

**Welcome**

**March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**March 10th, 2013  
Fourth Sunday in Lent**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

21590 State Highway 47, Isle, MN 56342

Phone: 320-684-2123 (1-877-684-2123) Fax: 320-684-2836

E-mail address: [blcmalmo@frontiernet.net](mailto:blcmalmo@frontiernet.net)

Church Web Site: [blcmalmo.org](http://blcmalmo.org)

Pastor: Rev. James Raisanen

Church Secretary: Evelyn Richter

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN, C 320-684-2846

Patti Honnold, RN CNP 320-676-8421

Kathy Berland RN ANP 320-495-3988

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

**MISSION STATEMENT**

**We will grow spiritually and in numbers as we serve Christ. We will reach out and address the hurts and hopes in our community. We will maintain a church home that is reverently joyous and extend a welcome to all who seek to join us in our mission.**

**Hearing Assistance is available during the service.**

**Please notify usher if you would like assistance**

# Sunday, March 10, 2013/Fourth Sunday in Lent

## INTRODUCTION

*The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!*

**CALL TO WORSHIP: "Just As I Am Without One Plea"**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**OPENING SONG: "Why Me Lord"**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

**WE CONFESS OUR NEED FOR LIFE: God of life you created the world as a beautiful garden filled with abundant life. Every day we make choices that destroy the garden and kill all that lives in it. You created each one of us in love and for love. Each day we make choices that lead us away from your love. You gift us with wisdom, knowledge and creativity. Each day we choose to turn our back on you and presume to be our own god. God of life, we have sinned and we are sorry. We are in need of your forgiveness. God of life, give us your life.**

**WE HEAR OF GOD'S FORGIVING LIFE:** People of God's beautiful garden, God knows our sin yet chooses to love us with an everlasting love. God knows our destructive choices and our hardened hearts, yet chooses to forgive us. God knows our daily wandering and our turning away, yet chooses to send Jesus Christ to save us. People of God, the sin of our human condition is forgiven by the life-giving presence of Jesus Christ. He lived, died and rose from the grave to give us life. God gives us new life each day through the Holy Spirit. Praise God for life!

**Amen.**

## **GREETING**

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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**ANTHEM: "Living Water"**

**FIRST READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16–21**

*One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.*

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**PSALM: Psalm 32**

***Refrain:*** *Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD. (Ps. 32:11)*

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

***Refrain:*** *Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD.*

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.

**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."

Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of  
trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

***Refrain:*** *Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD.*

You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye.**

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

*Refrain: Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD.*

**GOSPEL: Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32**

*Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believed it was his obedience that earned his place in the father's home.*

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to

him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe — the best one — and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

## **SERMON**

**OFFERING & OFFERING SONG: "Sanctuary" CCLI# 24140**

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**God of all creation, we are yours and all we have belongs to you. Accept these offerings and bless their use in your work among us. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Returning to the Lord with all our heart, let us pray for the whole people of God, the earth, and all who cry out for healing.

*A time for silent prayer.*

For the church, that it may be a community of reconciliation, and welcome those lost, estranged, or alienated from their homes or communities. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For those preparing for baptism at Easter, that you clothe them in the garments of salvation and welcome them to your table of celebration. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For the governments of the world, that they not squander the resources of the earth, but use them for the good of creation and all its inhabitants. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For all who run away from home or hang on to resentment or guilt; and for those broken in mind, body, or spirit (*especially*) that you embrace them with your compassion. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For the families and homes of this congregation, that they may be places of forgiveness, acceptance, and nurture. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be made.*

We give thanks for the saints (*especially Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, whom we commemorate today*). Bring us to your eternal home, that we may rejoice in the inheritance of your grace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Hear us according to your steadfast love, O God, and in your great compassion bring us to resurrection and rebirth in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER led by Praise Team**

**BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

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

**CLOSING SONG:                    “Just a Closer Walk”                    CCLI# 4529235**

!!

**Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society**

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

## **THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK OF MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2013**

Music: Praise Team  
Greeters: Audrey & Dennis Bistodeau  
Ushers: 8:30 Jack & Paula Spetz, 10:00 Darrell Kelly & Dick Stebbins  
Lectors: 8:30 Myra Honl, 10:00 Joyce Rimer  
Coffee Servers: Bob. & Kathy Carlson, Don & Donna Myhre

## **RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD LAST WEEK (3/3/13)**

Attendance: 8:30 – 70      10:00 – 29

Offering: \$ 3,364.00      Building Fund: \$525.00

**\$ 3,077.00 – Weekly amount needed for operating expenses.**

**\$ 580.00 – Weekly amount (building fund) needed for mortgage payment.**

## **THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA MAR. 10<sup>TH</sup> THRU MAR. 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2013**

Mon., Mar. 11<sup>th</sup>    7:00 p.m.    AA & Alanon

Tues., Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>    9:00 a.m.    Quilters  
                              9:30 a.m.    Bells

Wed., Mar. 13<sup>th</sup>    8:30 a.m.    Bible Study  
                              9:30 a.m.    Hardanger  
                              11:00 a.m.    Bible Study  
                              5:30 p.m.    Potluck  
                              6:30 p.m.    Lenten Service

Thurs., Mar. 14<sup>th</sup>    8:00 a.m.    R.O.M.E.O.S.  
                              1:00 p.m.    Funtimers

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**EASTER LILIES** go on sale today. Purchase a lily in honor or in memory of a loved one. The cost this year is \$15.00. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

**Coffee Servers** are needed for March 24<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday) and into the month of April. Sign up sheet next to the kitchen serving window.

We also need people to help set up at 4:30 p.m. for the **Wednesday potluck suppers**. That sign up sheet is in the Narthex.

If you would like to help serve **Easter Breakfast**, there is a sign up sheet in the narthex. If there is not enough help, we will just serve coffee between services.

Aitkin Community Ed bus trip to **Plymouth Playhouse = Ring of Fire**, Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. \$65 includes bus, theater ticket and chicken buffet lunch. Pick up will be at church about 9 a.m. Sign up sheets with more info in the entry.

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ISLE** will be celebrating 50 years of **FAITHfulness** August 10-11, 2013. Mark your calendar if you would like to attend. We will be receiving further information for events and times.

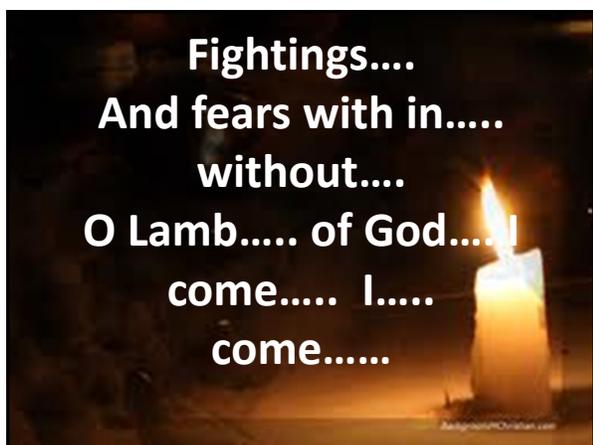
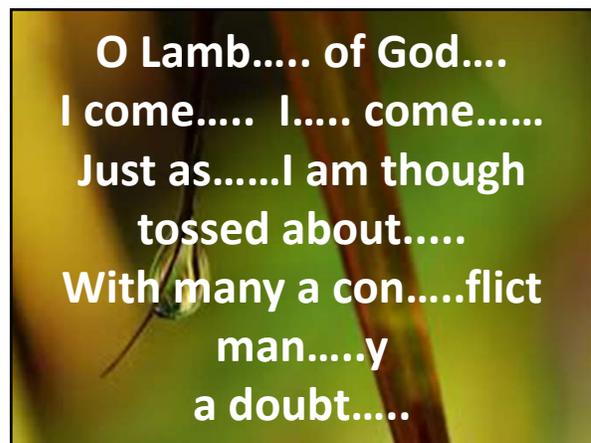
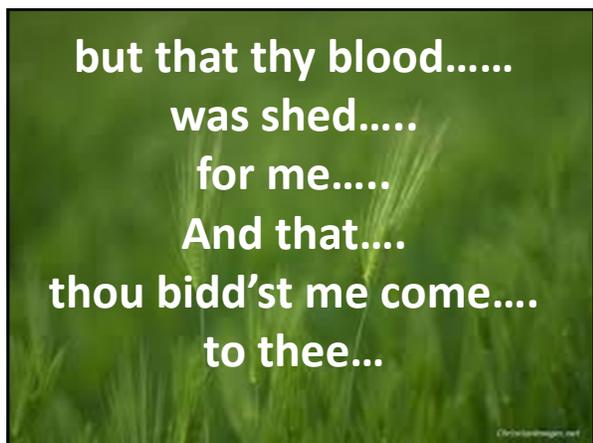
### **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:**

Maundy Thursday – 5:30 p.m.

Good Friday – 9:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday – 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

**HAVE A  
WONDERFUL  
DAY!!**

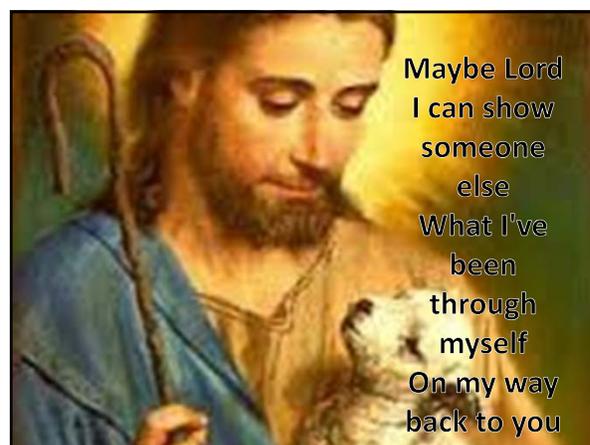
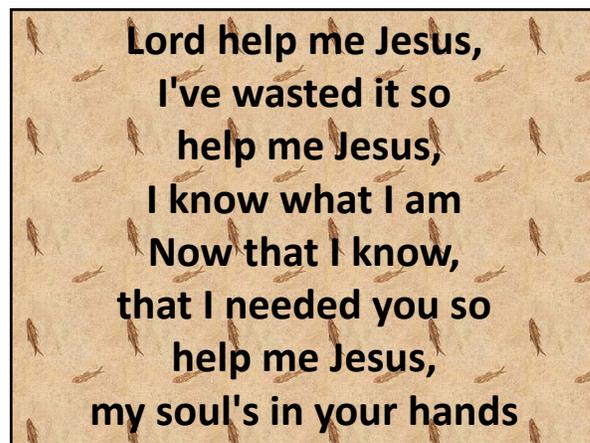
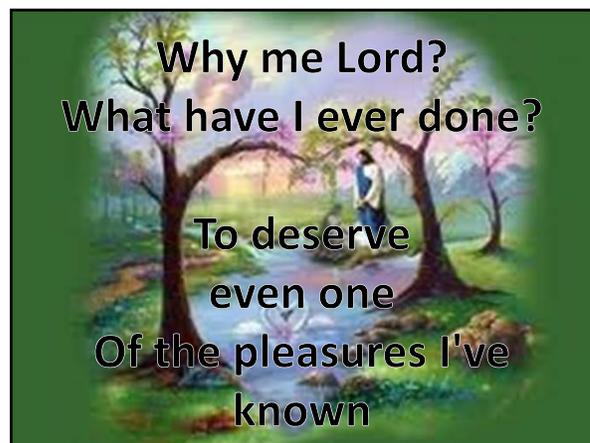
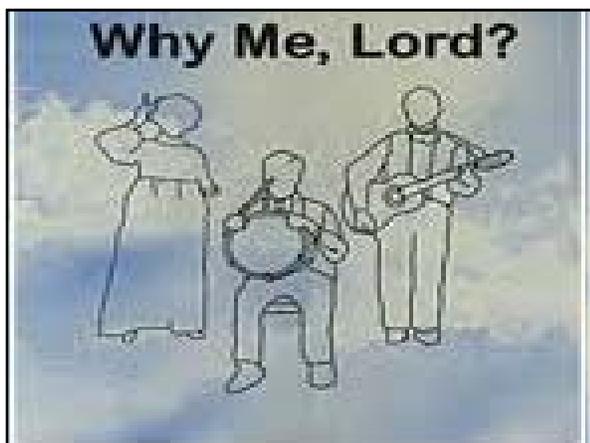


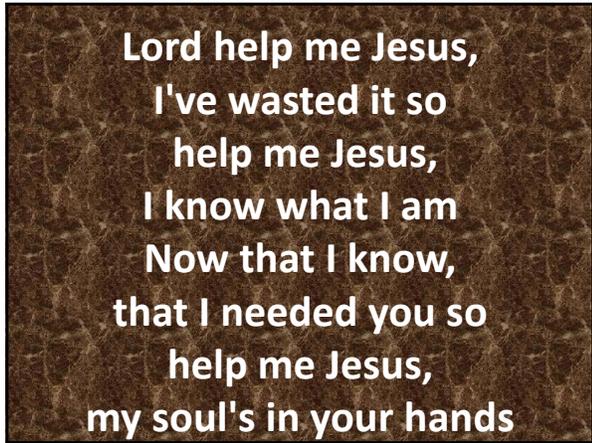
Wilt welcome  
par.....don cleanse....  
re lieve....Because....  
Thy promise I.... believe....  
O Lamb..... of God.... I  
come..... I..... come.....

Just as.....I am thy love  
unknown.....  
Has broken ev.....'ry  
bar...rier down.....  
Now to..... be thine...  
yea thine...  
Alone...

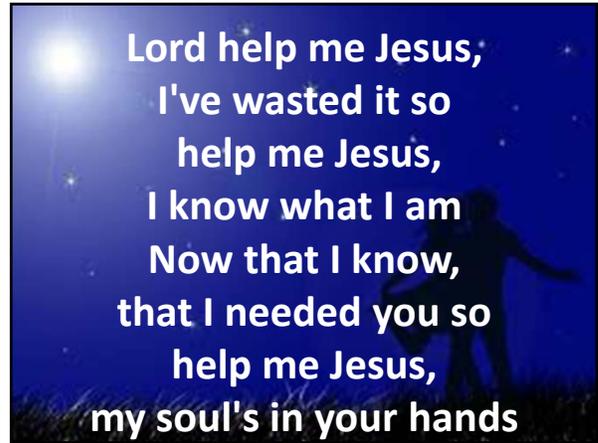


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A square image with a brown, textured, fibrous background. The text is centered in white.

Lord help me Jesus,  
I've wasted it so  
help me Jesus,  
I know what I am  
Now that I know,  
that I needed you so  
help me Jesus,  
my soul's in your hands

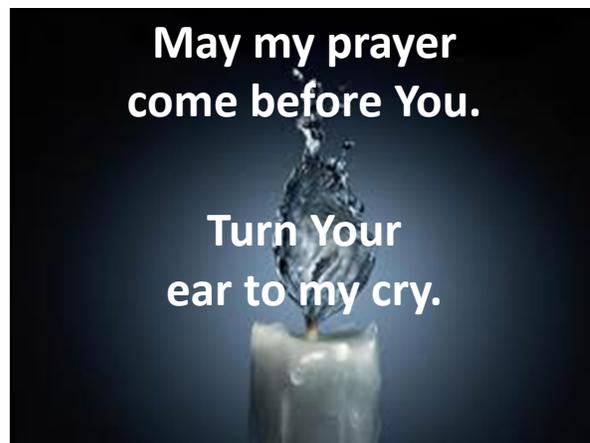
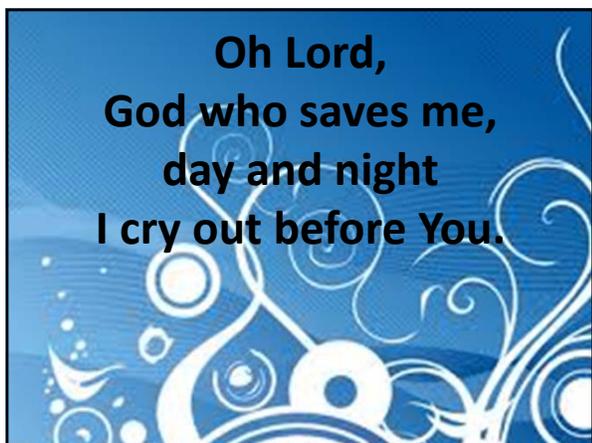
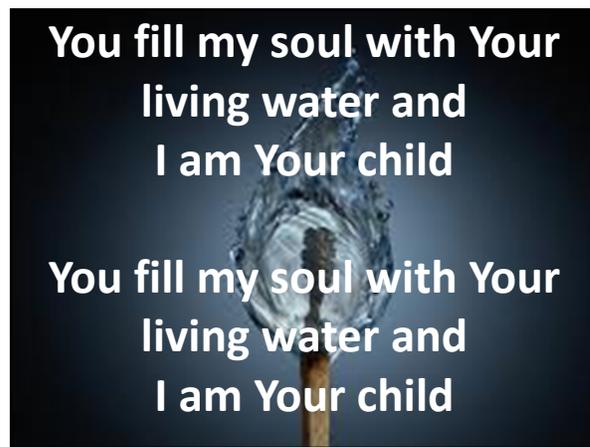
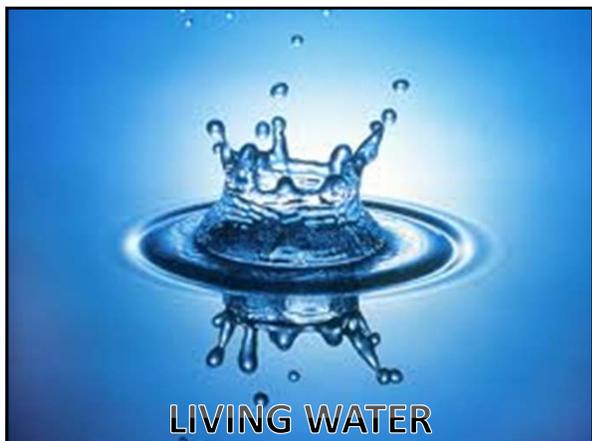
A square image with a dark blue night sky background, featuring a bright star in the upper left and a silhouette of a person standing on a grassy hill in the lower right. The text is centered in white.

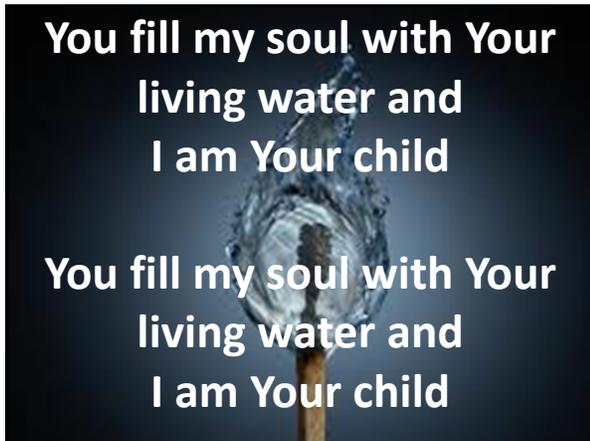
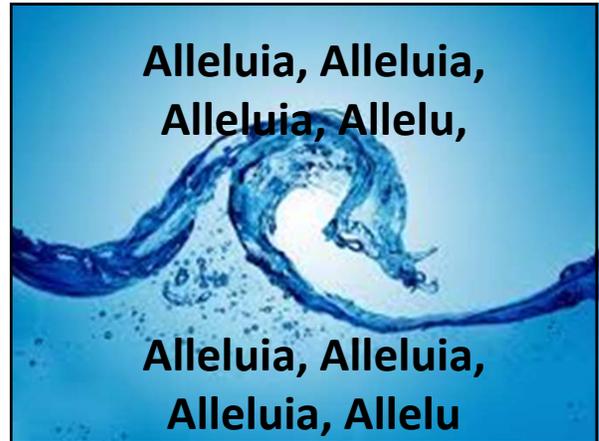
Lord help me Jesus,  
I've wasted it so  
help me Jesus,  
I know what I am  
Now that I know,  
that I needed you so  
help me Jesus,  
my soul's in your hands

A square image with a black background and a vibrant blue starburst pattern of dots radiating from the center. The text is centered in white.

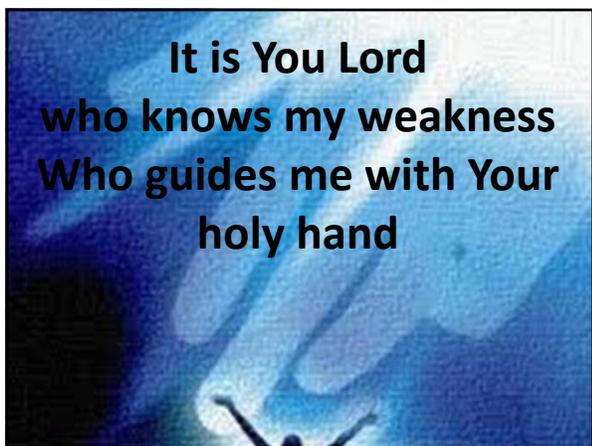
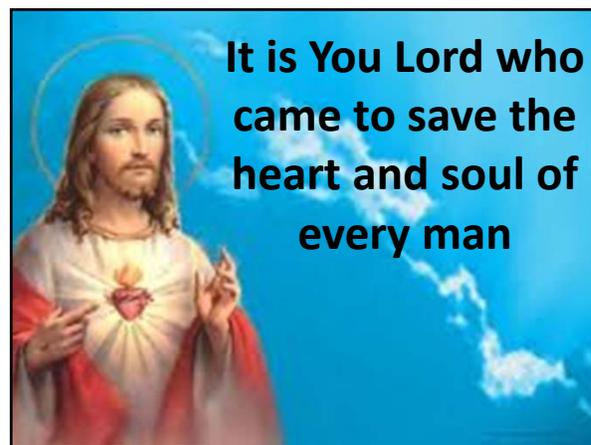
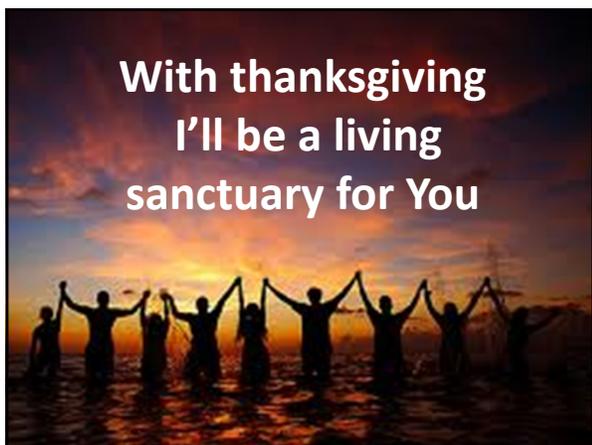
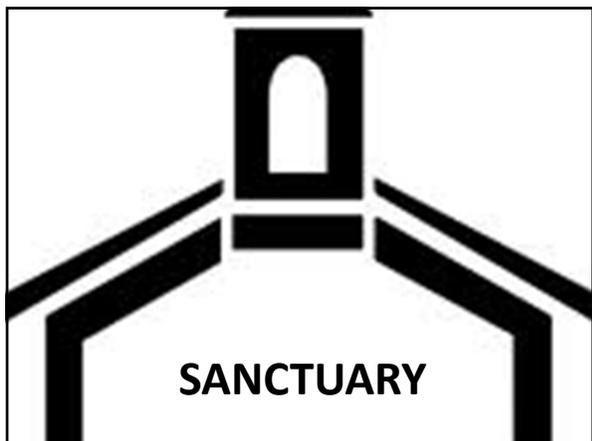
Jesus,  
my soul's  
in your hands

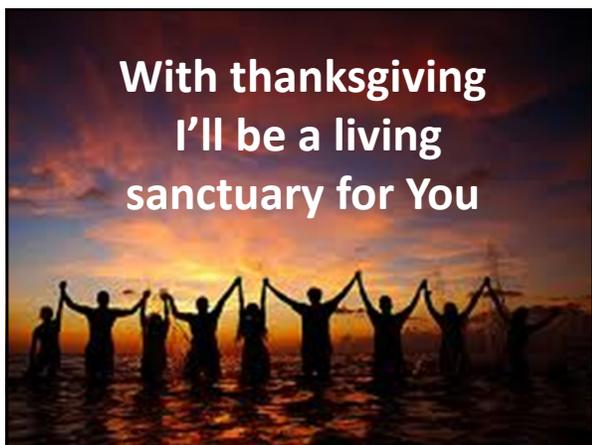
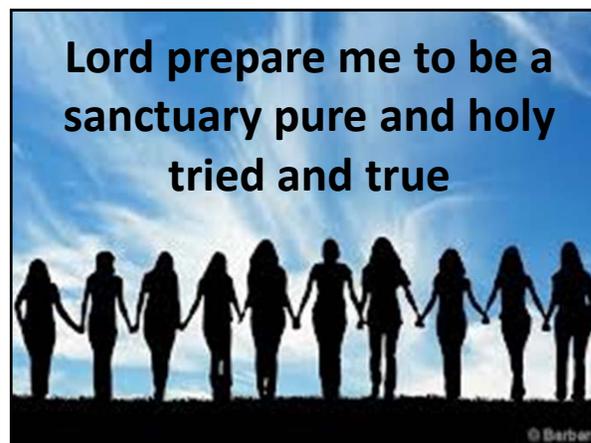
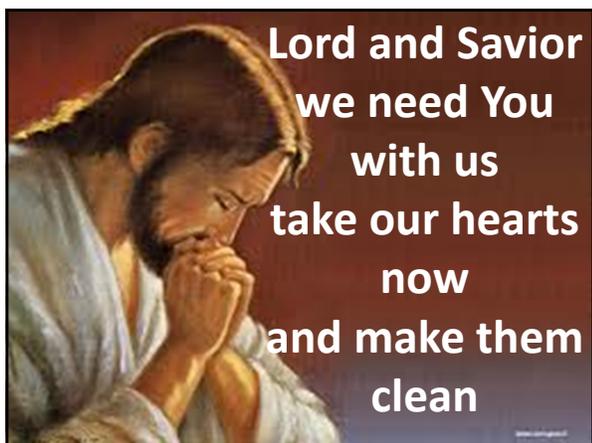
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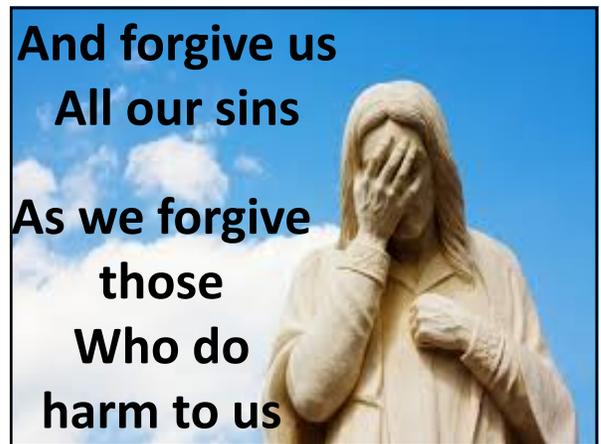
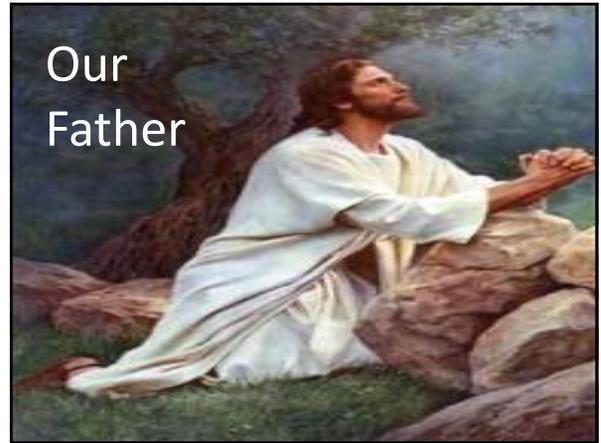


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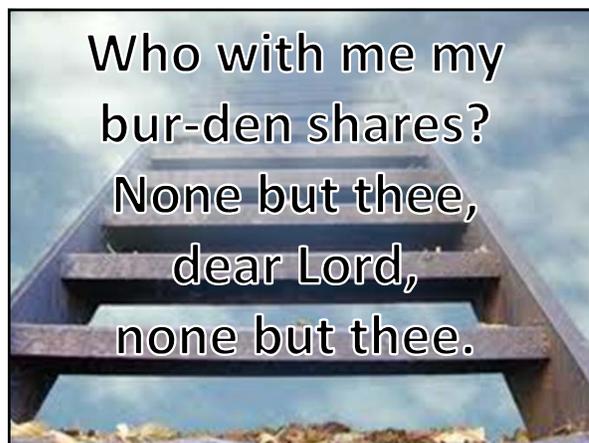
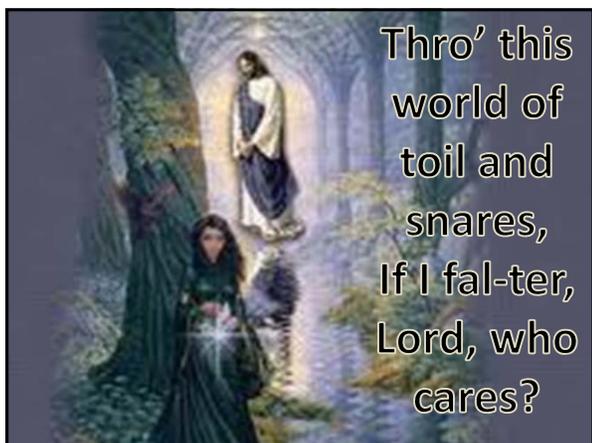
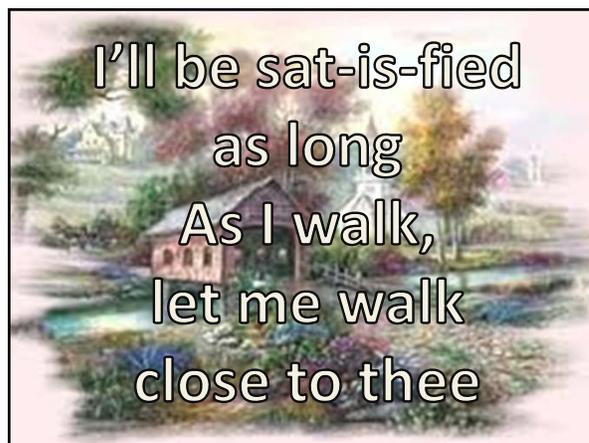
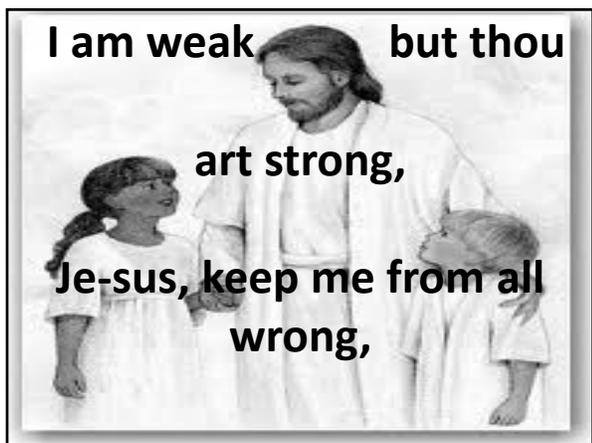
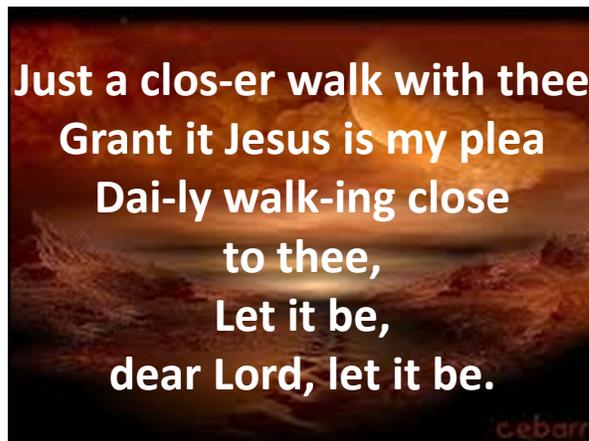
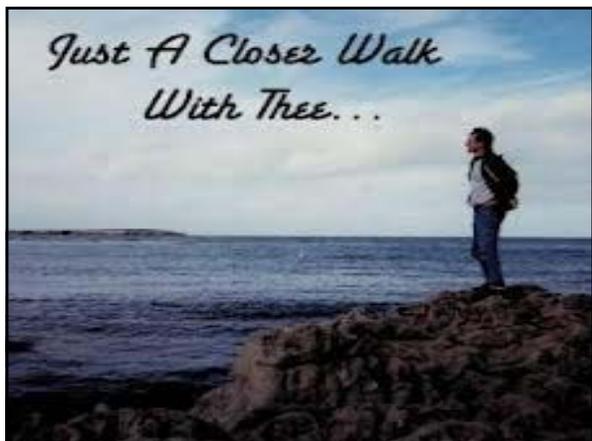


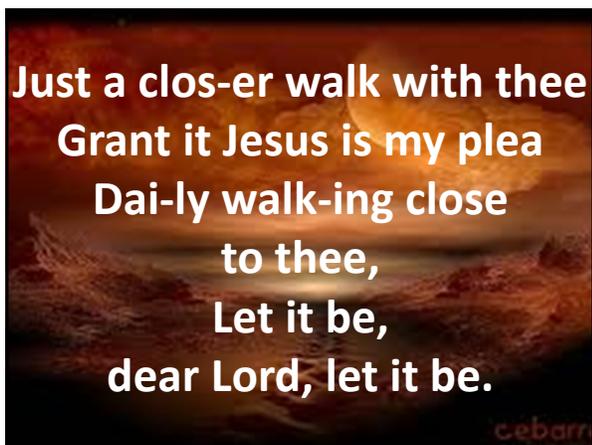
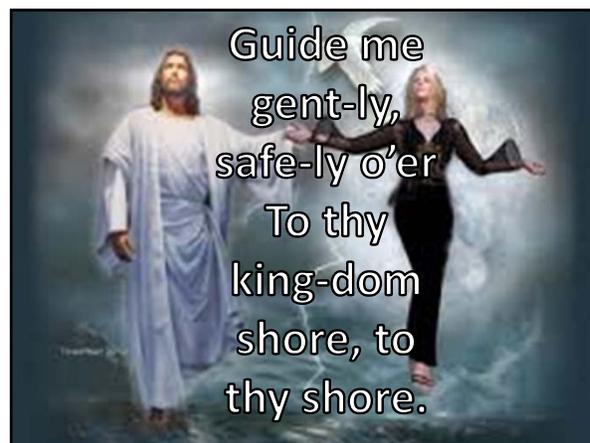
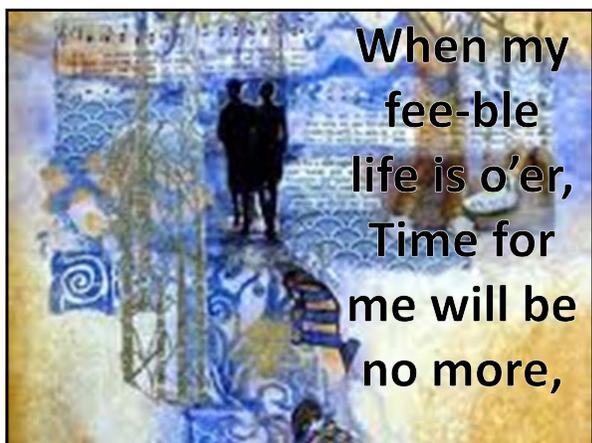
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