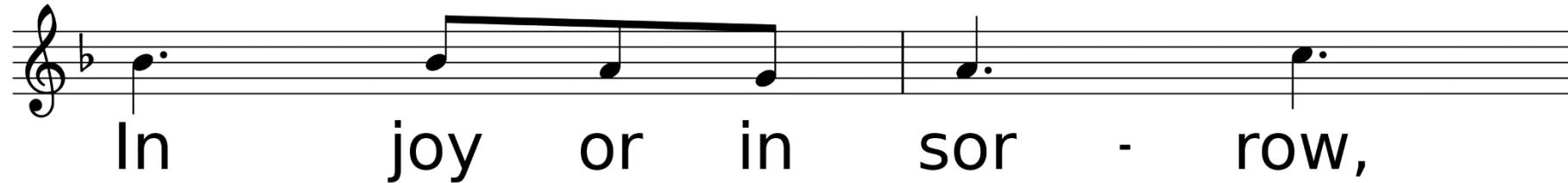
thy friends in thy con - duct

his like - ness shall see.

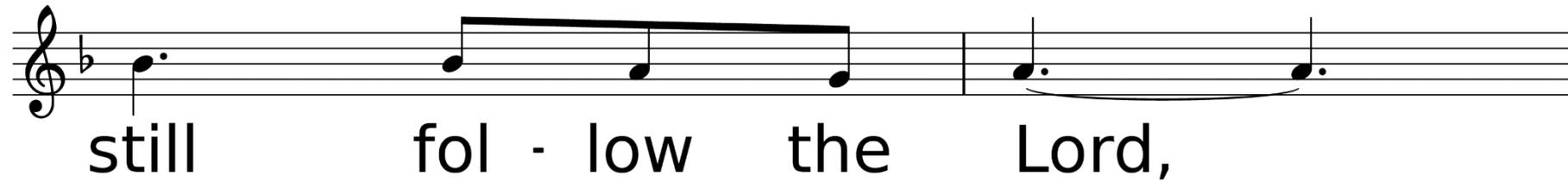


3. Take time to be ho - ly,
let him be thy guide,
and run not be - fore him,
what - ev - er be - tide.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 3/8 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: '3. Take time to be ho - ly, let him be thy guide, and run not be - fore him, what - ev - er be - tide.' The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are aligned with the notes: '3.' under the first note, 'Take' under the second, 'time' under the third, 'to' under the fourth, 'be' under the fifth, 'ho - ly,' under the sixth. The second staff: 'let' under the first, 'him' under the second, 'be' under the third, 'thy' under the fourth, 'guide,' under the fifth. The third staff: 'and' under the first, 'run' under the second, 'not' under the third, 'be - fore' under the fourth, 'him,' under the fifth. The fourth staff: 'what' under the first, '-' under the second, 'ev - er' under the third, '-' under the fourth, 'be - tide.' under the fifth.



In joy or in sor - row,



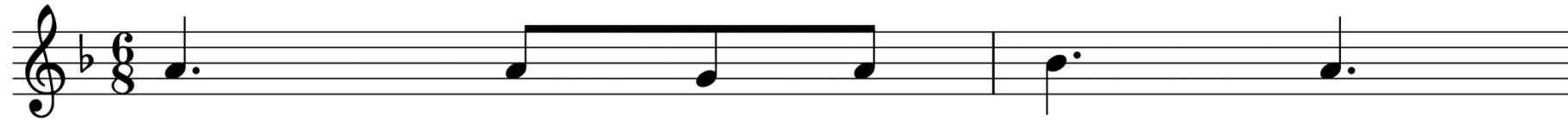
still fol - low the Lord,



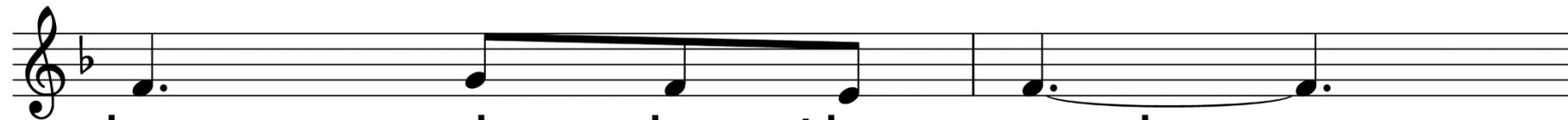
and, look - ing to Je - sus,



still trust in his word.



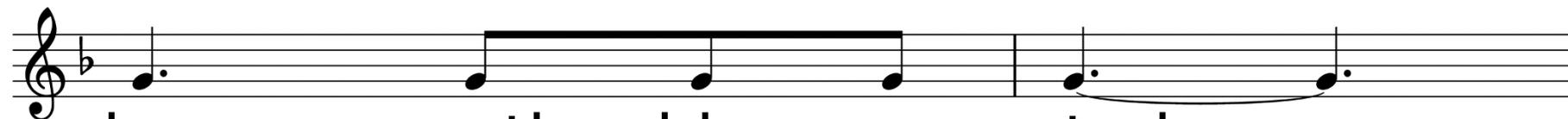
4. Take time to be ho - ly,



be calm in thy soul,



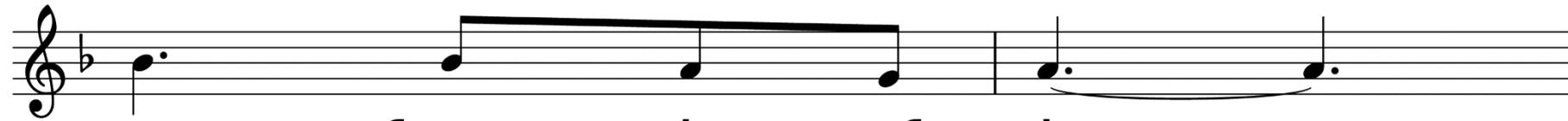
each thought and each mo - tive



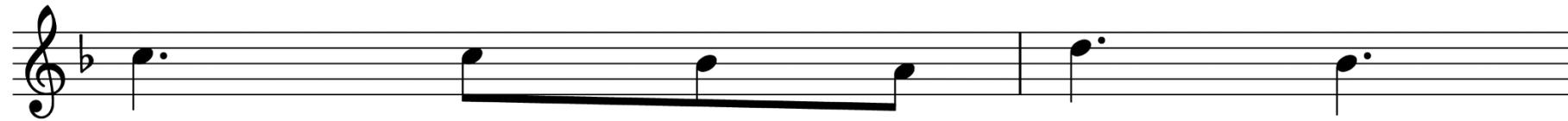
be - neath his con - trol.



Thus led by his spir - it



to foun - tains of love,



thou soon shalt be fit - ted



for serv - ice a - bove.



*Invitation to
The Observance
of
Lenten Discipline*

The Blessing of & the Receiving of Ashes

Blessed are you, God of all creation. You are eternal, we are mortal, formed from the dust of the earth. As we receive these ashes, make them a sign for us of repentance and returning to you.

Breathe into us again the breath of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Imposition of Ashes
*Repent, and believe in the
gospel.*

Confession and Pardon

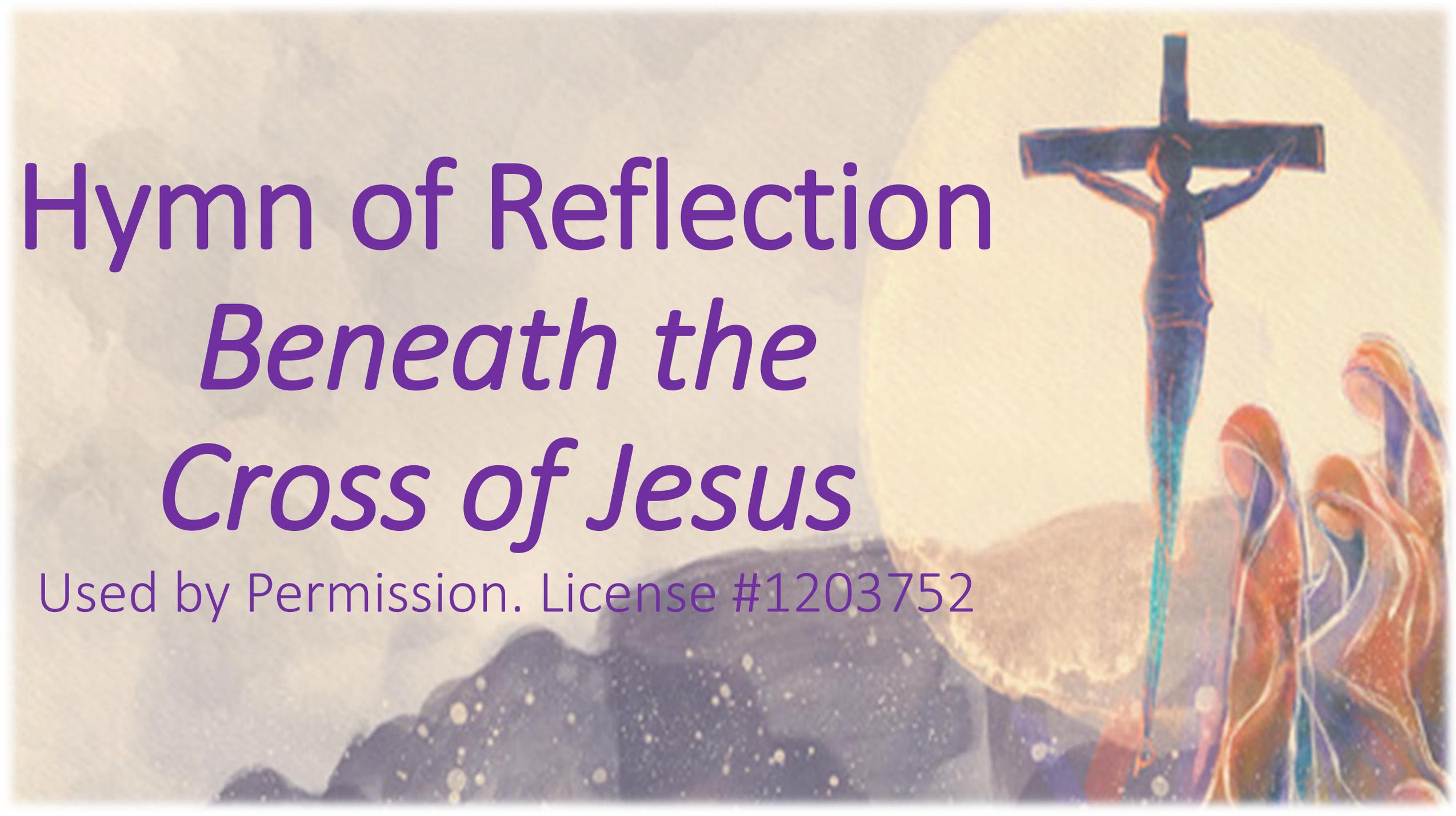
May the almighty and merciful God, who desires not the death of a sinner but that we turn from wickedness and live, accept our repentance, forgive our sins, and restore us by the Holy Spirit to newness of life.

Amen.



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespassed against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.



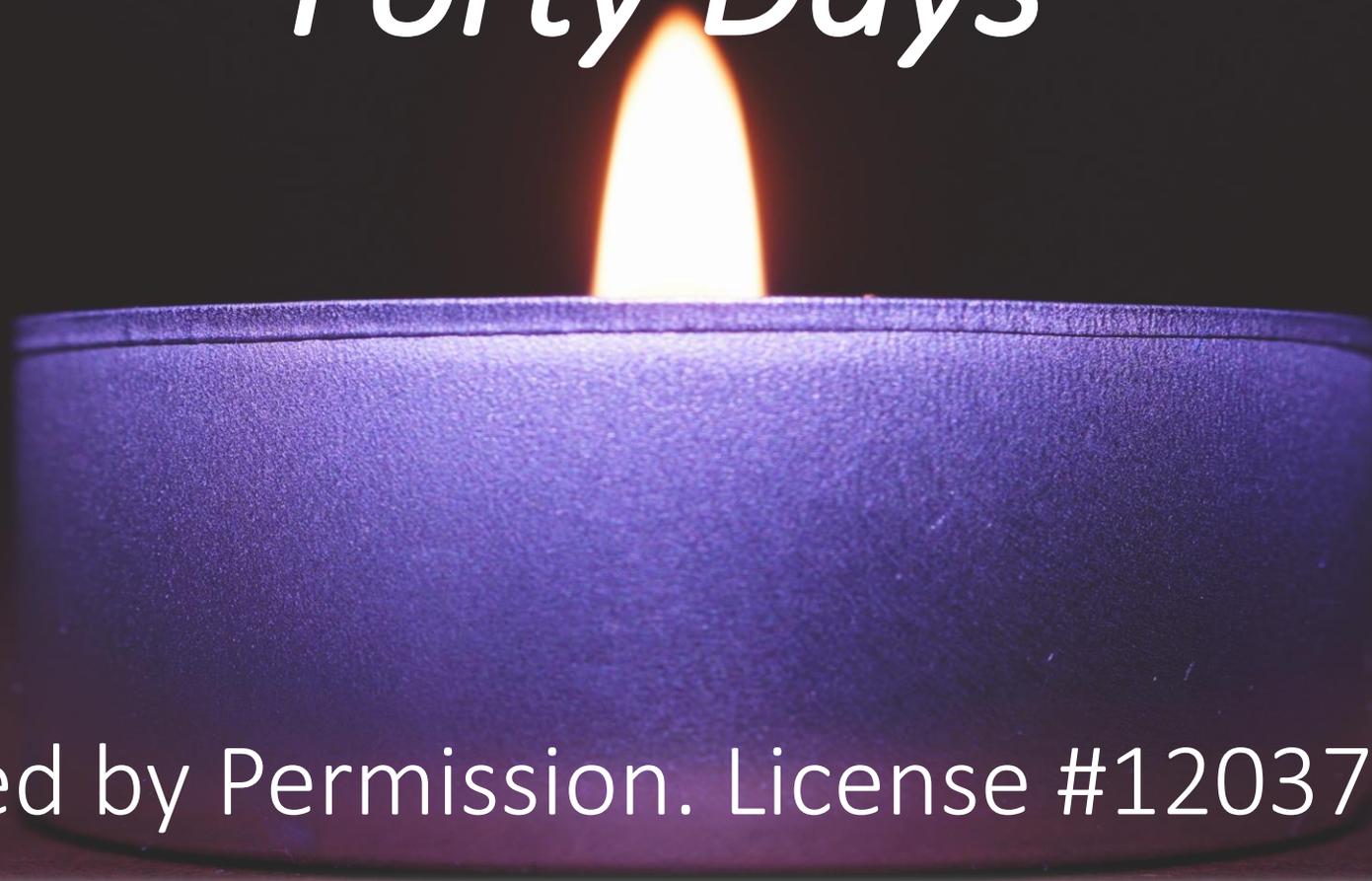
Hymn of Reflection
*Beneath the
Cross of Jesus*

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A close-up photograph of a shallow, circular wooden bowl. The bowl is filled with dark, rich soil. In the center of the soil, a small, simple wooden cross is placed. The cross is made of two thin, light-colored wooden sticks. The bowl's interior shows some texture and a slight blueish-grey stain. The background is filled with vibrant green leaves, some of which are out of focus, creating a natural and serene atmosphere.

***Benediction**

Sending Forth
*Lord, Who Throughout These
Forty Days*



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A person wearing a purple robe is shown from the waist down, performing a ritual. They are holding a small flame in their hands, which is the source of the purple light. The background is dark, and the overall atmosphere is solemn and spiritual.

Thank you for attending our Ash Wednesday Service. Please continue to keep friends & families listed on our prayer list in mind as you pray throughout the week. Thank you.