

05. Jesus' communion with God



John 1:18

No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son,
who is in the bosom of the Father,
who has made God known.

John 10:15,17

The Father knows me and I know the Father ...
The Father loves me.

John 3:31-32

The one who comes from heaven
testifies to what he has seen and heard.

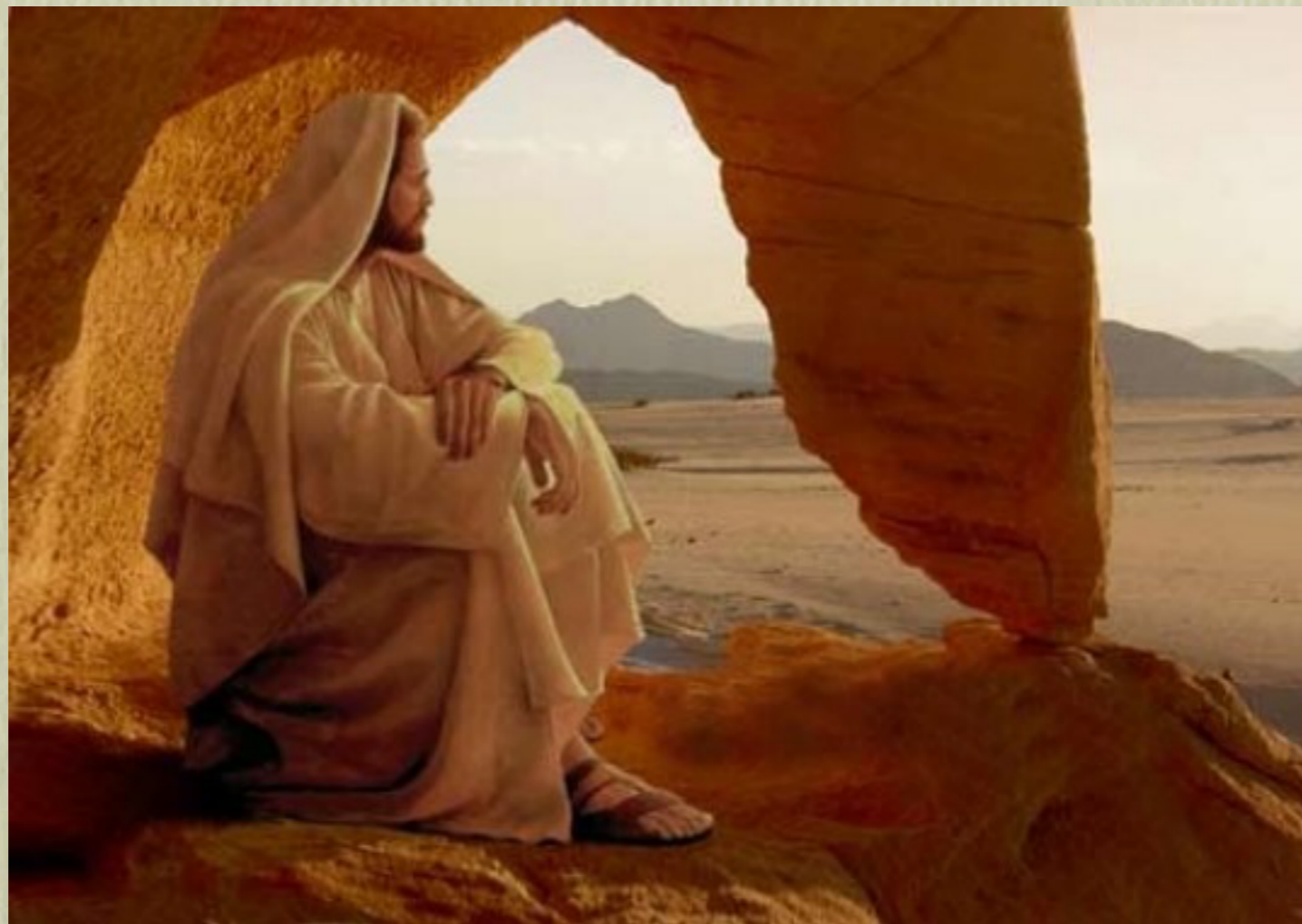
John 3:34

He whom God has sent speaks the words of God,
for he gives the Spirit without measure.

Luke 5:15-16

But now more than ever the word about Jesus spread abroad;
many crowds would gather to hear him
and to be cured of their diseases.

But he would withdraw to deserted places and **pray**.



Luke 6:12-13

Jesus went out to the mountain to pray;
and he spent the whole night in prayer to God,
When day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them,
whom he also named apostles:

Luke 9:18-20

Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say that I am?”

They answered, “John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen.”

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Peter answered, “The Messiah of God.”

Luke 9:28-31

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.



The Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him' (Exodus 34:30).

Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

Luke 9:32-36

Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him.

Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah” – not knowing what he said.

While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud.

Then from the cloud came a voice that said,

“This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!”

When the voice had spoken, **Jesus was found alone.**

Luke 10:21-23

Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

John 10:14-15

I know my own and my own know me,
as the Father knows me and I know the Father.

John 6:46

The one who is from God has seen the Father.

John 6:57

The living Father has sent me and I live because of the Father.

John 7:29

I know him because I am from him and he sent me.

John 8:19

If you knew me you would know my Father also.

Luke 11:1-4

Jesus **was praying** in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” He said to them, “When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

John 3:16

God so loved the world that he gave **his only Son** so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

John 6:40

This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see **the Son** and believe in him may have eternal life (6:40).

John 10:30

The Father and I are one.

Matthew 14:22-26

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone.

By this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

In the fourth watch of the night he came walking toward them on the sea.

But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear.

Matthew 14:27

But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said,

“Take heart, **it is I** (Exodus 3:14 *egô eimi*); do not be afraid.”

‘God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself’(2 Corinthians 5:19).

It was Jesus' communion with God that was the source of his life.

At the Last Supper, with a broken heart, he said: 'You will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone.'

He went straight on to add: 'Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me'(John 16:32).



John 1:18

‘No one has ever seen God.
It is the only Son,
who is in the bosom of the Father,
who has made God known.’



John 14:9

Jesus said, ‘Have I
been with you all this
time, Philip, and you
still do not know me?’

Whoever has seen me
has seen the Father.’

Mark 14:32-36

They went to a place called Gethsemane;
and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I **pray**.”

He took with him Peter and James and John,
and began to be distressed and agitated.

And said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death;
remain here, and keep awake.”

And going a little farther,
he threw himself on the ground
and prayed that, if it were possible,
the hour might pass from him.

He said, “**Abba**, Father,
for you all things are possible;
remove this cup from me;
yet, **not my will, but Yours, be done.**”





All his life Jesus had wanted only to do the will of his Father.

Now, because of the refusal of those in power to listen to God's revelation of love, the obedience is bringing Jesus up against their sinful determination to have him killed.

Jesus knows God's own revulsion at human cruelty and sin.

His heart reaches out to those he has not yet been able to reach during his all too short ministry.

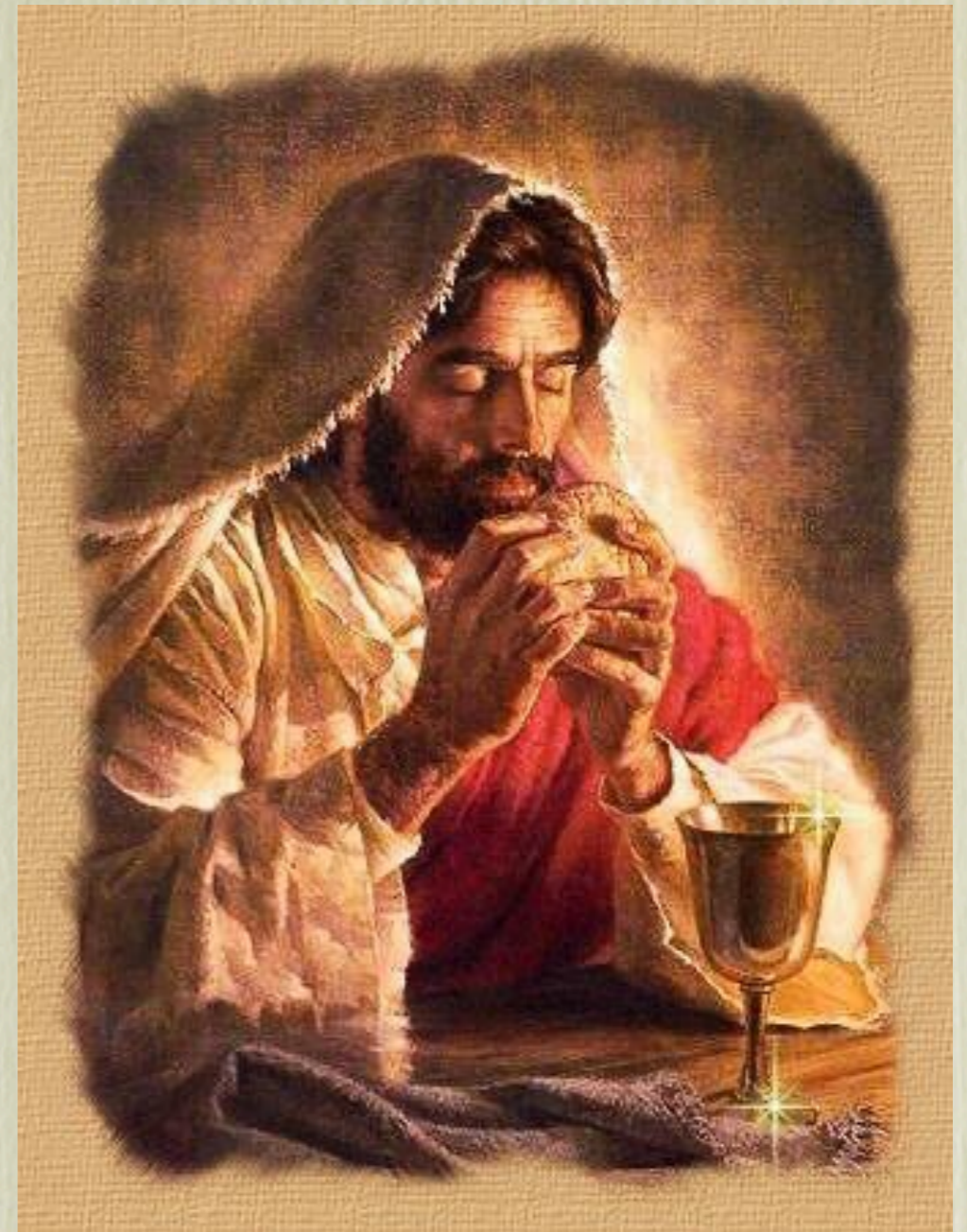


His whole being trembles at the meaninglessness of what he is about to endure, and God seems silent in this lonely garden, where the cold light of the full moon is filtered by the leaves of the ancient olive trees.

God has asked Jesus to love, to give his life in love, so that is what Jesus is resolved to do, whatever the outcome for himself. His soul finds peace in this trust and he rises to face the kiss of betrayal from the one he still calls 'friend'. They are drawing near, the dark lit by the menacing torches of the temple guard.

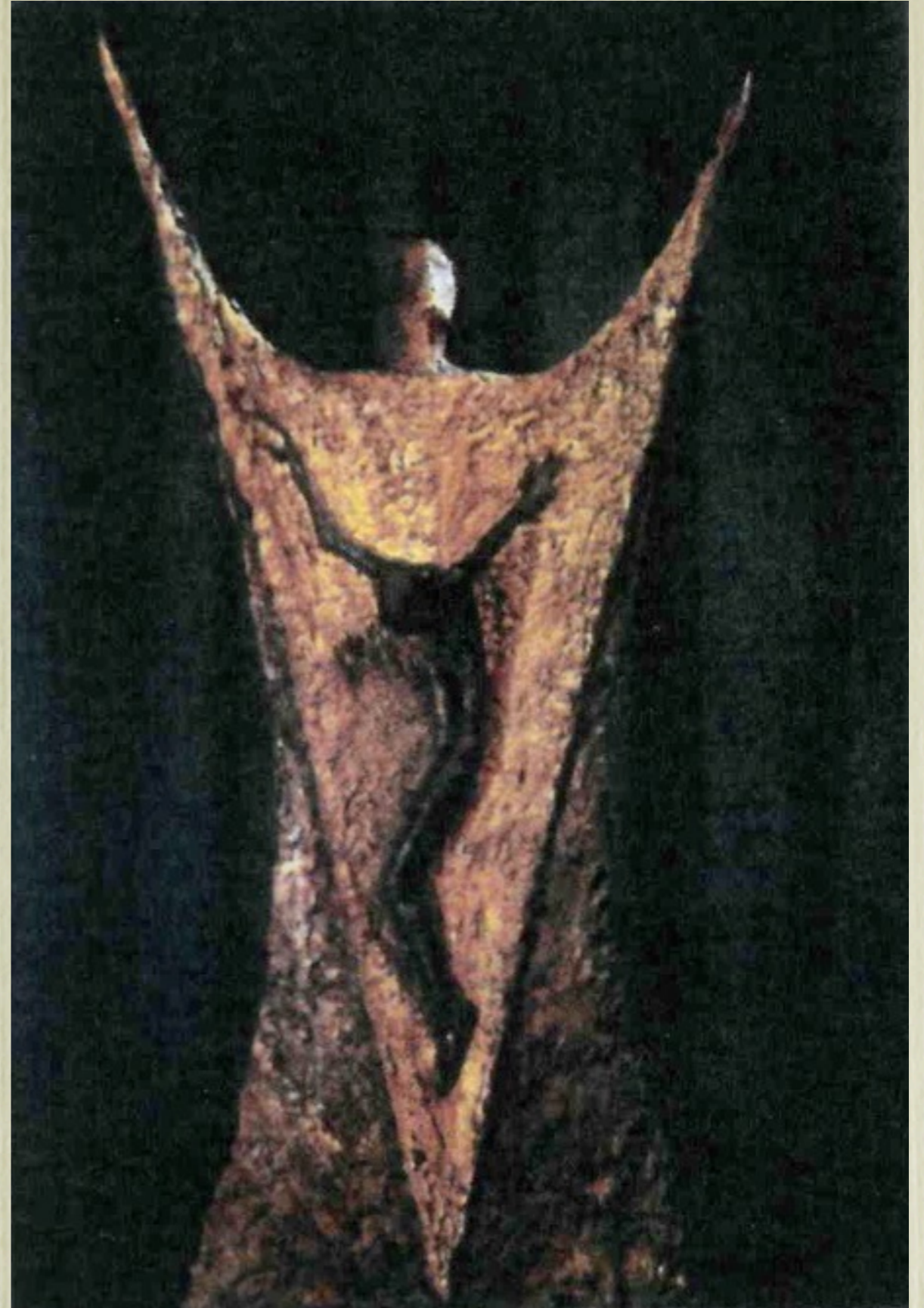
Everything Jesus said or did came from this special communion. John writes: **‘The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands’**(John 3:35).

His special communion did not protect Jesus from the suffering that is part of the human experience, but it sustained him, and the fruit of this communion was a loving that his disciples had never previously experienced: a love for them, indeed for the world, that flowed from his loving communion with God.



Jesus' humanity, but also his faith in God are, perhaps, nowhere shown more poignantly than in his cry from the cross: **'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'** (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34).

It is his faith in God that Luke highlights when he records Jesus' prayer from the cross: **'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit'** (23:46).



Luke 23:45-46

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, **into your hands I commit my spirit.**” Having said this, he breathed forth his spirit.

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge;
do not let me suffer shame;
in your justice set me free.

Hasten to hear me; come quickly to rescue me.

Be a fortress where I can find refuge,

a stronghold to save me;

for indeed you are my rock and my fortress;

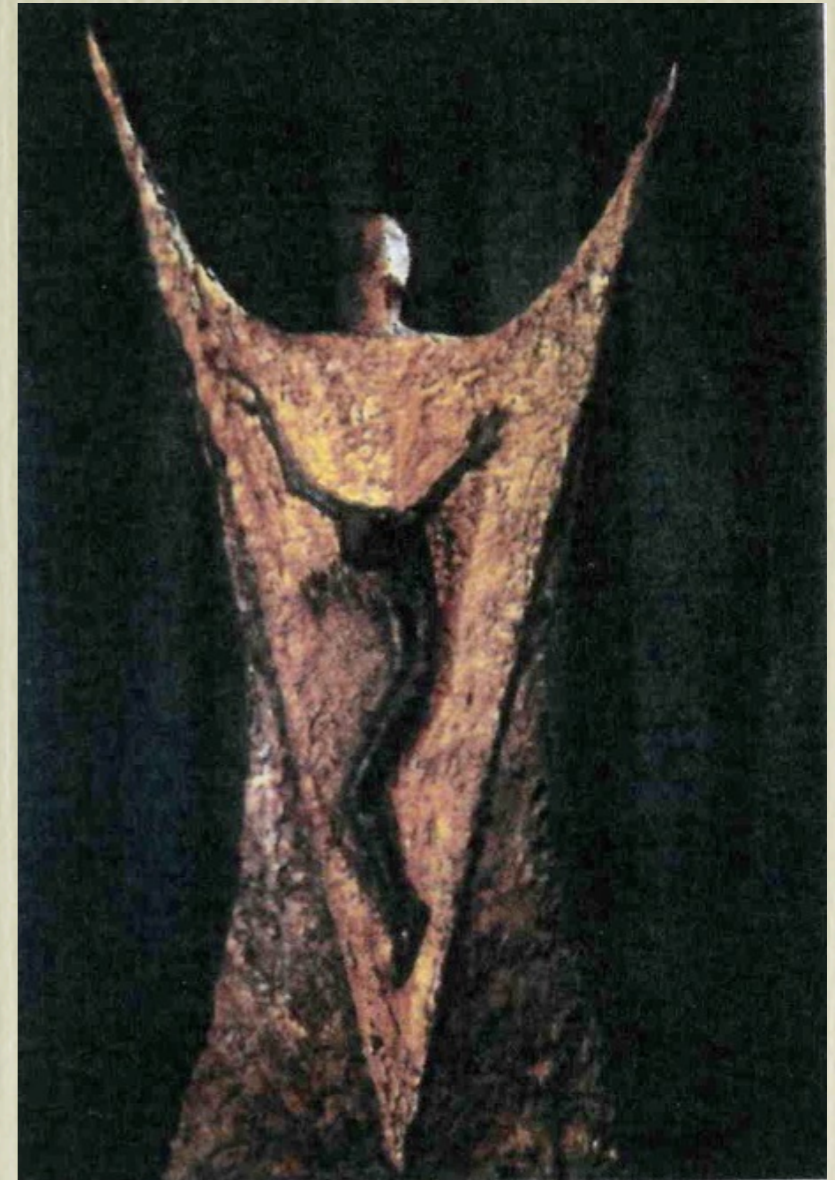
for the sake of your name lead me and guide me;

disentangle me from the net that tightens

around me, for you are my defence.

Into your hands I commit my spirit.

You have redeemed me, Lord, faithful God’ (Psalm 31:1-5).



‘God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself’ (2 Corinthians 5:19).