

He who testifies to these things says,

**“Yes, I am coming soon.”**

Revelation 22:20

Those who look to him are radiant  
and their faces shall never be ashamed.  
Psalms 34:5

**M:** We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus who is coming again. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.

**C:** We remember Jesus who will come at the end of time.  
None of us know what day that will be.



M: We hear his call to watch.

**C: We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.**

M: Jesus, our Savior, said: "Yes, I am coming soon."

**C: We, his people, say: "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."**





**Savior of the nations, come;  
Virgin's Son, make here your home.  
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,  
that the Lord chose such a birth.**

**Not by human flesh and blood,  
By the Spirit of our God  
Was the Word of God made flesh,  
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.**

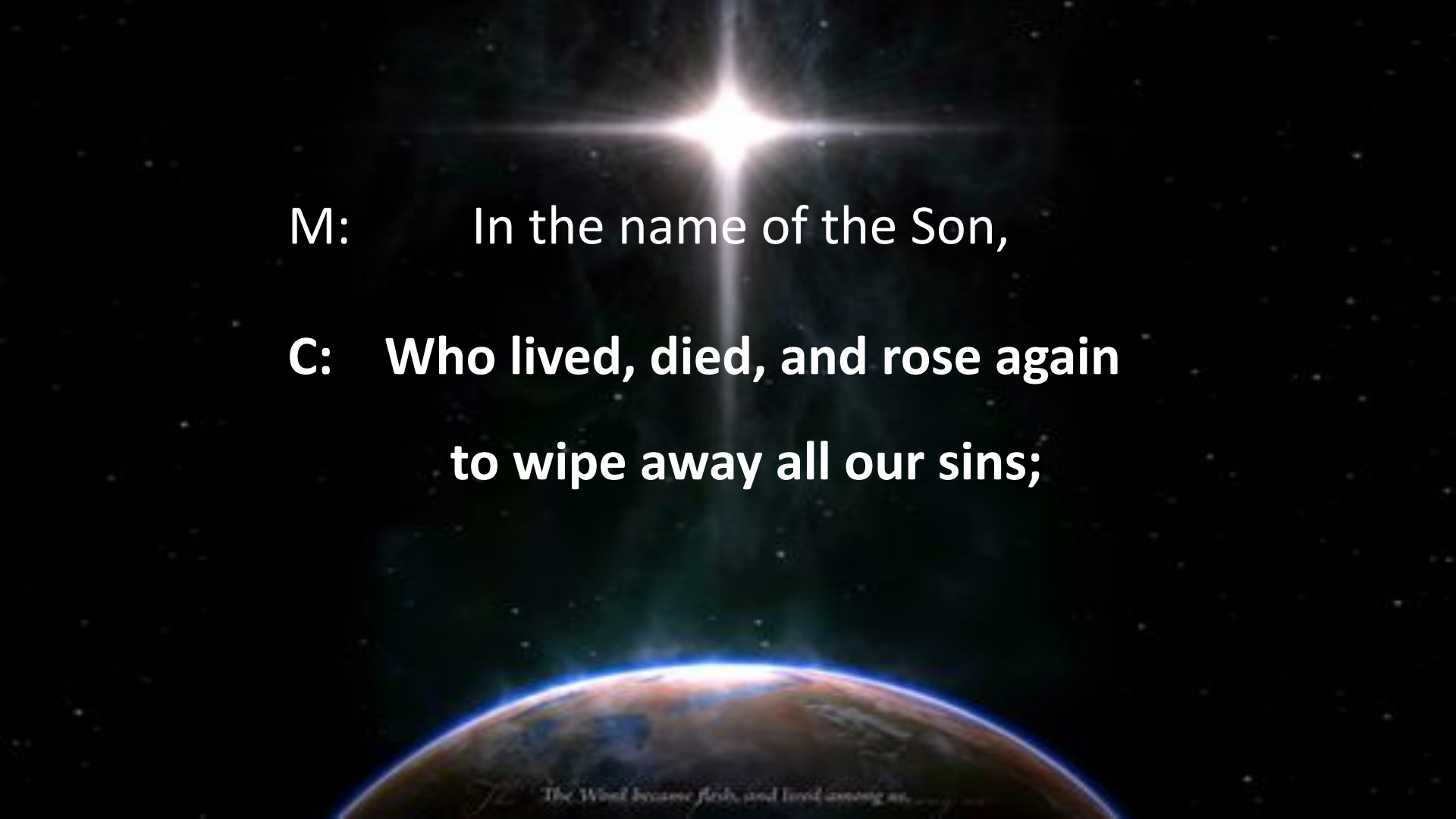


**Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child  
Of the virgin undefiled,  
Though by all the world disowned,  
Yet to be in heaven enthroned!**

The background of the image is a deep space scene filled with numerous stars of varying brightness and colors, including blue and white. Large, wispy nebulae in shades of orange, red, and yellow are scattered across the field of view. A prominent bright yellow-green light source, possibly a distant galaxy or a cluster of stars, is visible in the upper right quadrant, emitting a soft glow. In the lower left, there is a small, dark, circular object that resembles a planet or a moon.

M: We worship today in the name of the Father

**C:**                   Who created us  
and keeps us in his care;



M: In the name of the Son,


**C: Who lived, died, and rose again  
to wipe away all our sins;**



M: And in the name of the Holy Spirit,

**C: Who keeps and sustains us  
in the one, true faith.**





M: May the holy, merciful, and Triune God  
be with you.

**C:**        **And also with you.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

**M:** In the name of our God, to whom all hearts are open  
and from whom no secrets are hidden.     Amen.

**C:** O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy,  
and in your faithfulness, come to my relief.  
Do not bring your servant into judgment,  
for no one living is righteous before you.     (Psalm 143)





**C: Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails.**

**Do not hide your face from me,**

**for I have put my trust in You.**

**Show me the way I should go,**

**for to you I lift up my soul.**

**Rescue me from my enemies, LORD, for**

**I hide myself in you.**

**(Psalm 143:1-2, 7-9)**

## *Silence for Meditation and Reflection*

**C: Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, my words, and my actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.**

**M:** Jesus says to his people:

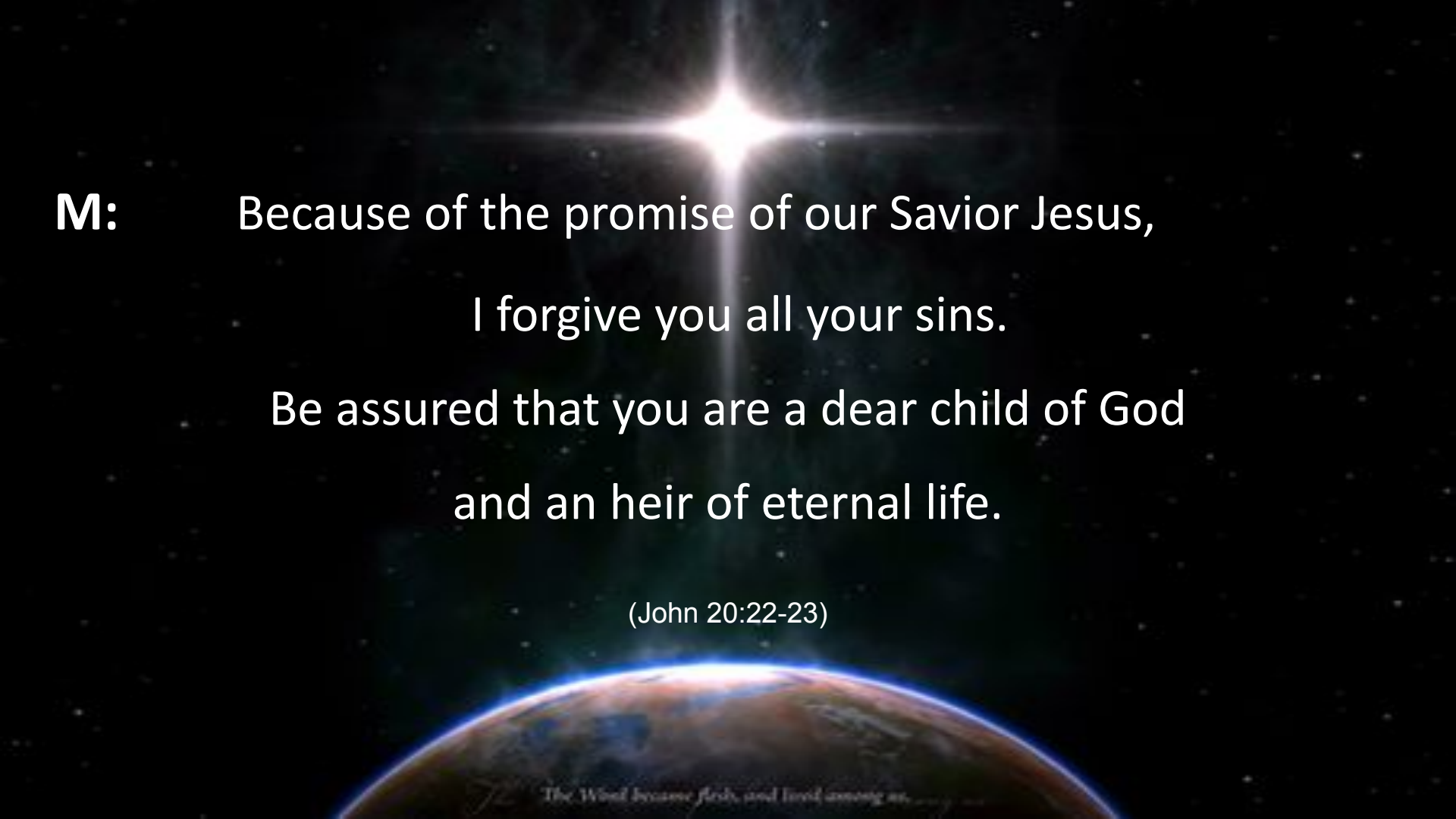
“If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven.”

(John 20:23)

His death paid for the guilt of your sins  
and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

**C:** **Yes, I believe.**





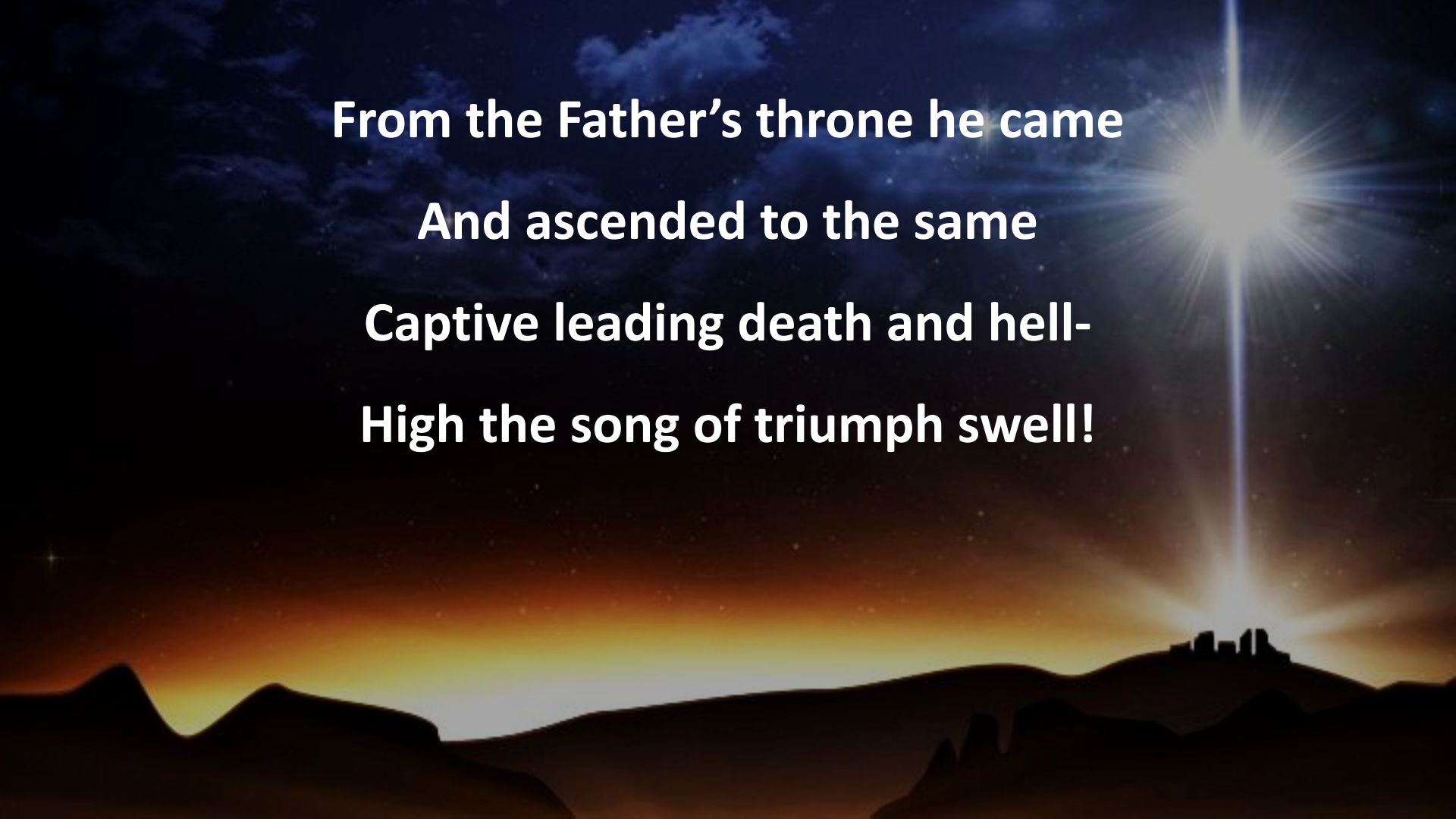
**M:** Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus,  
I forgive you all your sins.  
Be assured that you are a dear child of God  
and an heir of eternal life.

(John 20:22-23)

**C: O Lord, my God, I called to you for help, and you answered me. I thank you for the love you have shown me in Jesus Christ, my Savior. Through him you have rescued me from the guilt of my sin and given me the peace of forgiveness. Help me fight against temptation, correct whatever wrongs I can, and serve you and those around me with love and good works. In Jesus' name, I pray.**

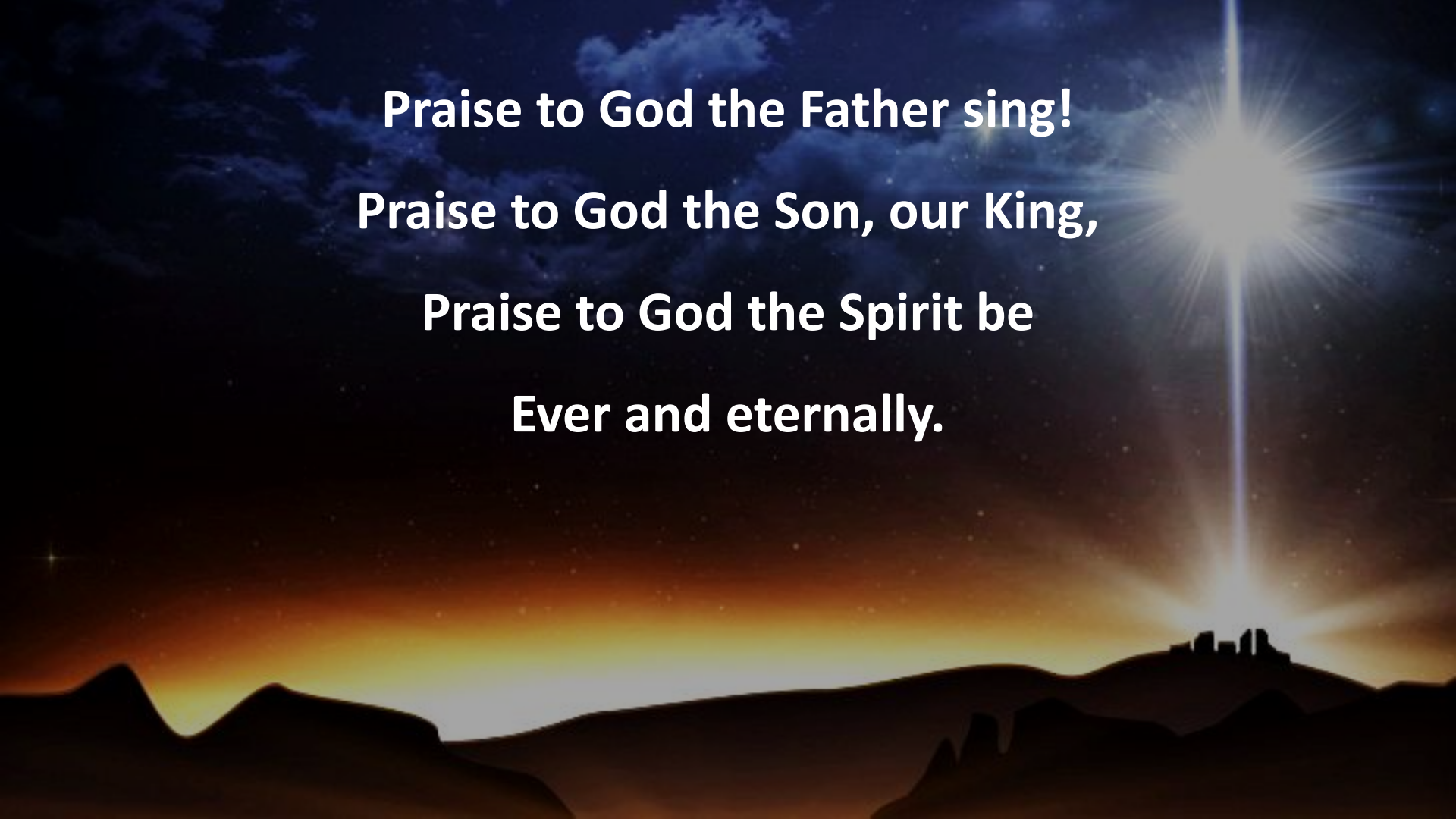
**Amen.**

**From the Father's throne he came  
And ascended to the same  
Captive leading death and hell-  
High the song of triumph swell!**





**Praise to God the Father sing!  
Praise to God the Son, our King,  
Praise to God the Spirit be  
Ever and eternally.**





*Prayer of the Day*

## Isaiah 2:1-5

This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob.



He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.”

The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.



M: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God!**





## PSALM 18

**M:** The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;

**C:** My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.

**M:** In my distress I called to the LORD;

**C:** I cried to my God for help.

**M:** From his temple he heard my voice;

**C:** My cry came before him, into his ears.

**M:** He reached down from on high and took hold of me;

**C: He drew me out of deep waters.**

**M:** He rescued me from my powerful enemy,

**C: From my foes, who were too strong for me.**

**M:** They confronted me in the day of my disaster,

**C: But the LORD was my support.**



**M:** He brought me out into a spacious place;

**C: He rescued me because he delighted in me.**

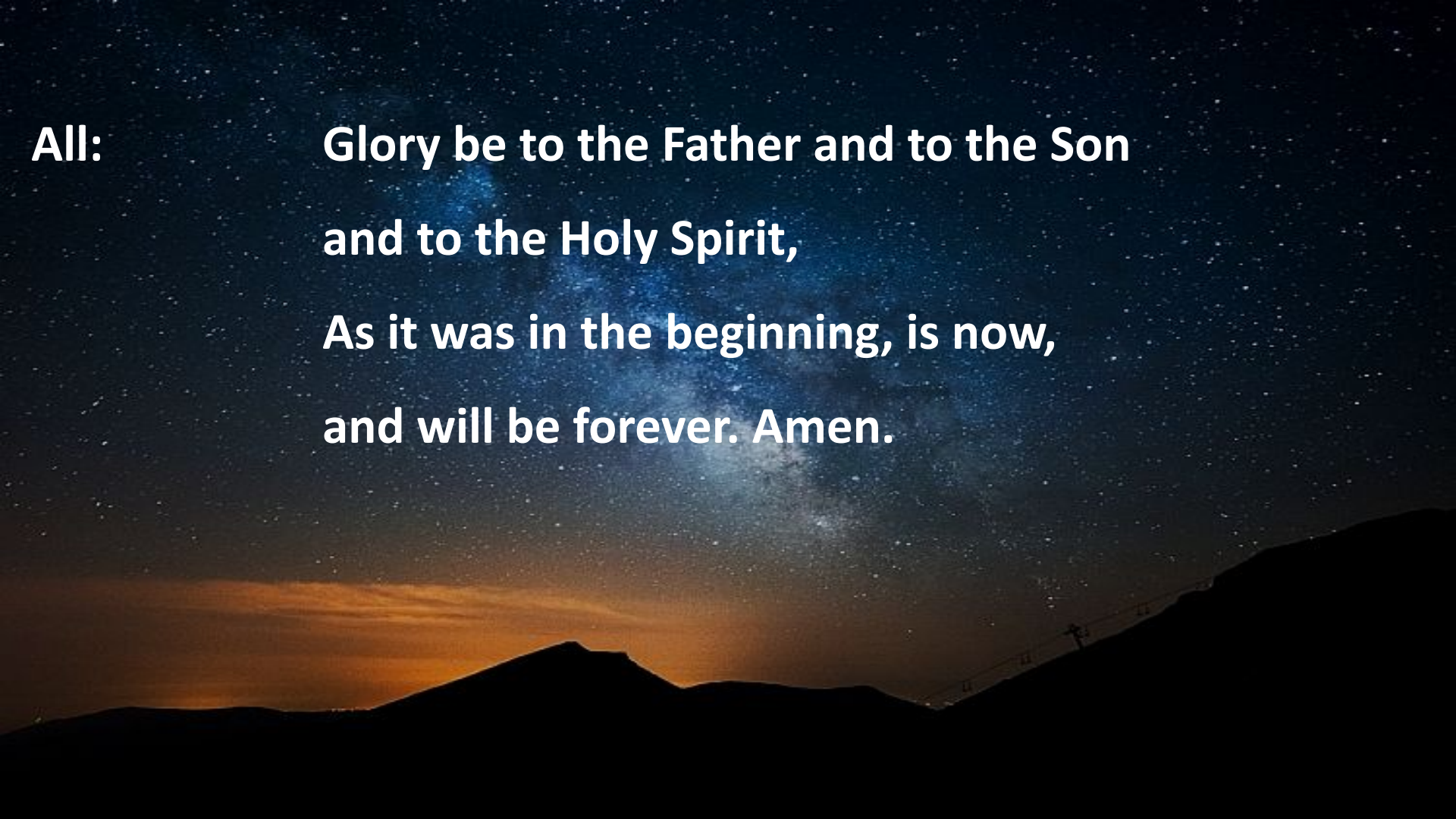
**M:** You, LORD, keep my lamp burning;

**C: My God turned my darkness into light.**

**M:** With your help I can advance against a troop;

**C: With my God I can scale a wall.**



The background of the image is a deep night sky filled with stars. The Milky Way galaxy is prominently visible, stretching diagonally from the upper left towards the lower right. Below the horizon line, the dark silhouettes of mountain peaks are visible against a faint, orange-hued glow on the horizon, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The text is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**All:**            **Glory be to the Father and to the Son**  
**and to the Holy Spirit,**  
**As it was in the beginning, is now,**  
**and will be forever. Amen.**

# MATTHEW 24: 37-44

**“No one knows when that day and hour will be, not the angels of heaven, not even the Son, but only the Father. Just as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be when the Son of Man returns.**

[illegible]





**In fact, in the days before the flood people were eating  
and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until  
the very day that Noah entered the ark.**





**And they did not realize what was coming until the  
flood came and took them all away.**

**That is how it will be when the Son of Man returns.**



[illegible]

**“At that time two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left. So be alert, because you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.**



**But understand this: If the master of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. You also need to be ready for this reason: The Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect him.**

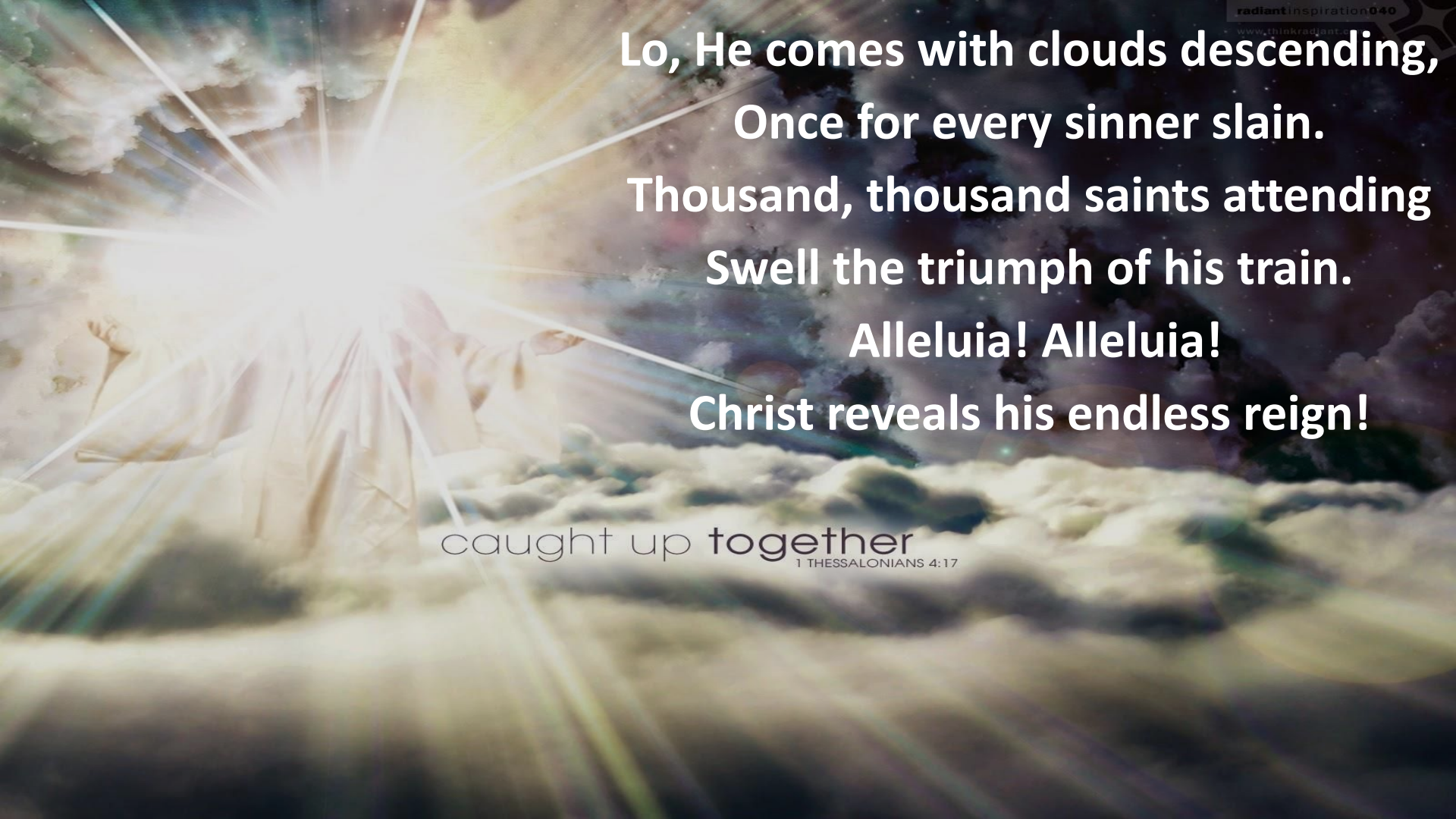


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**M: The Gospel of the Lord.**

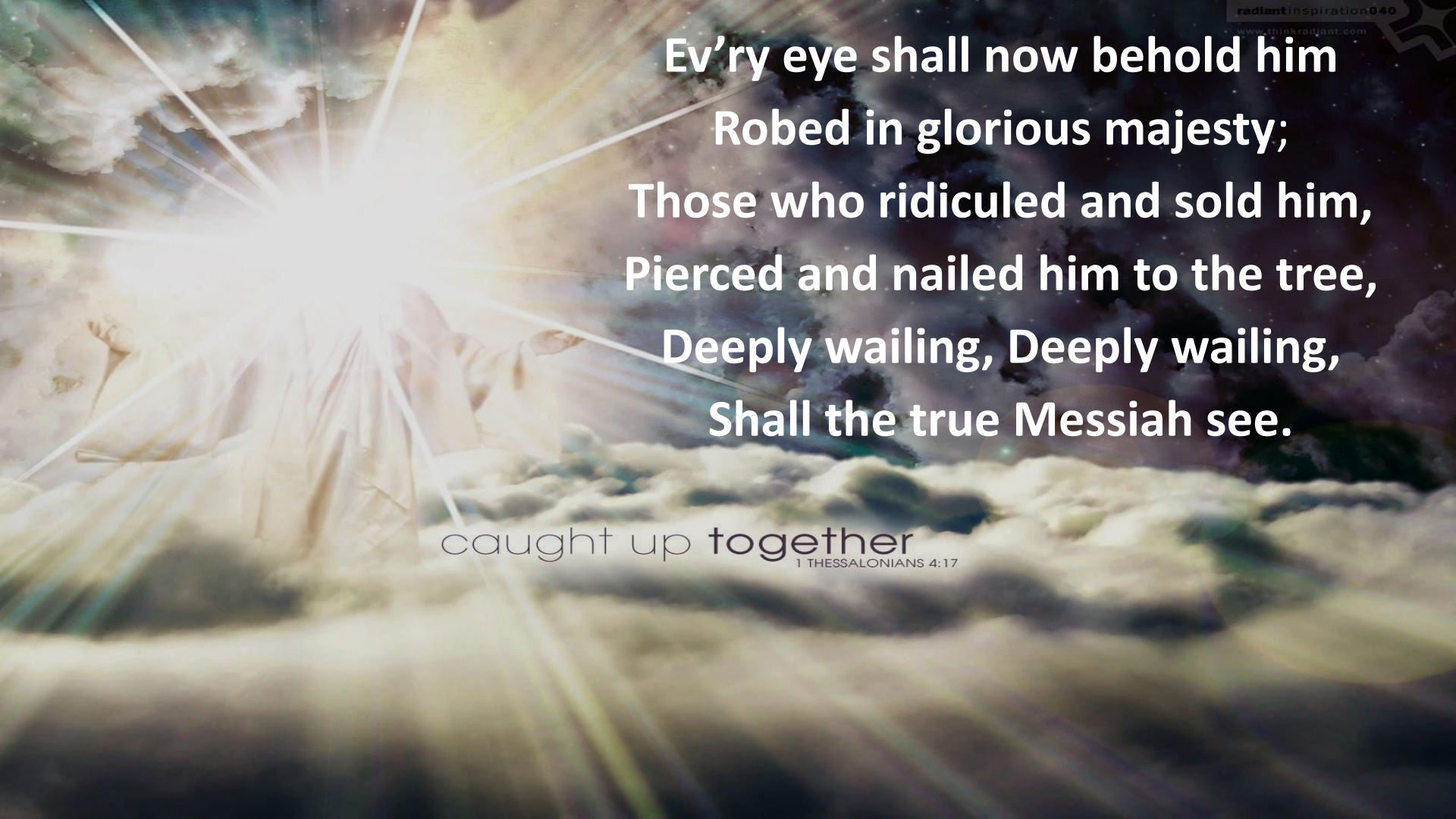
**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**





**Lo, He comes with clouds descending,  
Once for every sinner slain.  
Thousand, thousand saints attending  
Swell the triumph of his train.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ reveals his endless reign!**

caught up **together**  
1 THESSALONIANS 4:17




**Ev'ry eye shall now behold him  
Robed in glorious majesty;  
Those who ridiculed and sold him,  
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
Deeply wailing, Deeply wailing,  
Shall the true Messiah see.**

caught up **together**  
1 THESSALONIANS 4:17





**Those dear tokens of his passion  
Still his dazzling body bears,  
Cause of endless exultation  
To his ransomed worshipers.  
With what wonder,  
With what wonder,  
Gaze we on those glorious scars.**



**Yea, Amen, Let all adore you  
high on your eternal throne.  
Ev'ry knee shall bow before you;  
Come and take your people home!  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
You shall reign and You alone!**

caught up **together**  
1 THESSALONIANS 4:17

## PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation,

by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,

present your requests to God.





And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble,  
whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,  
whatever is admirable—  
if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

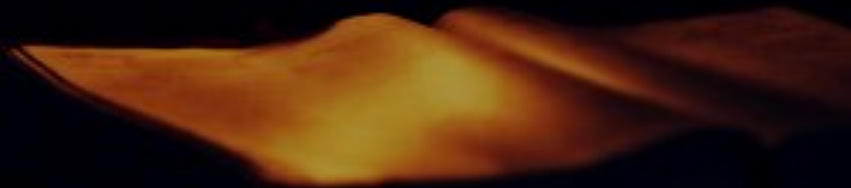


Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me,  
or seen in me—put it into practice.  
And the God of peace will be with you.



M: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God!**



## **SERMON - DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING. THINK INSTEAD.**

**Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.**



# PRAYERS



**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.**

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

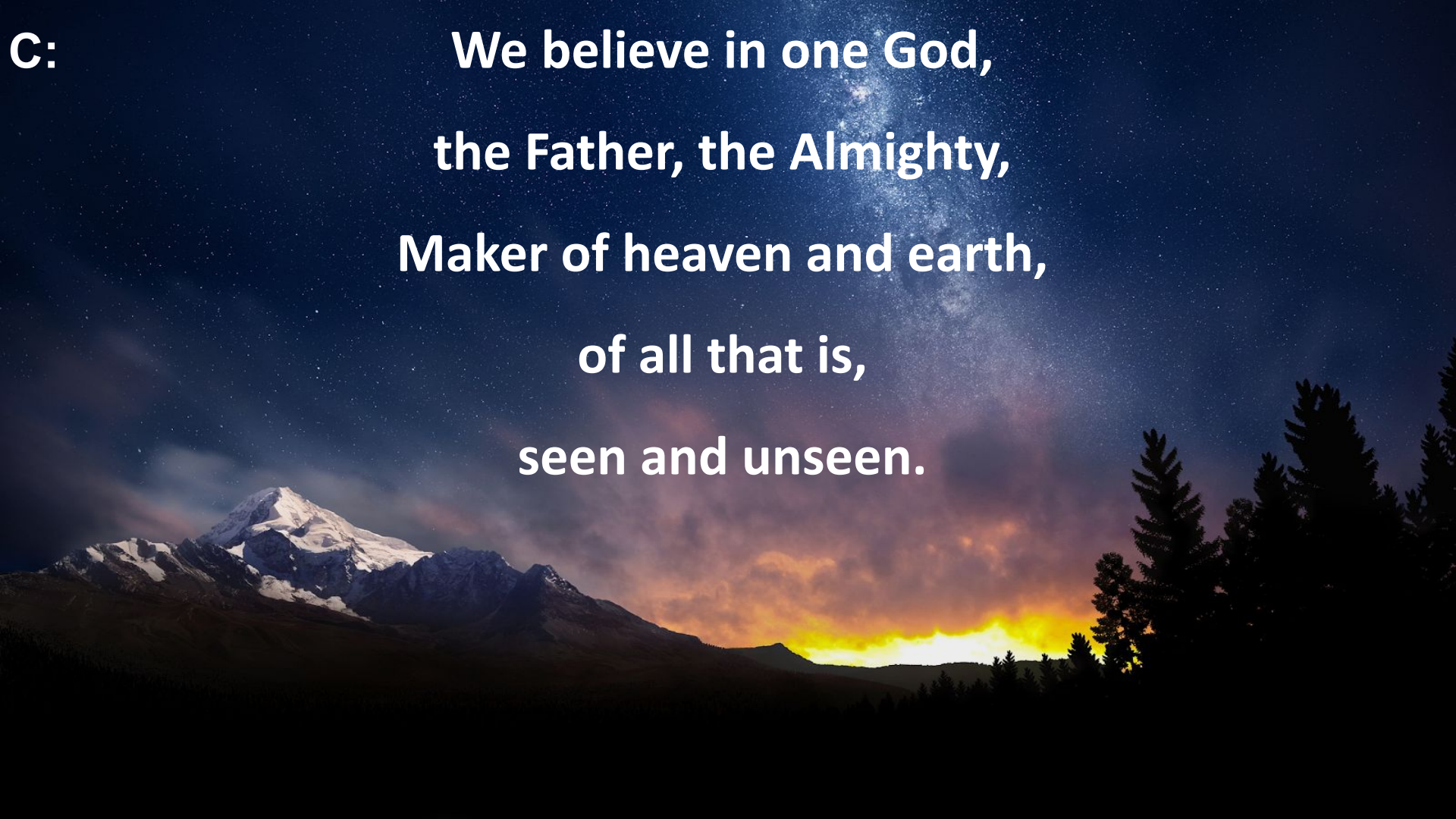
**Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

**M:** In a world that can only guess  
it was created somehow  
and by something,  
what do you believe?

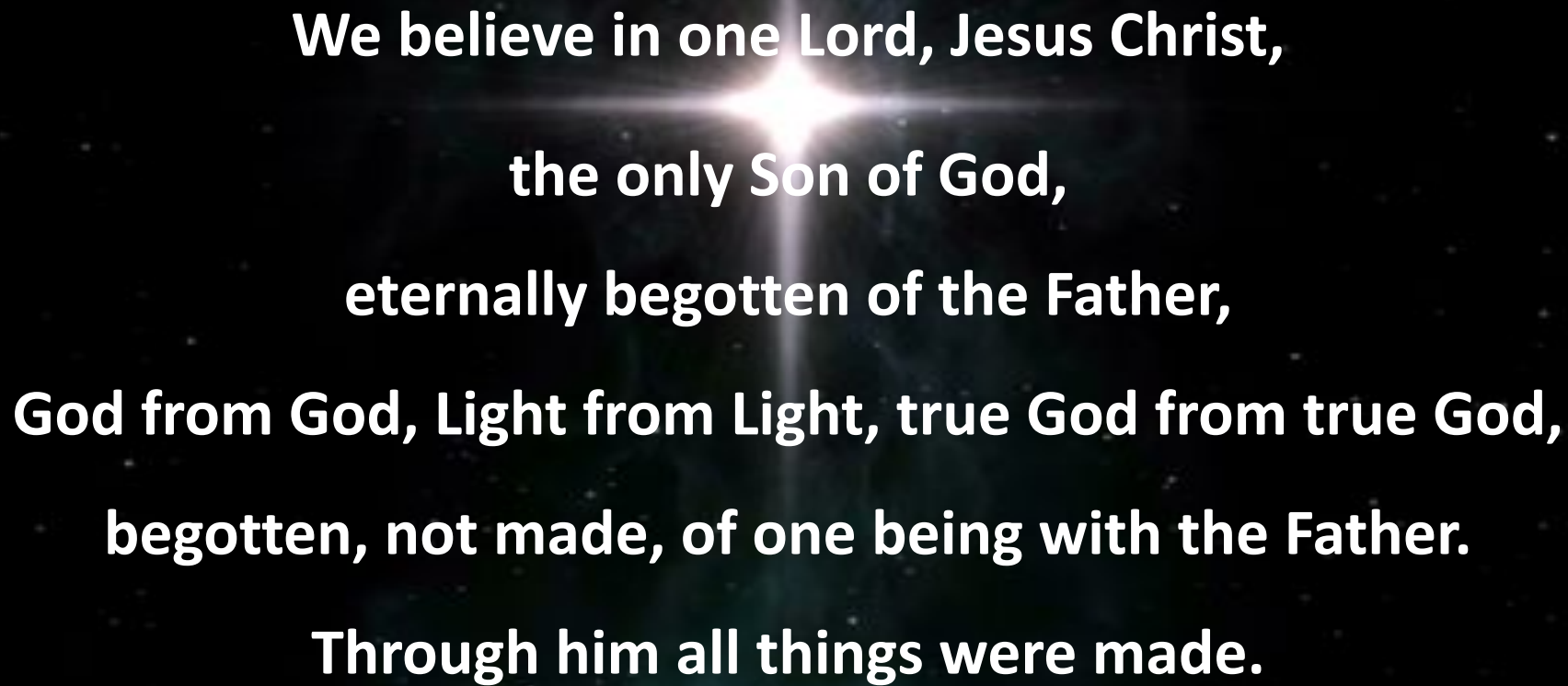
C:

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.



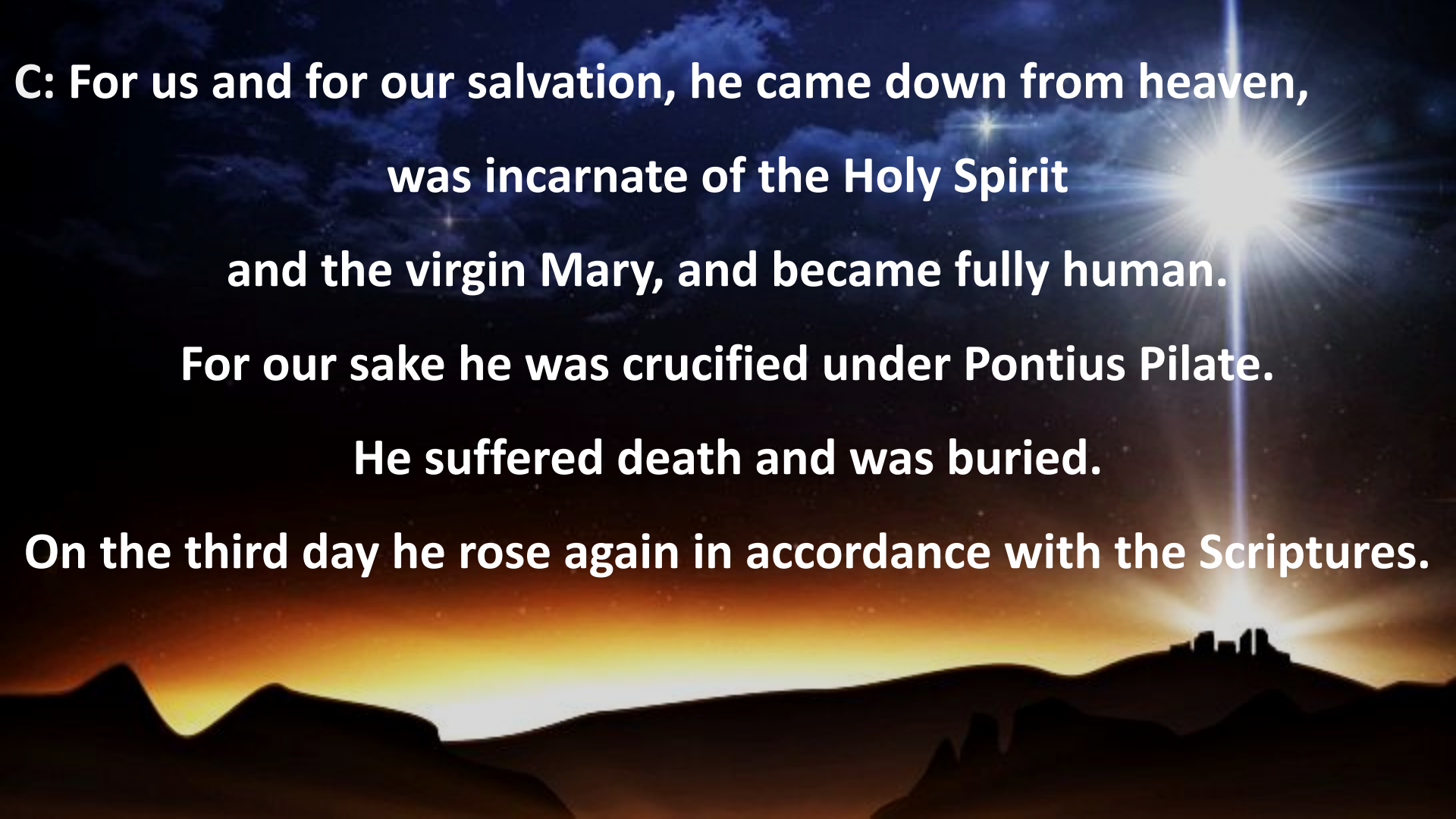
**M:** In a world that often teaches  
Jesus was just a great human teacher,  
a wise prophet  
or just another way to God,  
what do you believe?





**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.**

**M:** In a world that still believes  
salvation is through the good  
and helpful things we do,  
what do you believe?



**C: For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit  
and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.**

He ascended into heaven and is seated at  
the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

THE GLORIOUS  
MORNING  
WHEN THE SAVIOUR CAME





**M:** In a world that loosely holds on  
to every word that sounds  
spiritual or religious,  
what do you believe?

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped  
and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**





**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come.**

**Amen.**



**OFFERING**




# **THE SACRAMENT**

## **Exhortation to those receiving The Lord's Supper**

Dear friends in Christ! Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood together with the bread and the wine as a truly life-giving food and drink.

By means of this sacrament, Jesus forgives your sins, strengthens your faith, gives you strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants you a joyful foretaste of heaven.

Together, then, with your fellow believers remember and proclaim the Lord's death, celebrate the gift of his redemption, and express the unity of faith which we share!



M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed,  
took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it  
and gave it to his disciples, saying,

**“Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you.**

**Do this in remembrance of me.”**

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, **“Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen!**






## Distribution

**Dear visitors and guests:** *You may be relieved to find out that God's Word teaches that Communion is intended only for those who have been made familiar in advance with the essence of the Sacrament, and for those who have previously expressed their doctrinal agreement with the congregation. This is the scriptural practice of "close communion." If you are not yet a communicant member of our Wisconsin Synod (WELS) or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), please observe our Communion service today, and speak with our pastor after the service. We'd be delighted to have come to know what we teach from the Bible.*

# PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING





The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**Amen!**

**Hark the glad sound!  
The Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
And every voice a song.**





**He comes the captives to release,**

**In Satan's prison held.**

**The gates of brass before him burst;**

**The iron fetters yield.**

**He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of his grace  
To enrich the humble poor.**



**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Your welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring  
With your beloved name!**



**Schedule**

MON	Church Council meeting	6:30pm
TUES	Women's gathering / study	1pm
WED	Ladies Event: Advent By Candlelight	6:30

Note: Youth Catechism Class resumes next Wednesday

SAT	Men's gathering / study	9:30am
	NEW Bible Foundations Class: (topic #2)	10:30am
	How bad is our problem? What's the only solution?	

Next Sunday	All Ages Bible Study Time	9am
	Worship	10am

**Other Upcoming Happenings**

Dec.17 - Christmas Caroling; Dec.21 - Children's Christmas Service  
Dec.24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight; Dec.25 - Christmas Day Song & Scripture