



Stigmata of Our Holy Father Francis

Taken from the Franciscan Morning and Evening Praise
The Franciscan Federation
Third Order Regular of the
Sisters and Brothers of the United States

Evening Praise



Francis had a burning love for the crucified and never ceased to preach this devotion. In 12/24, two years before his death, as he was lost in deep contemplation. On Mount La Verna., The marks of Christ's passion were imprinted on his body.

Invocation

The hand of God is Upon me

— **God led me to a high mountain**

(Cf. Ezra 7:28b)

(Cf. Rev. 21:10)

Glory...



Hymn: O Sacred Head Surrounded (2 Verses)

O sacred Head surrounded
By crown of piercing thorn!
O bleeding Head, so wounded,
Reviled and put to scorn!
The pow'r of death comes o'er you,
The glow of life decays,
Yet angel hosts adore you
And tremble as they gaze.

In this, your bitter passion,
Good Shepherd, think of me
With your most sweet compassion,
Unworthy though I be:
Beneath your cross abiding
For ever would I rest,
In your dear love confiding,
And with your presence blest

Psalm 16

Antiphon 1: Francis was totally transformed into the likeness of Christ crucified.

Protect me, God, because I
come to you for safety.
I say, "You are my God;"
all the good things I have
come from you.

How wonderful are your
faithful people!
My greatest pleasure is to be
with them.

Those who rush to other gods
bring many troubles on
themselves
I will not take part in their
sacrifices;
I will not workshop their gods.

You, O God, are all I have,
and you give me all I need:
my life is in your hands.

How wonderful are your gifts
to me:
how good they are

I praise God, who guides me,
and in the night my
conscience teaches me.

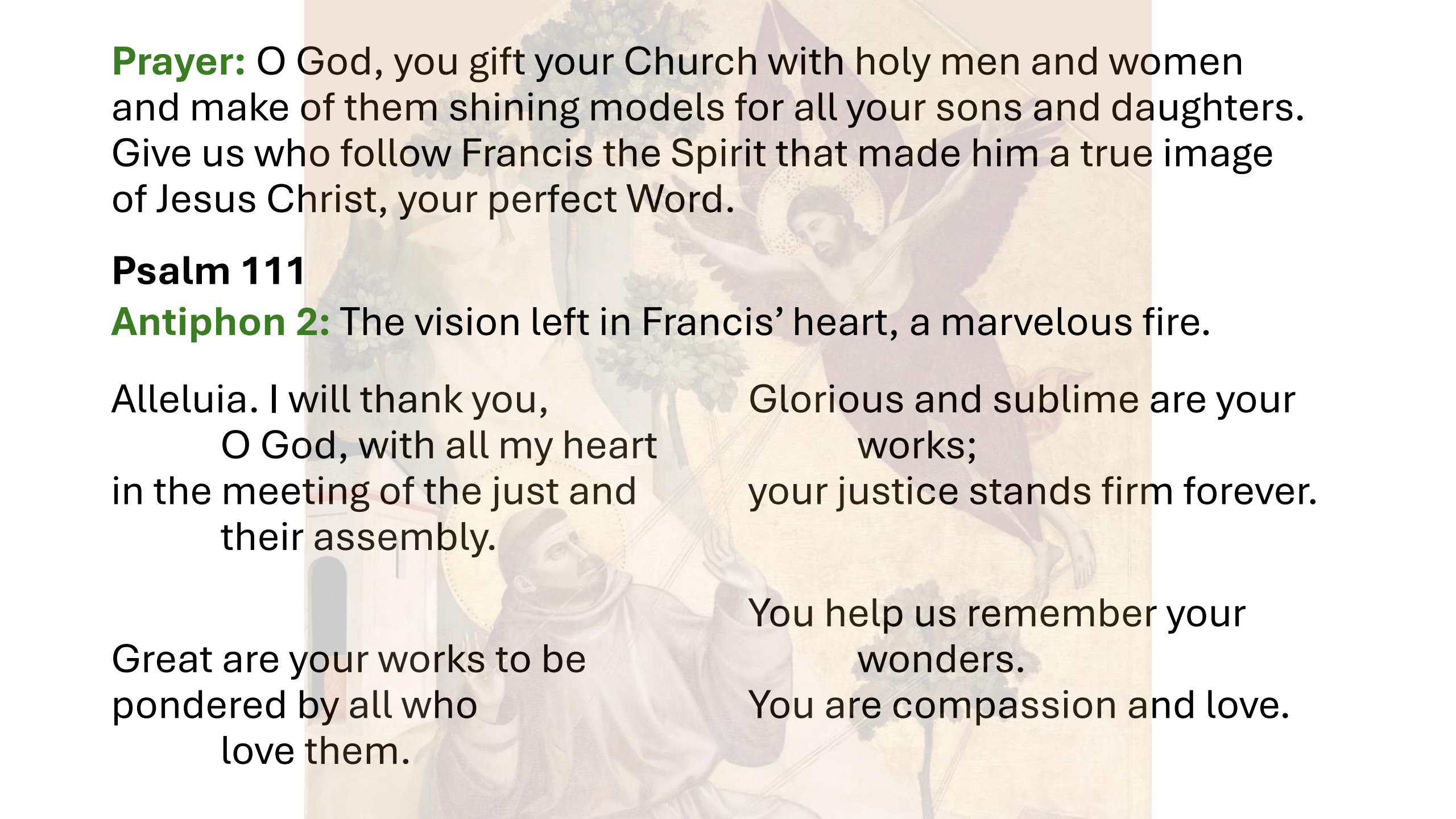
I am always aware of your
presence;
you are near and nothing can
shake me.

And so I am full of happiness
and joy,
and I always feel secure.

Because you will not allow me
to go to the world of the dead;
you will not abandon to the
depths below
the one you love.

You will show me the path that
leads to life;
your presence fills me with joy, and
your help brings pleasure
forever.

Glory...



Prayer: O God, you gift your Church with holy men and women and make of them shining models for all your sons and daughters. Give us who follow Francis the Spirit that made him a true image of Jesus Christ, your perfect Word.

Psalm 111

Antiphon 2: The vision left in Francis' heart, a marvelous fire.

Alleluia. I will thank you,
O God, with all my heart
in the meeting of the just and
their assembly.

Great are your works to be
pondered by all who
love them.

Glorious and sublime are your
works;
your justice stands firm forever.

You help us remember your
wonders.
You are compassion and love.

You give food to those who
fear you,
keeping your covenant ever in
mind.

You have shown your might to
your people
by giving them the lands of
the nations.

Your works are justice and
truth;
your precepts are all of them
sure;

They are steadfast forever
and ever --

made in uprightness and
faithfulness.

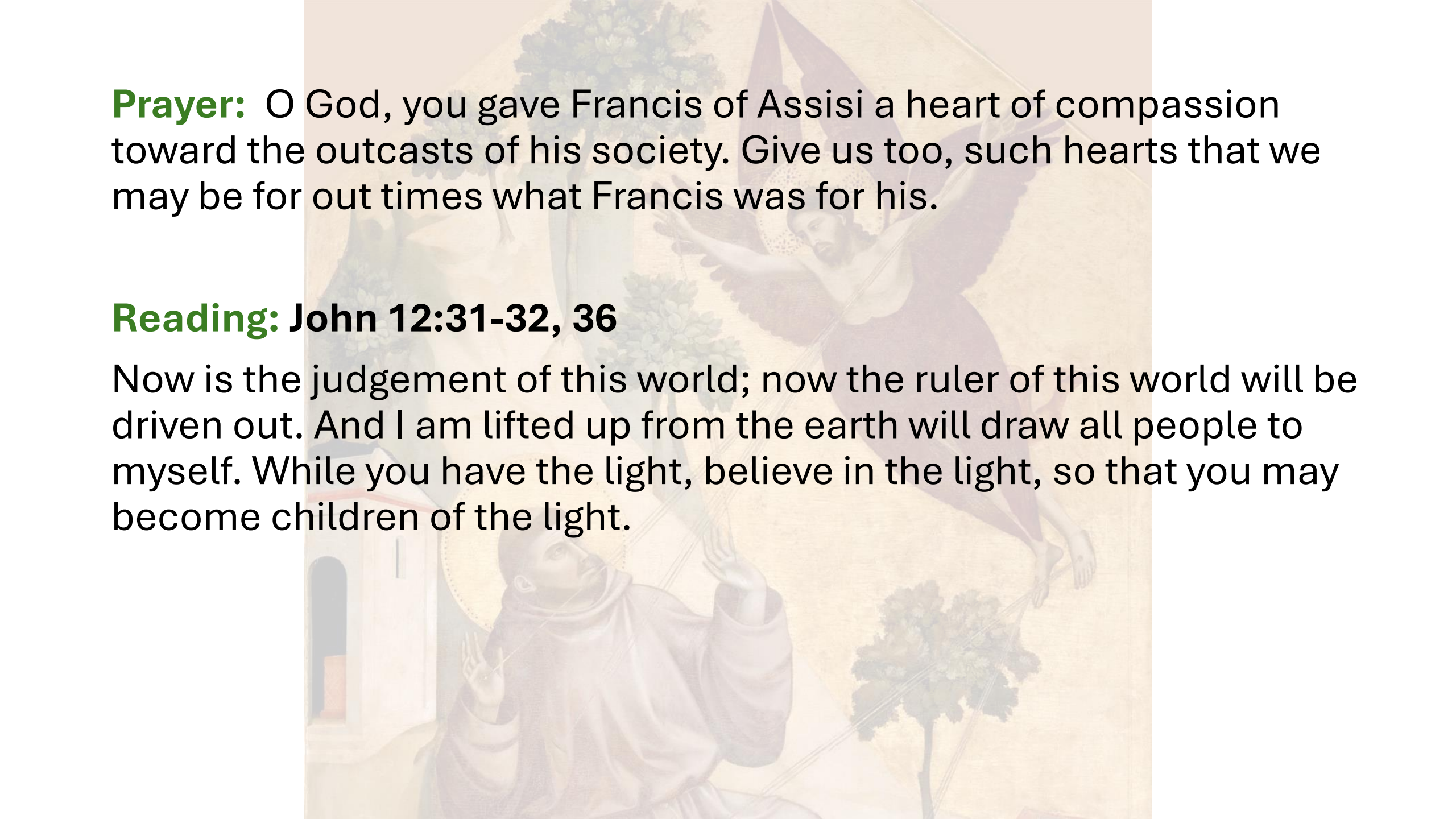
You have sent deliverance to
your people
and established your covenant f
forever.

Holy your name, greatly to be
feared

To fear you is the beginning of
wisdom,
all who do so prove
themselves wise.

Your praise shall last forever!

Glory...



Prayer: O God, you gave Francis of Assisi a heart of compassion toward the outcasts of his society. Give us too, such hearts that we may be for our times what Francis was for his.

Reading: John 12:31-32, 36

Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I am lifted up from the earth and will draw all people to myself. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of the light.

Reading: Bonaventure, The Major Legend of Saint Francis

On a certain morning about the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, while Francis was praying on the mountainside, , **he saw a Seraph having six wings**, fiery as well as brilliant. ... There appeared between the wings the likeness of a man **crucified with his hands and feet extended** in the form of a cross and **fastened to a cross**. ... **Seeing this**, [Francis] **was overwhelmed** and his heart was **flooded with a mixture of joy and sorrow**. ... **Immediately the marks of nails began to appear in [Francis'] hands and feet**. ... **Also his right side, as if pierced with a lance, was marked with a red wound from which his sacred blood often flowed.** (LMj 13:3)

Response:

The true love of Christ transformed [Francis] into His image

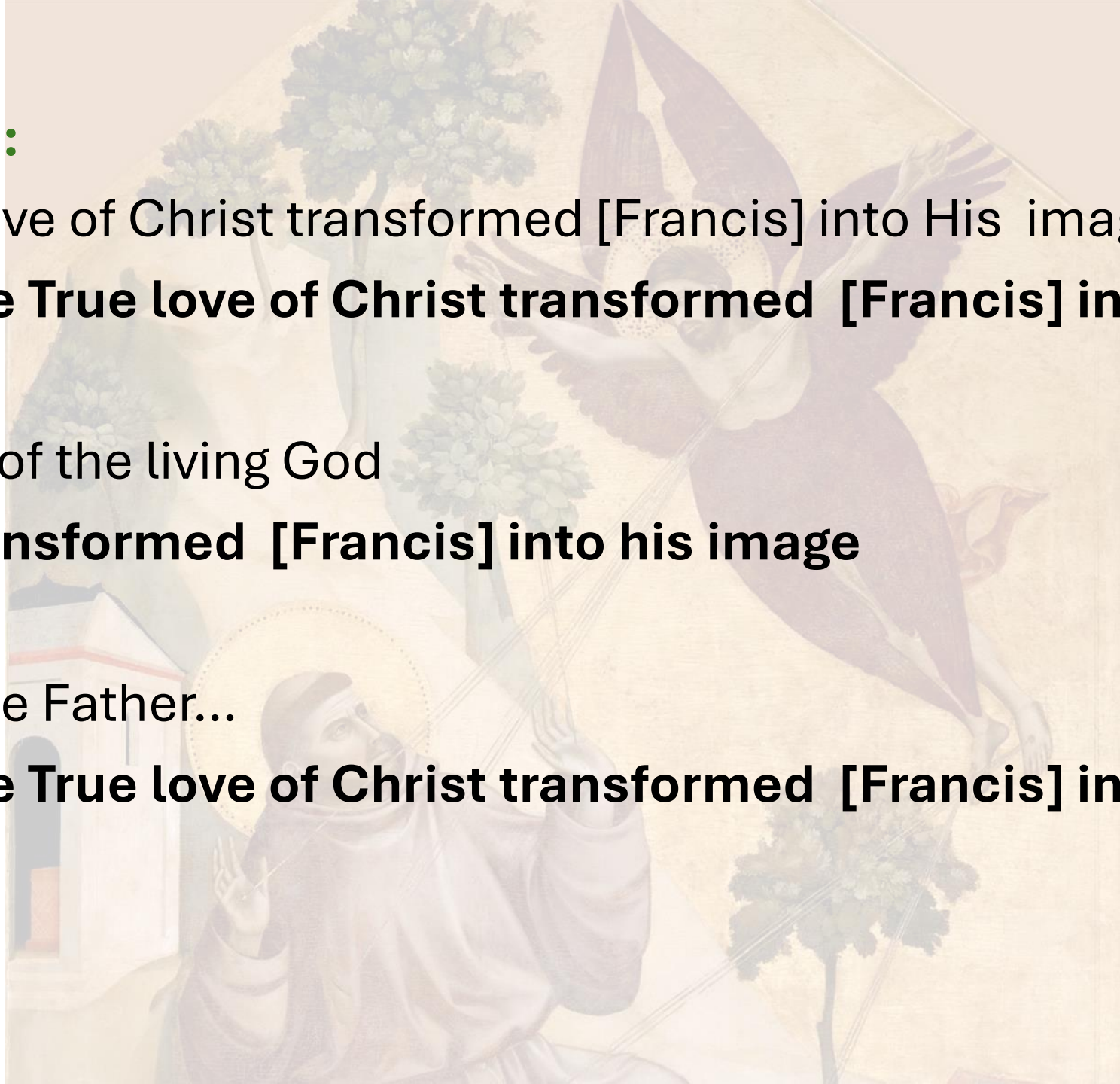
- The True love of Christ transformed [Francis] into his image

The finger of the living God

- Transformed [Francis] into his image

Glory to the Father...

- The True love of Christ transformed [Francis] into his image



Intercessions:

Your servant Francis was perfectly conformed to Jesus. As his followers we pray:

- Transform our lives, O God.

- While on the cross, Jesus forgave those who crucified him; grant to us a spirit of reconciliation on our homes and communities, we pray:
- Francis was lost in contemplation on Mount La Verna; give us a contemplative spirit that we may know and love you as you are, we pray:
- Jesus promised to draw all people to himself; attract with your love all those who have strayed, we pray:
- Joyfully Francis bore the pain of the wounds; comfort with your love all who suffer unbearable pain, we pray:

Our Father...

Prayer: Almighty God, you gifted Francis with the marks of Jesus' passion. In flame our hearts with the fires of your love. Make us servants that we might become more like you, We ask this through the same Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen Your servant Francis was perfectly conformed to Jesus. As his followers we pray:

Blessing:

We adore You, Lord Jesus Christ, in all Your churches throughout the whole world and we bless You because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world. (Test 5)