

## SERMON: WHAT CHILD IS THIS? – The Child Who Is John’s Joy (Luke 1:39-45)

Pastor Augie Iadicicco  
December 16, 2018

It was a joyous scene when the ark of God drew near to Jerusalem in King David’s day. The ark of the covenant was such a gift of grace and mercy, David did something that adults—especially kings—never do. He leapt for joy before the ark. But it was an even more joyous scene when John the Baptist, the forerunner, met Jesus, the Savior, for the first time, while they were both still in their mothers’ wombs. John, in the womb of an elderly, formerly barren woman, leapt for joy at the voice of Mary, the Virgin carrying God’s Son in her womb. God’s special presence on earth would no longer be tied to a gold-covered box but rather to the incarnate Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ. Our hearts have every reason to leap for joy as John the Baptist leapt. God’s presence is among us as Christ draws near to us in His Word and Sacraments, and He has promised to be near to us forever when He comes again on the Last Day.

**The \_\_\_\_\_ Drew Near to King David in Jerusalem.**

2 Samuel 6:12–23

*David said to Michal, “It was before the Lord, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the Lord’s people Israel—I will celebrate before the Lord. I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes...” – 2 Samuel 6:21-22*

**The \_\_\_\_\_ Drew Near to John in Elizabeth’s Womb.**

Luke 1:39–45

*When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. – Luke 1:41*

**The Lord Drew Near to His People in \_\_\_\_\_.**

Matthew 1:18-25, 2:1-12, Luke 2:1-20

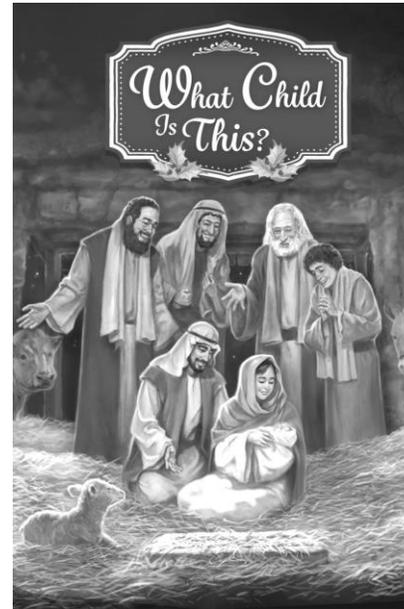
**The Lord Draws Near to Us in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.**

John 1:1-14, John 6:56, 63; John 15:1-7

*“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them.” – John 6:56*

**We \_\_\_\_\_ that the Lord is \_\_\_\_\_!**

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. – Philippians 4:4-5*



Questions for individual or group reflection:

When in your life have you ever leapt for joy?

Why did King David leap before the Ark of God? (2 Sam 6:12-23)

Why was it surprising and even offensive that he did so?

Which was God more pleased with, David’s display of joy or Michal’s display of scorn?

Why is the meeting between Mary and Elizabeth in Luke 1:39-45 so significant?

What does this reveal to you about how God views life in the womb?

What does it show about the significance of the One Mary was carrying in her womb?

How do Luke 2 and John 1 help you appreciate the magnitude of Christ’s coming into the world?

Why did God draw near to His creation?

Was Christ’s appearance 2,000 years ago the last time we’ll see Him?

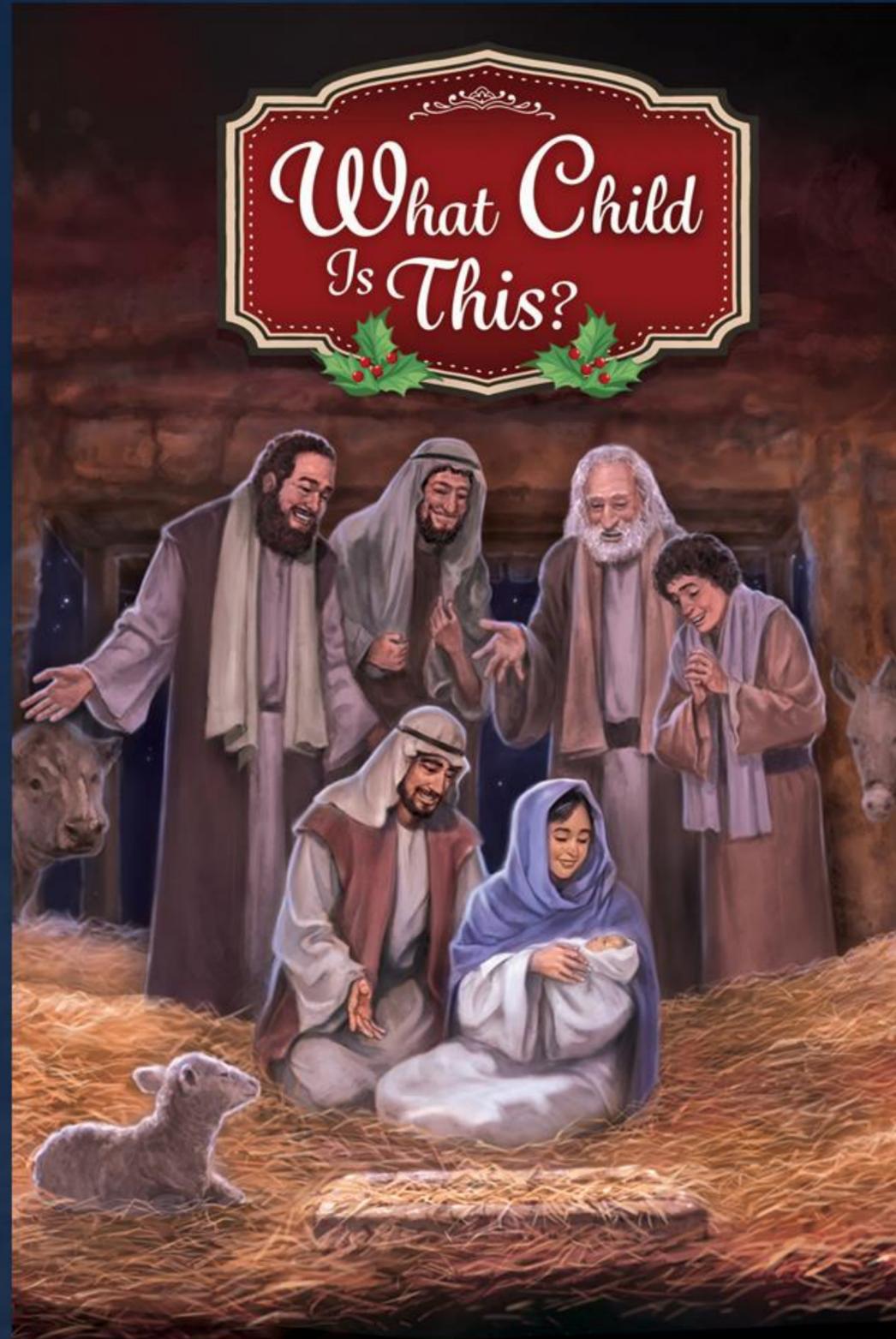
How do you feel about the Bible’s teaching that we continue to meet Jesus in the Sacrament of Holy Communion?

Do you take advantage of the opportunity to meet with the Lord regularly in His Word?

Would you say that your heart truly “rejoices” that the Lord is near? If not, what might need to change?

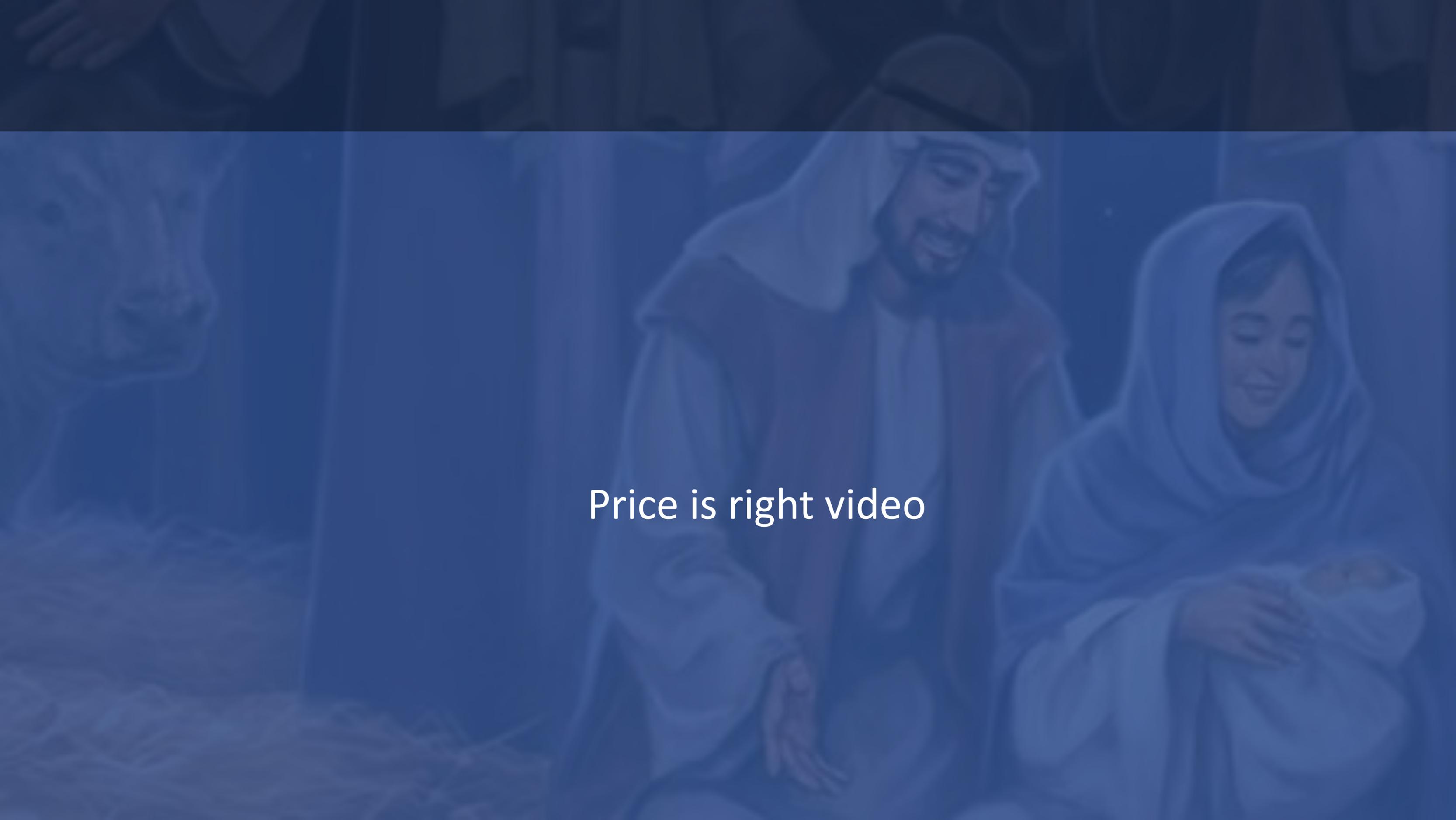
Taking it home / Memory Verse:

*In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!” – Luke 1:42*

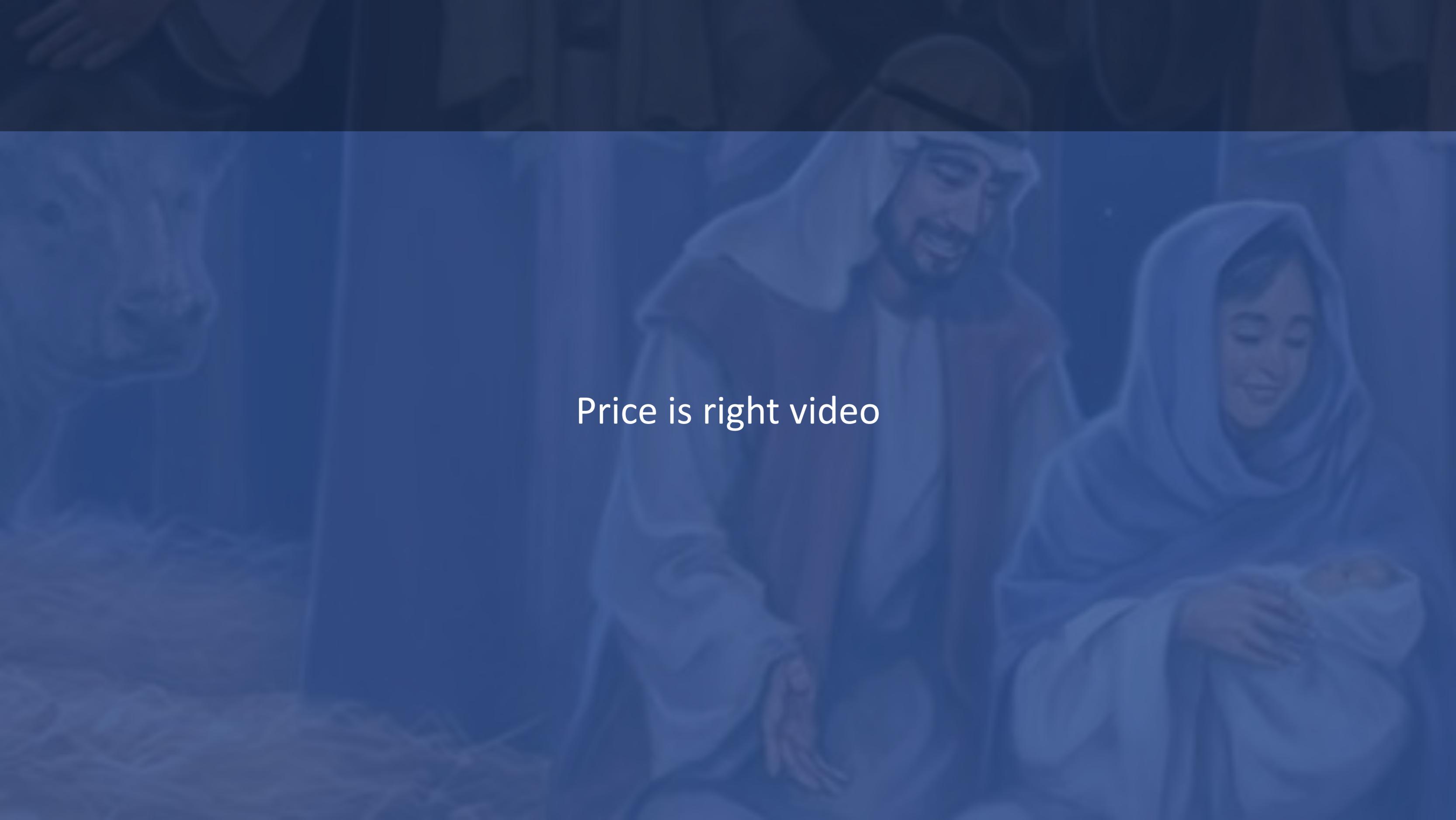


## What Child Is This? An Advent Worship Series

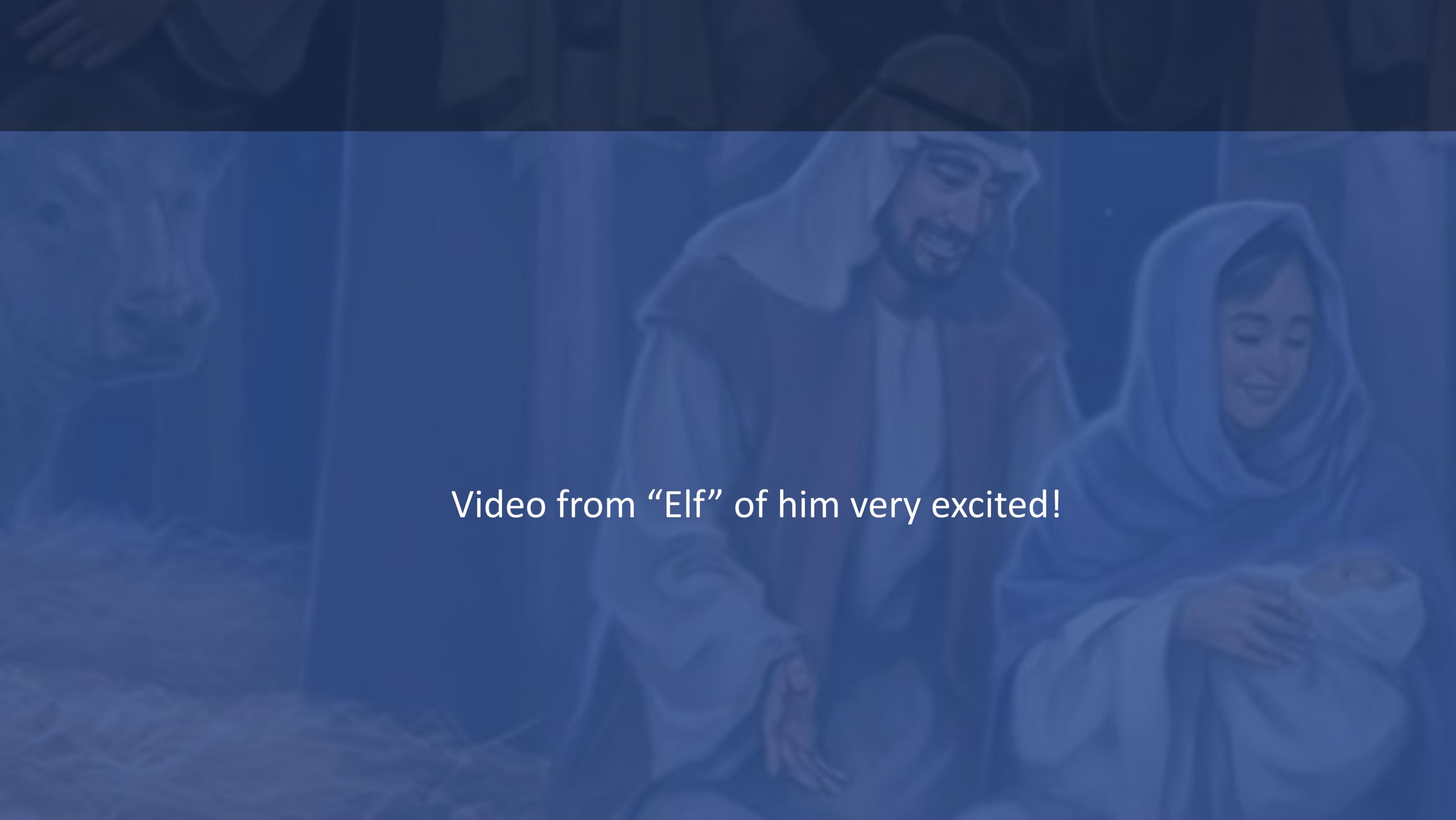
The Child Who is  
John's Joy



Price is right video



Price is right video

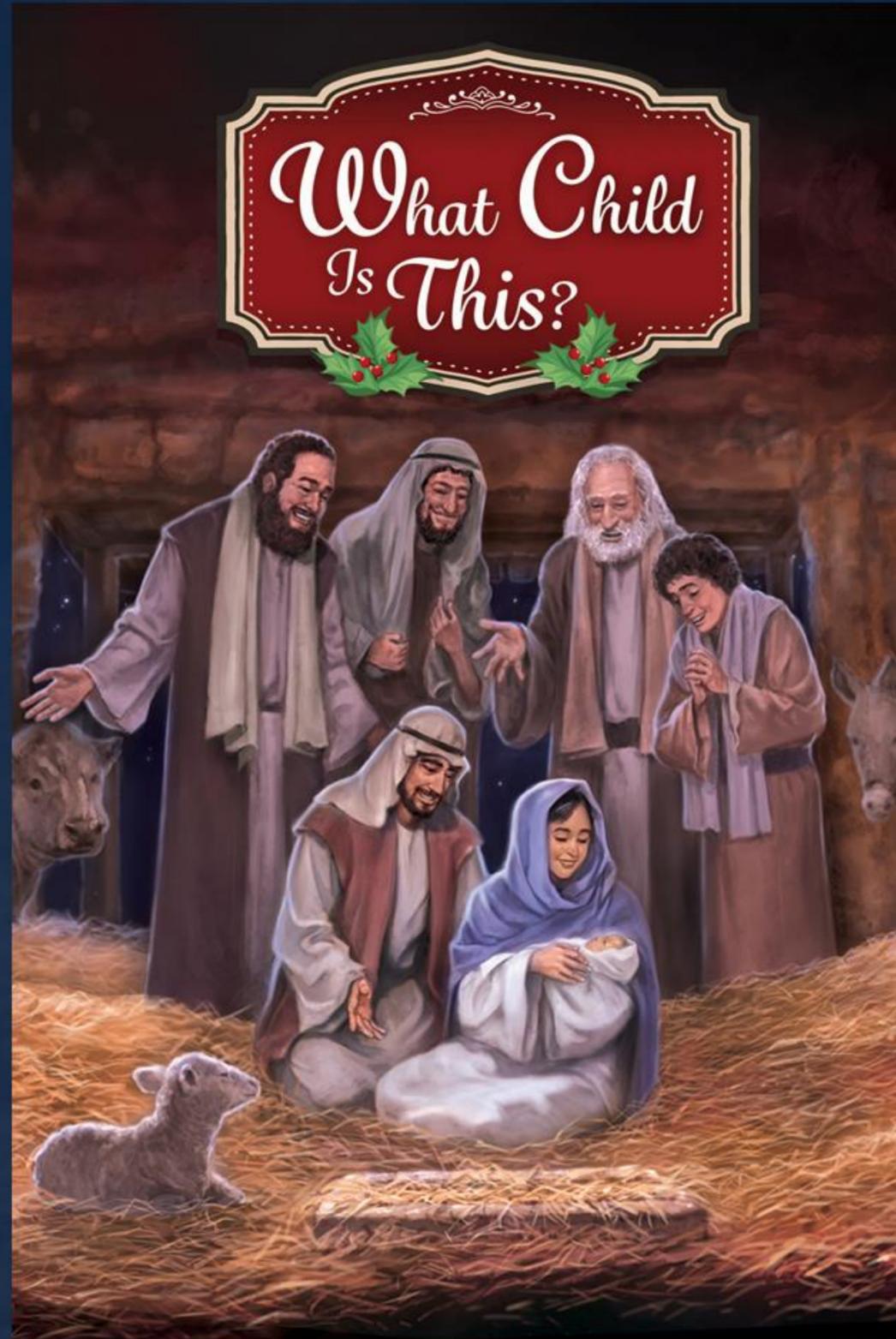
A blue-tinted illustration of a man and a woman in traditional attire. The man, on the left, has a beard and is wearing a white head covering and a white robe. He is looking towards the woman on the right. The woman is wearing a white headscarf and a white robe, and she is holding a baby wrapped in white cloth. The background is a simple, light-colored wall. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

Video from “Elf” of him very excited!



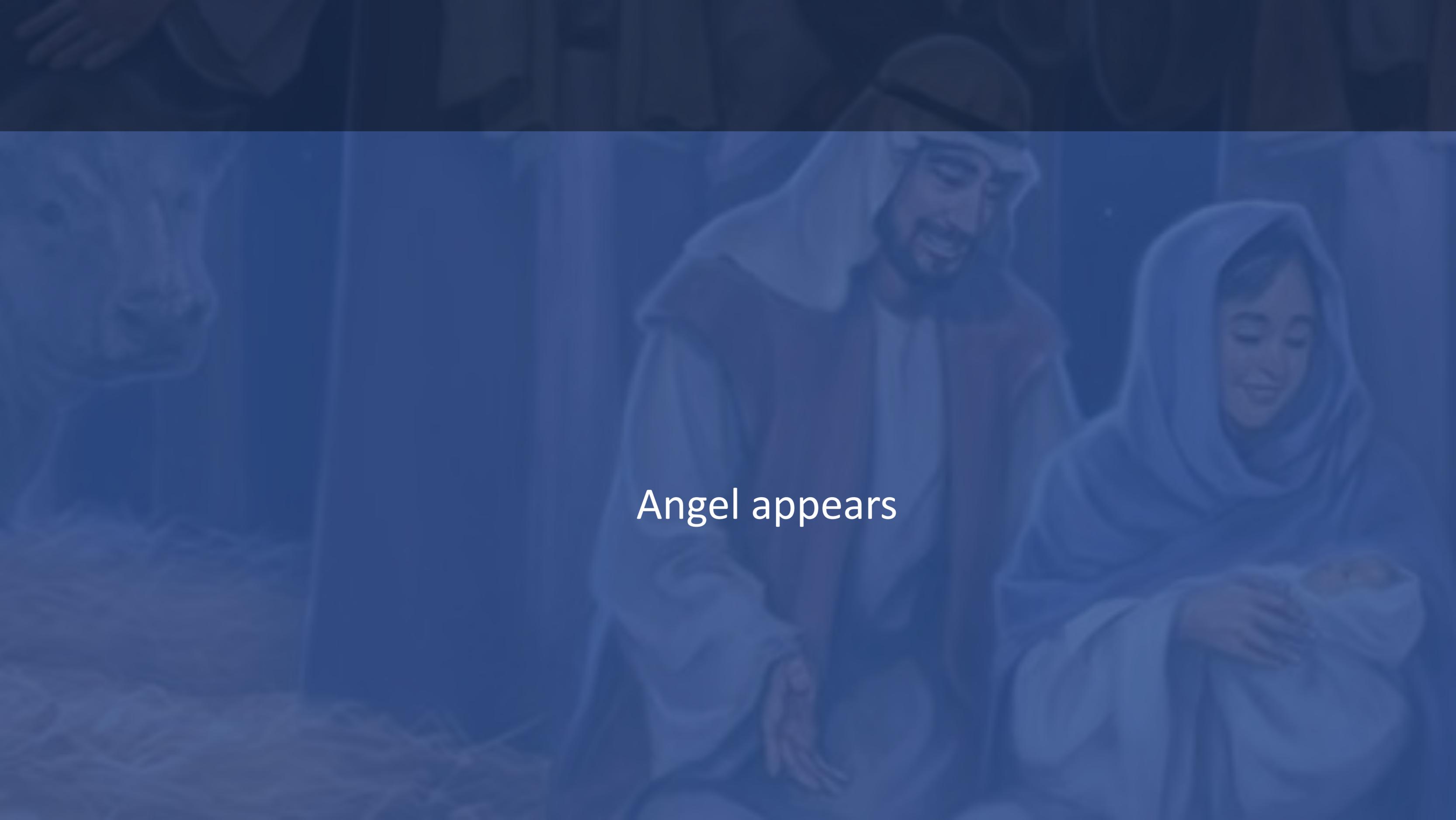
# “Undignified”

by Matt Redman



# What Child Is This? An Advent Worship Series

## The Child Who is John's Joy



Angel appears







Image of Mary & Martha hugging as they meet



The ARK OF GOD Drew Near to King David  
in Jerusalem

2 Samuel 6

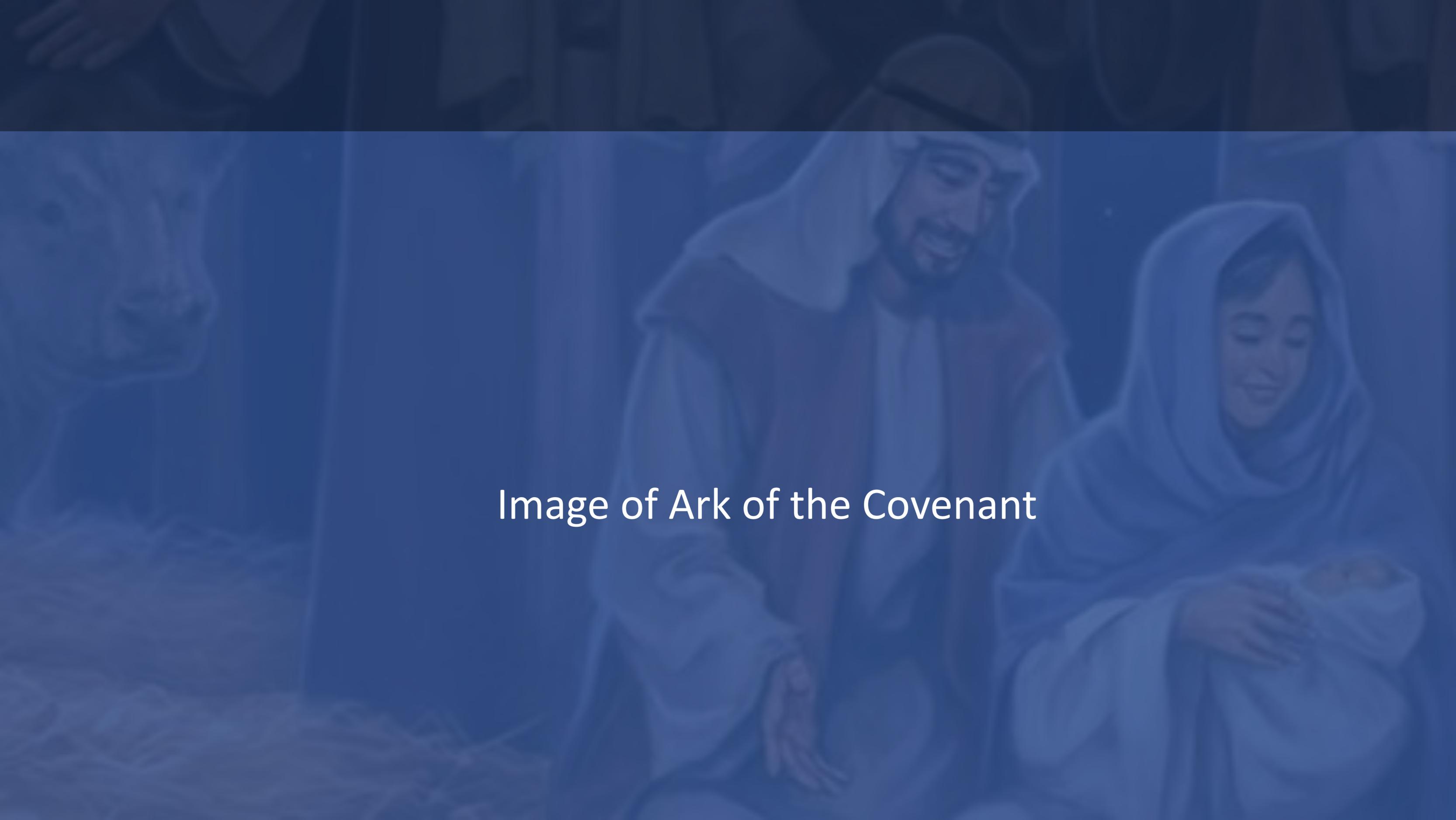


Image of Ark of the Covenant

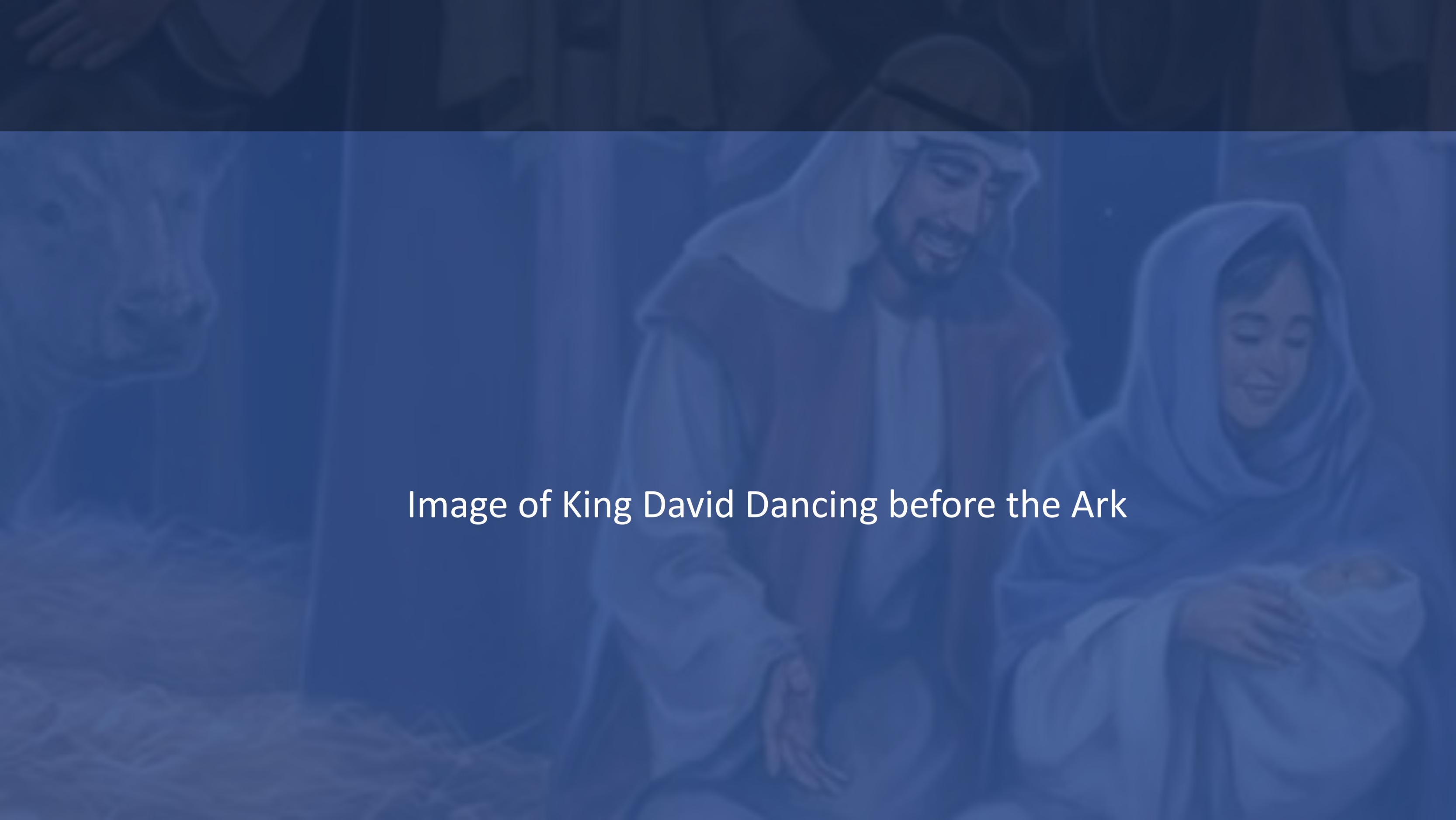
The image is a blue-tinted illustration depicting a biblical scene. In the center, King David is shown dancing with his arms outstretched and eyes closed in a state of devotion. He is wearing a long, flowing robe and a head covering. To his right, a woman in a headscarf is seated, holding a young child in her arms. The background features a large, ornate structure, likely the Ark of the Covenant, with intricate carvings and a prominent doorway. The overall scene is set in a room with stone walls and a patterned floor. The text "Image of King David Dancing before the Ark" is overlaid in the center of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Image of King David Dancing before the Ark

*David said to Michal, “It was before the Lord, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the Lord’s people Israel—I will celebrate before the Lord. I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes...”*

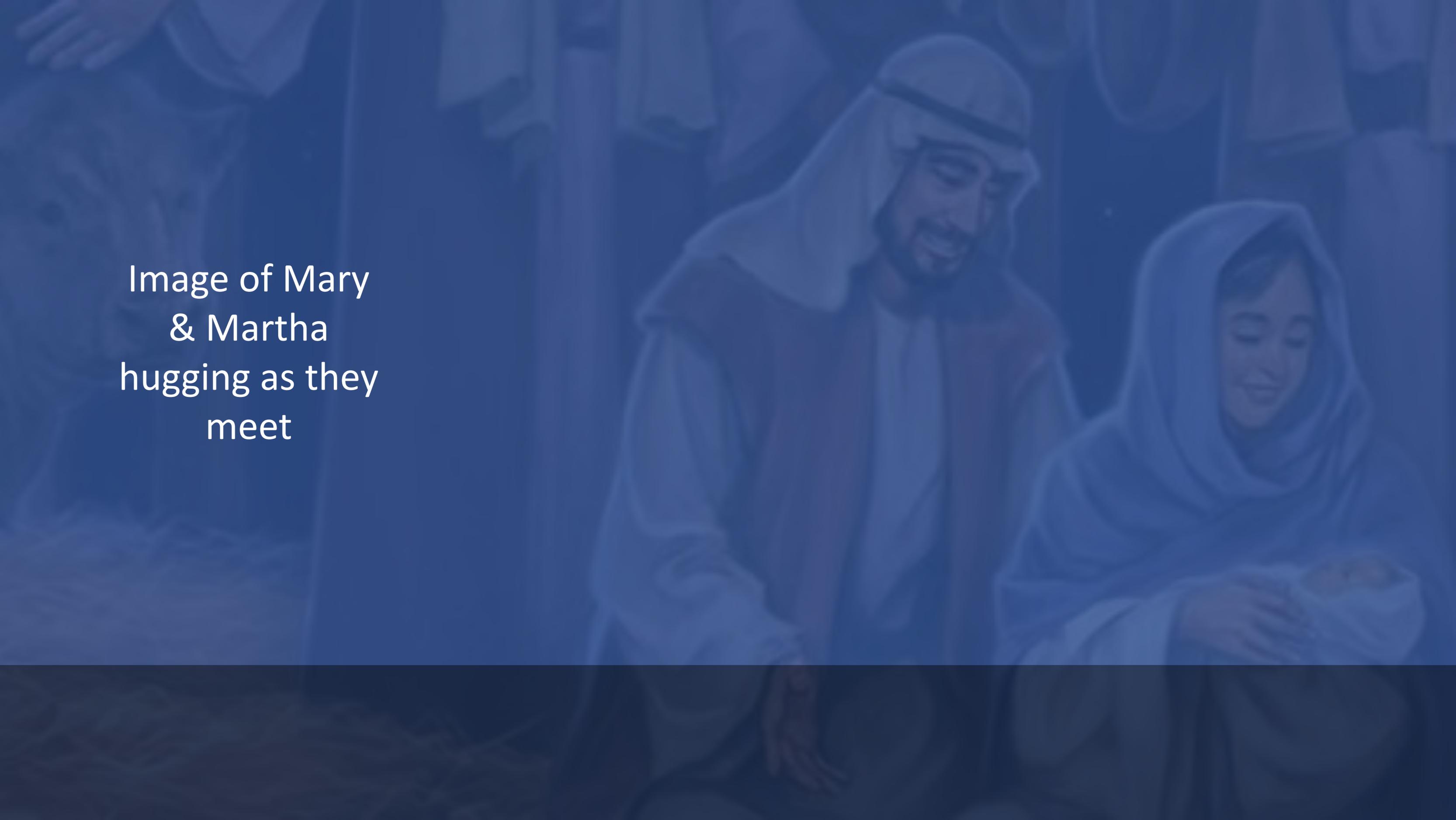
- 2 Samuel 6:21-22



The **SON OF GOD** Drew Near to John in Elizabeth's Womb.

Luke 1

Image of Mary  
& Martha  
hugging as they  
meet



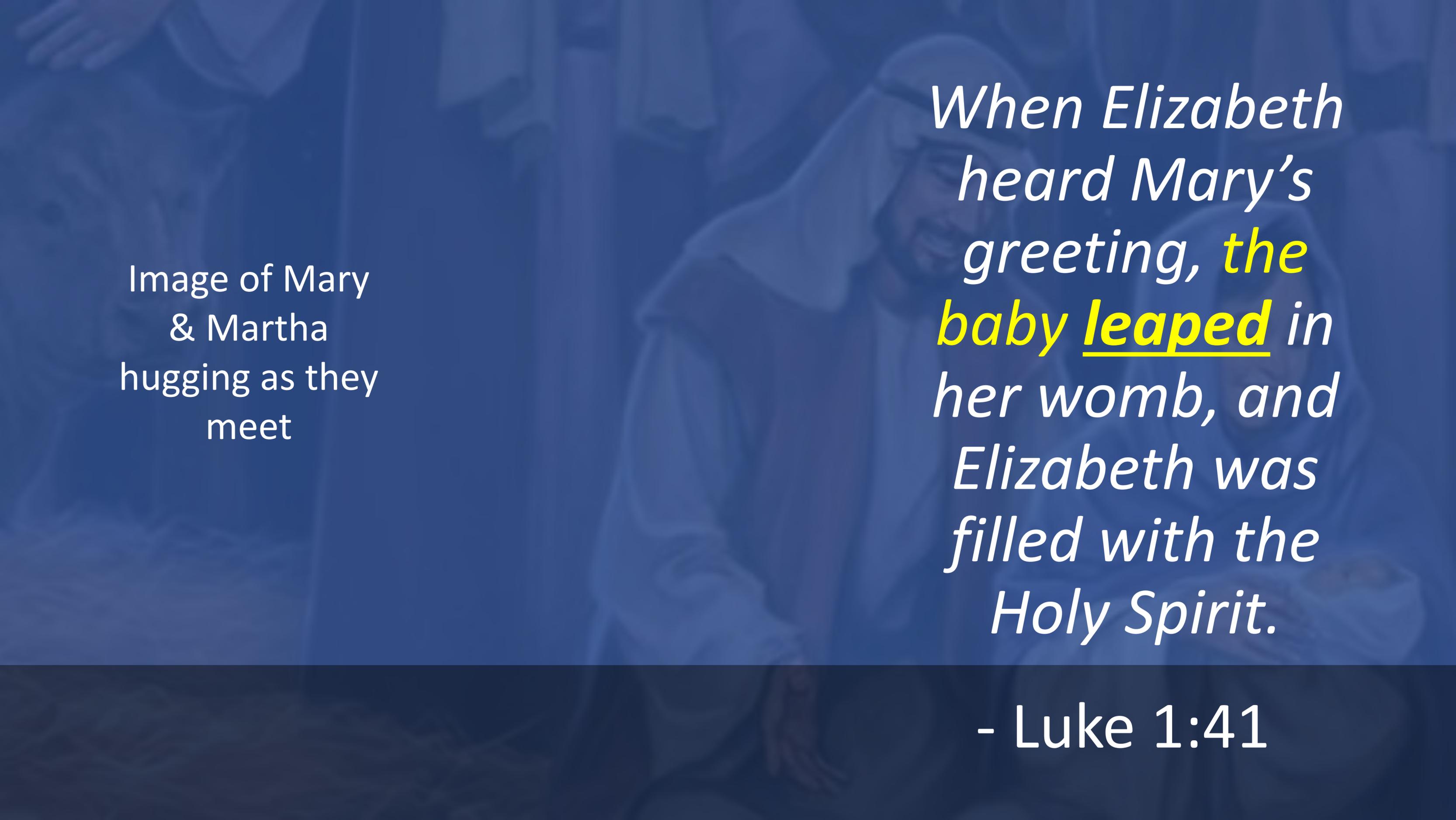


Image of Mary  
& Martha  
hugging as they  
meet

*When Elizabeth  
heard Mary's  
greeting, **the  
baby leaped** in  
her womb, and  
Elizabeth was  
filled with the  
Holy Spirit.*

- Luke 1:41



The Lord Drew Near to His People in  
**CHRIST'S BIRTH.**

Luke 2

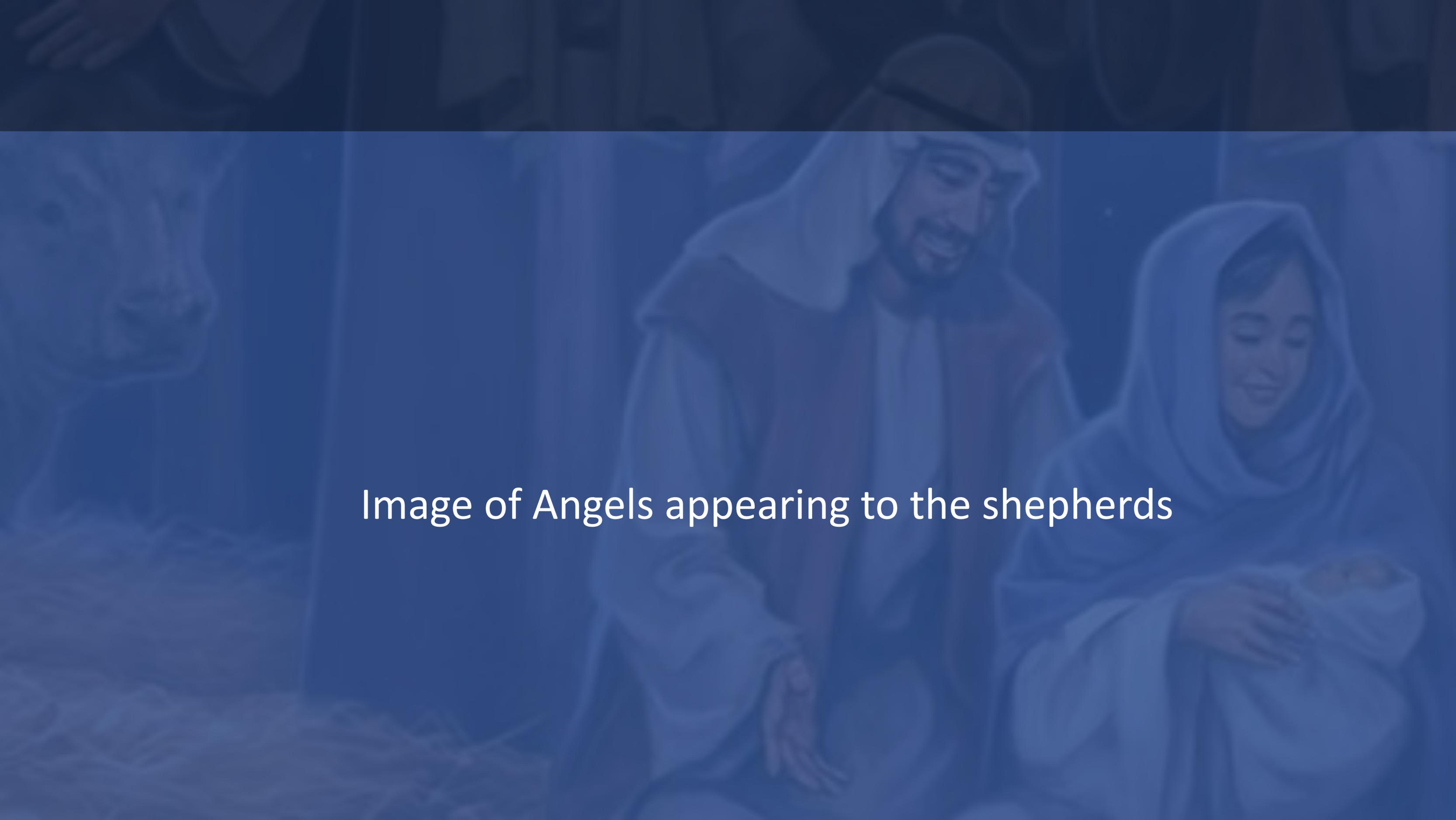
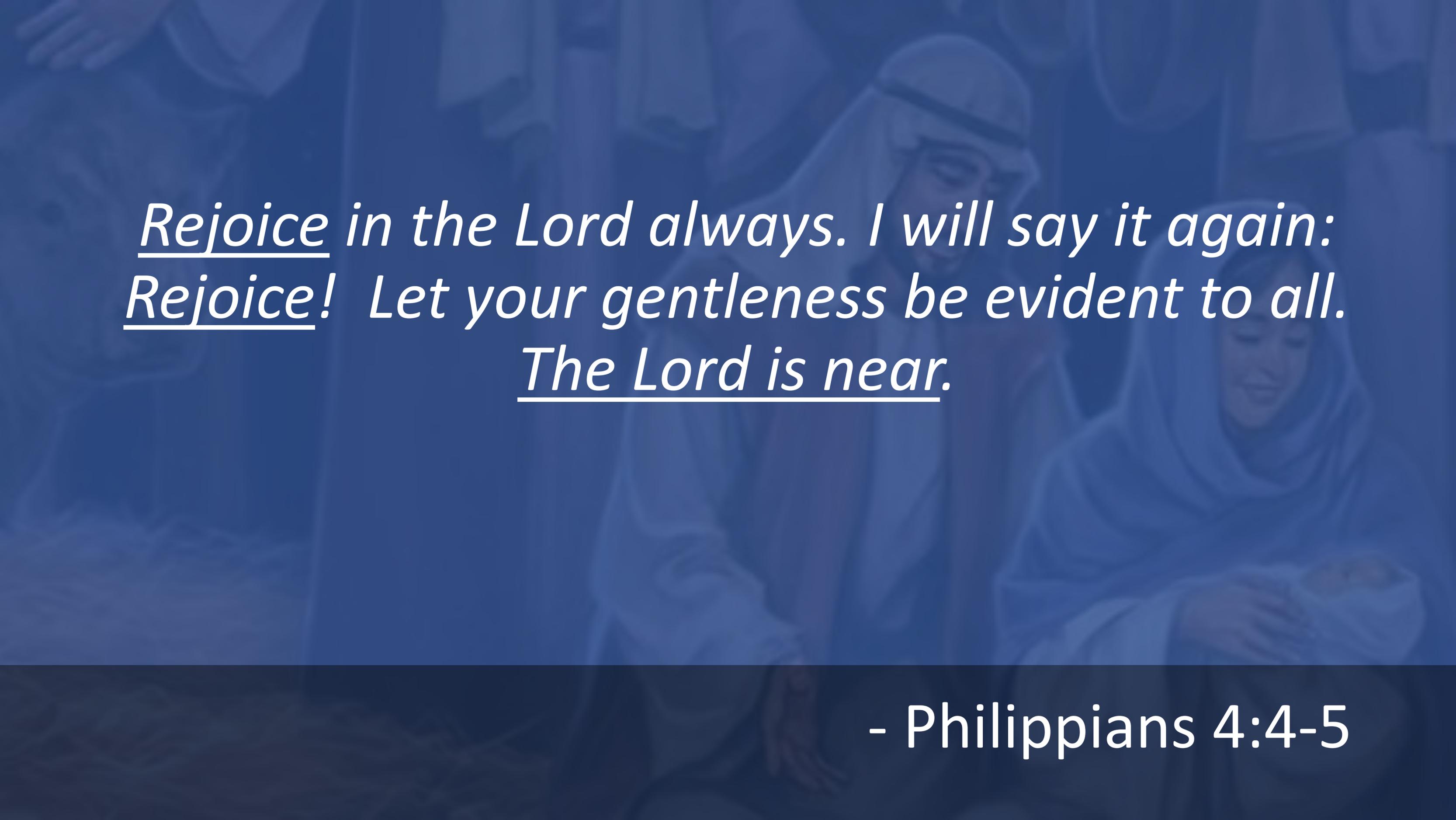


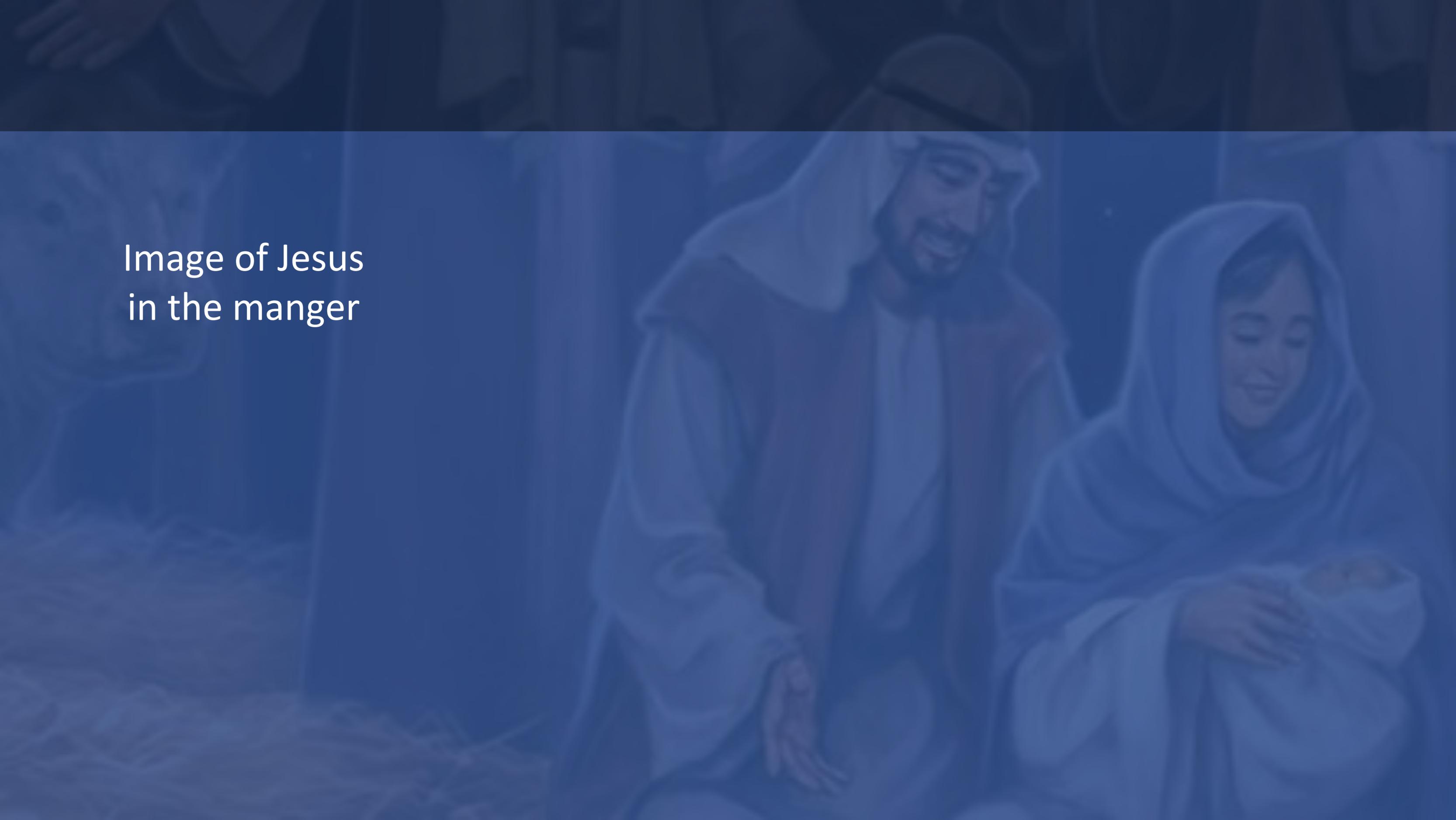
Image of Angels appearing to the shepherds



*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again:  
Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all.  
The Lord is near.*

- Philippians 4:4-5

Image of Jesus  
in the manger



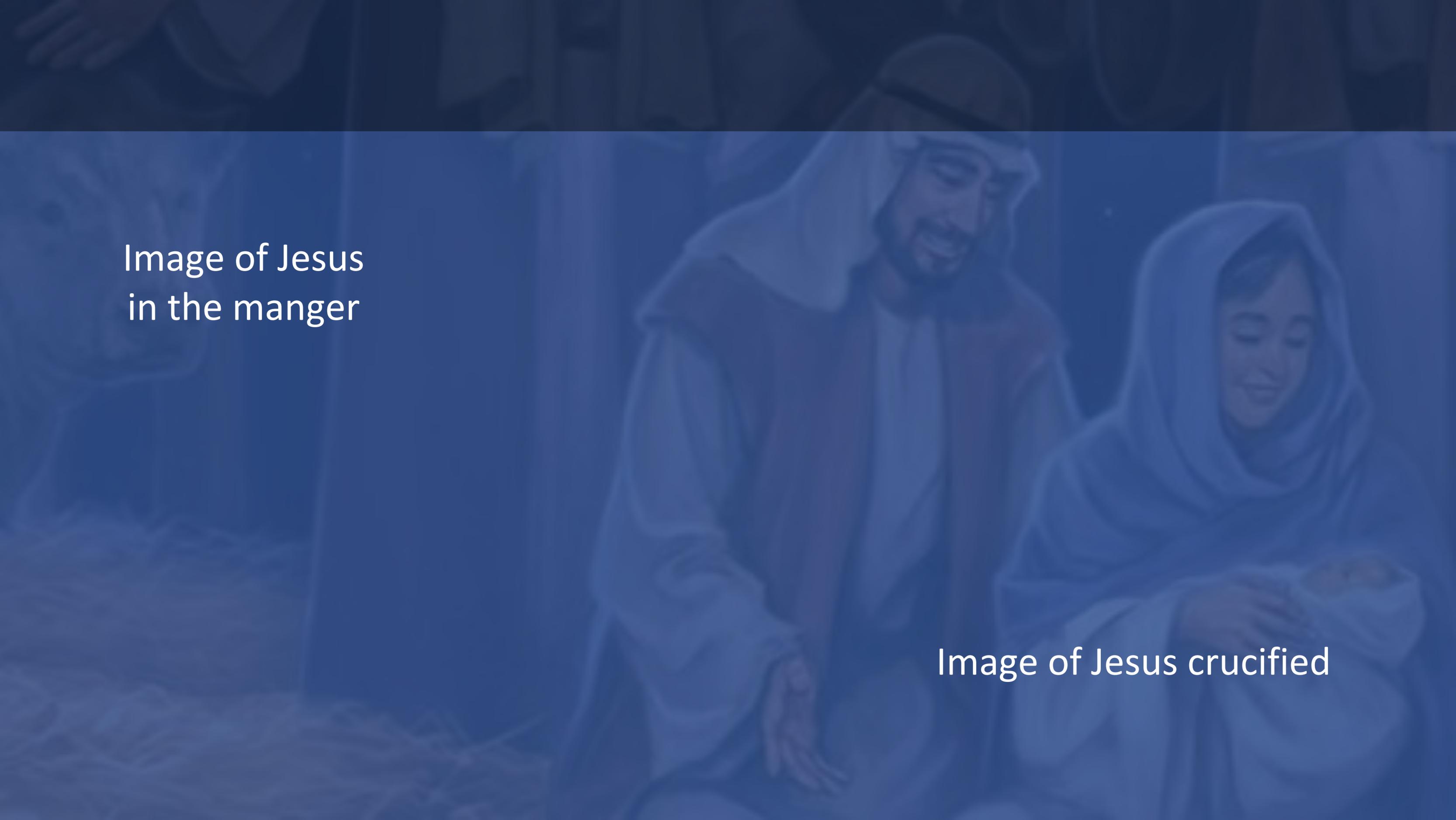


Image of Jesus  
in the manger

Image of Jesus crucified

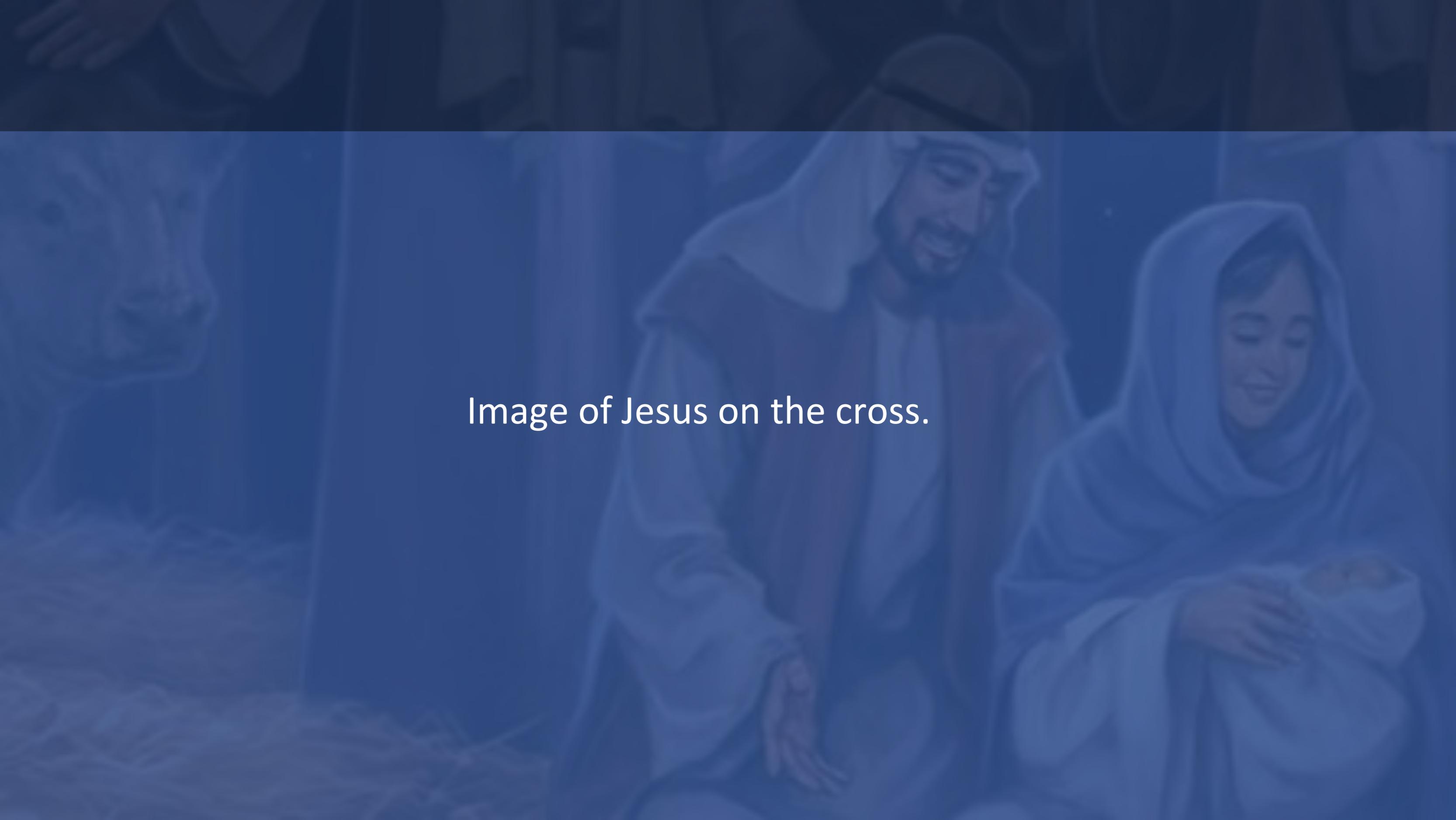


Image of Jesus on the cross.



What Child  
Is This?



The Lord Draws Near to Us in  
WORD and SACRAMENT.

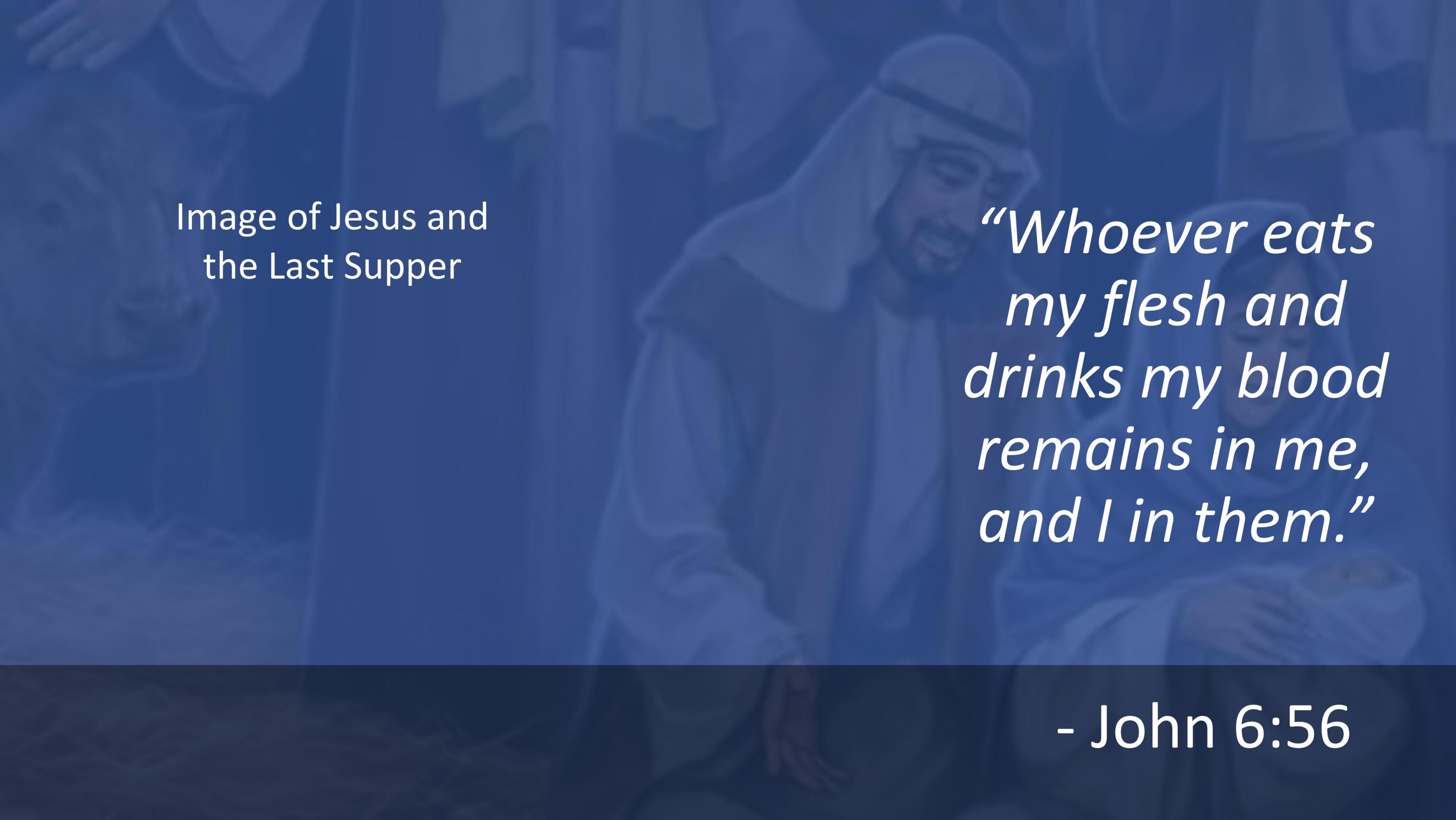
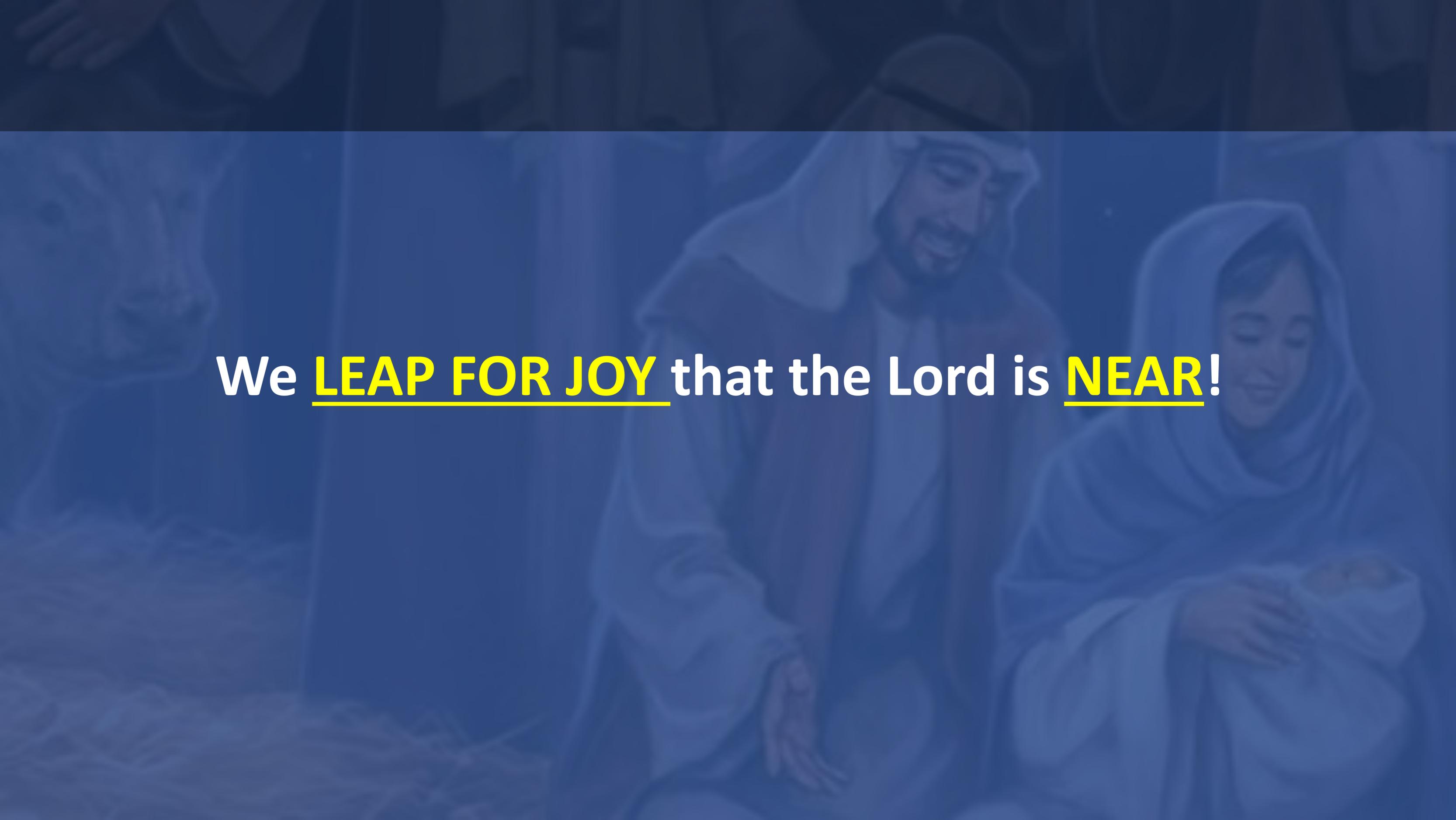
The background of the slide is a blue-tinted image of Jesus and his disciples at the Last Supper. Jesus is in the center, wearing a white robe and a head covering, looking down at a plate of food. Other disciples are visible around him, some looking at the food and others looking towards Jesus. The overall scene is dimly lit, with a focus on the central figure of Jesus.

Image of Jesus and  
the Last Supper

*“Whoever eats  
my flesh and  
drinks my blood  
remains in me,  
and I in them.”*

- John 6:56

A blue-tinted illustration of a nativity scene. In the center, a man with a beard and a head covering (Joseph) stands looking down at a woman (Mary) who is seated and holding a baby (Jesus) wrapped in a white cloth. To the left, another man is kneeling in prayer. The background shows a simple wooden structure, possibly a manger or stable.

We **LEAP FOR JOY** that the Lord is **NEAR!**

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again:  
Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all.  
The Lord is near.*

- Philippians 4:4-5