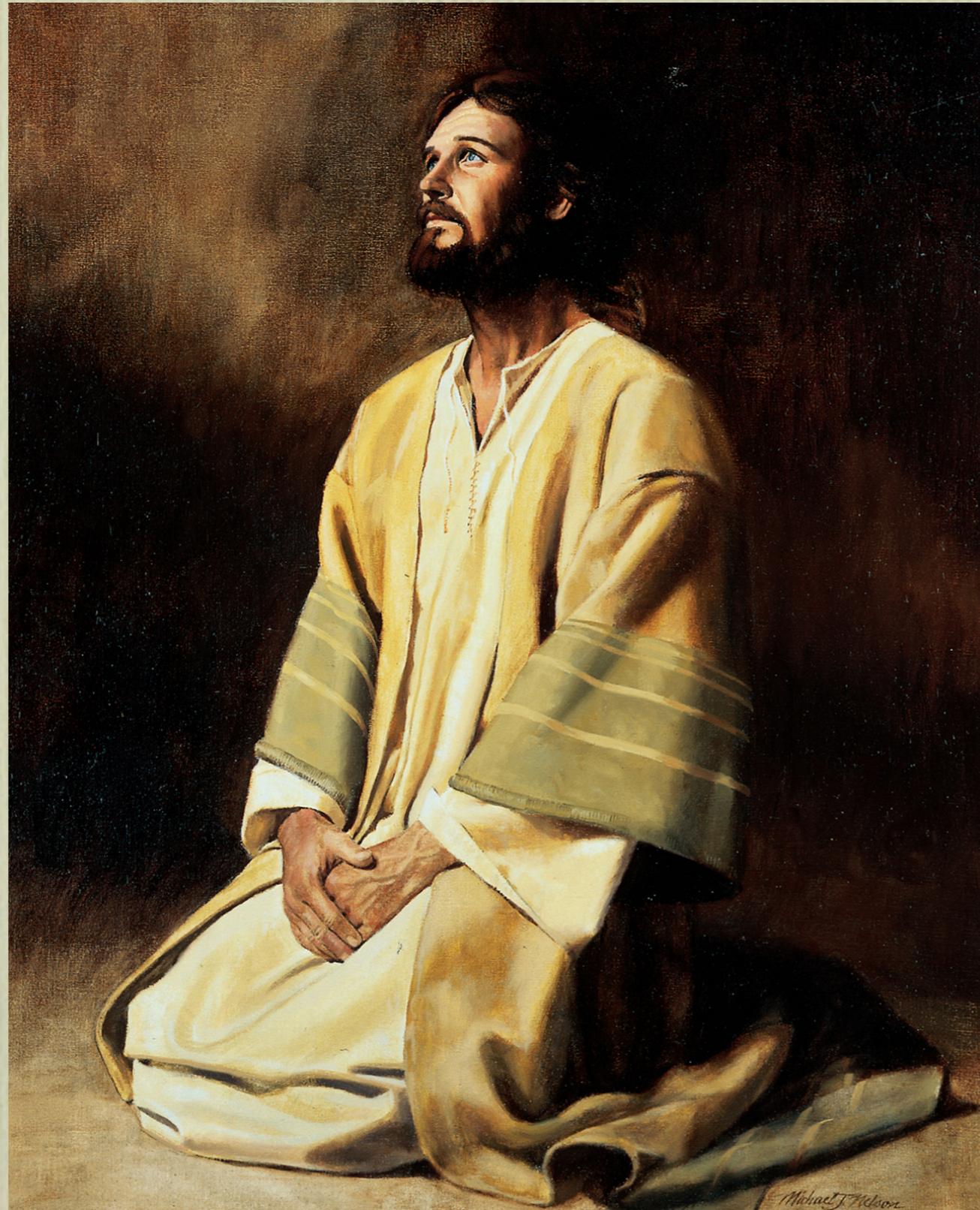


01. Jesus' Prayer



Jesus speaks of this intimate communion when he says:

‘The Father knows me and I know the Father ... The Father loves me’ (John 10:15, 17).

‘The Father and I are one’ (John 10:30).

‘The Father is in me and I am in the Father’ (John 10:38; John 14:10, 11).

‘I love the Father’ (John 14:31).

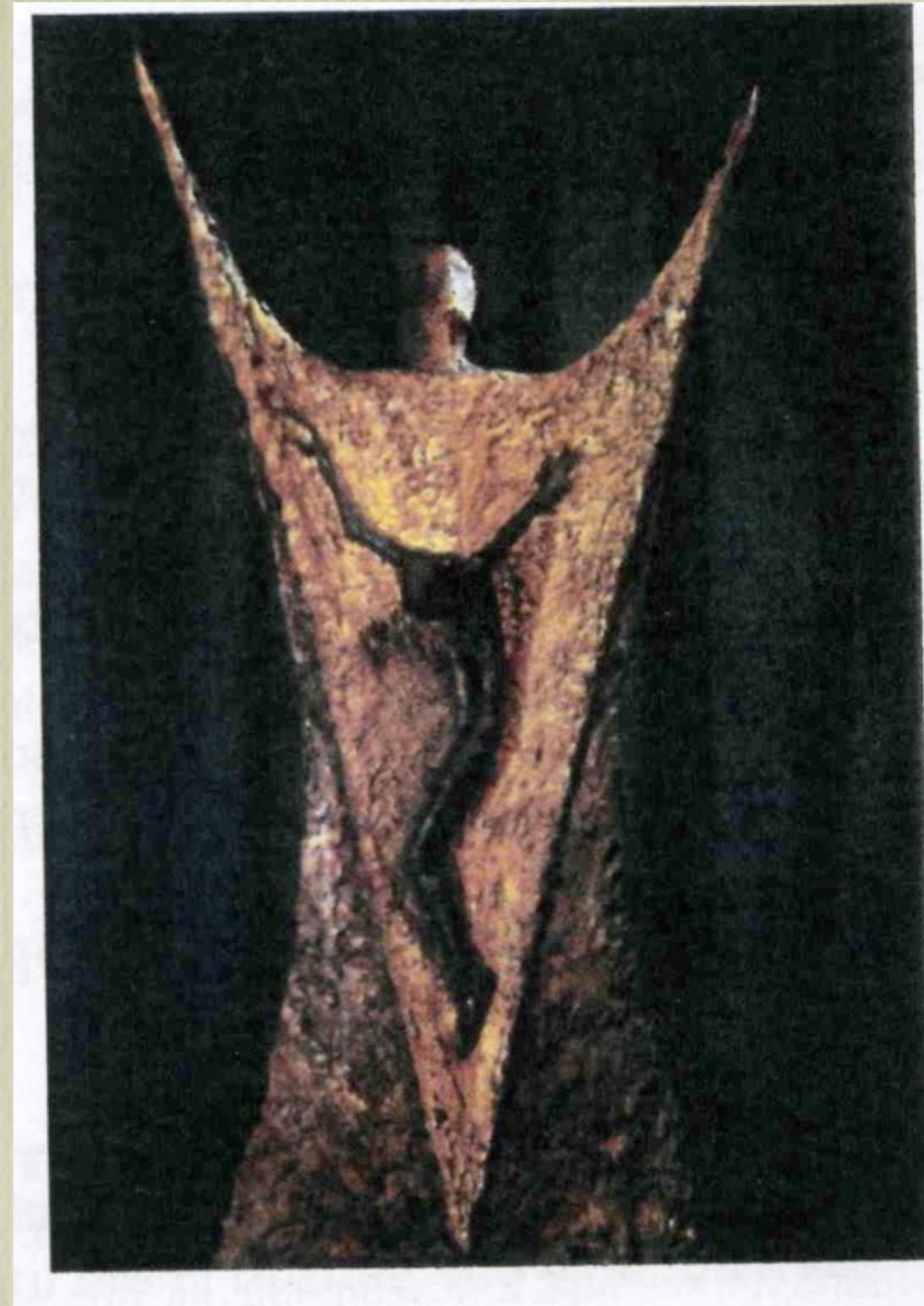
‘I came from the Father ... and I am going to the Father’ (John 16:28).

‘I am not alone; the Father is with me’ (John 16:32).

It was from his intimate communion with God that Jesus experienced the call and the grace to share with others his experience of God, so that we, too, would experience Love. His mission was to include us in the communion he has with God.

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



‘I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you’ (John 14:20).

‘If you love me you will keep my word, and my Father will love you, and we will come to you and make our home in you’ (John 14:23).

‘As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love’ (John 15:9).

‘As you, Father, are in me, and I am in you, may they also be in us’ (John 17:21).

‘I revealed you to them, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them’ (John 17:26).

From God’s eternal embrace, Jesus continues to ‘give God’s Spirit without measure’ (John 3:34). As he promised: ‘When I am lifted up, I will draw everyone to myself’ (John 12:32), and so to his Father.

At his baptism in the Jordan Luke tells us that Jesus was **praying**. In response to his prayer 'heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him' (Luke 3:21).



In his opening chapter Mark focuses on the power of Jesus' love to bring healing. He goes on: 'In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he was **praying**' (Mark 1:35). Understandably everyone wanted Jesus to stay, but in his prayer he discerned that God wanted him to move on 'to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do' (Mark 1:38).

His preaching flowed from his prayer, as did his healing. John puts it this way: 'He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure' (John 3:34).

Luke writes: '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 5:15-16).

Before choosing the Twelve 'Jesus went out to the mountain to pray and he spent the whole night in **prayer** to God' (Luke 6:12).

On another occasion 'Jesus was **praying** alone, with only his disciples near him' (Luke 9:18). He turned to them and asked what he meant to them. With great love Peter declared that Jesus was the Messiah promised to Israel by God. Jesus then 'took with him Peter, John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray' (Luke 9:28).

Jesus then 'took with him Peter, John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray' (Luke 9:28). Something of the intimacy of his prayer shone from his countenance. 'The light of God's face shone upon him' (Psalm 4).



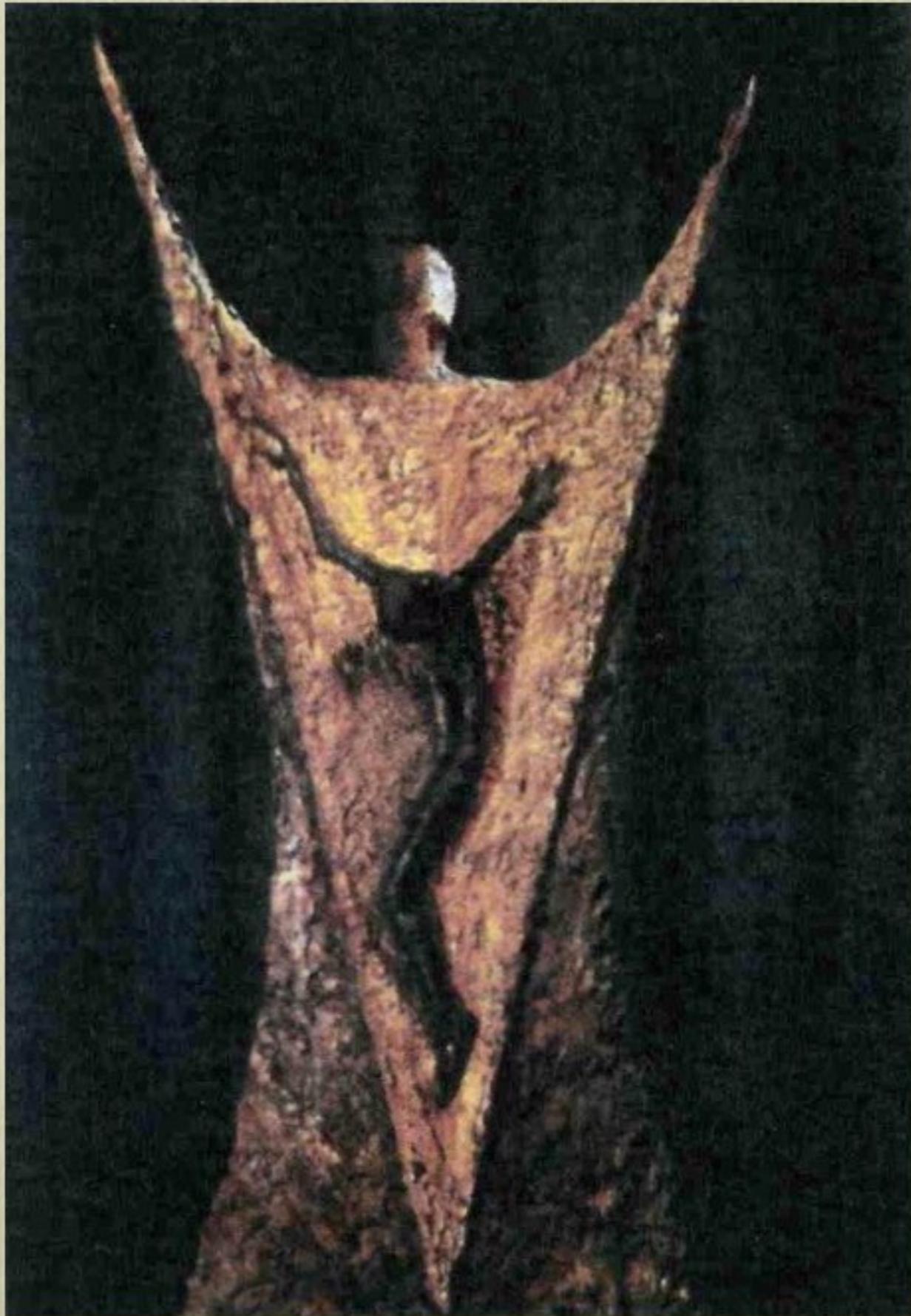
On another occasion 'Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will" (Luke 10:21).

Jesus' disciples came to realise that the secret of Jesus' life and ministry was in his prayer. They wanted him to teach them how to pray as he prayed (Luke 11:1).

Picking up the symbolism of God's gift of manna to the Israelites on their wilderness journey, and in words that echo Jesus' gift of himself at the Last Supper, the Gospel writers portray Jesus as feeding the people. After dismissing the crowd, 'Jesus went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came he was there alone' (Matthew 14:23).

Jesus' prayer issued from his 'heart' and so ranged through all the moods of the human heart. At the Last Supper, with a broken heart, he said to his companions: '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).





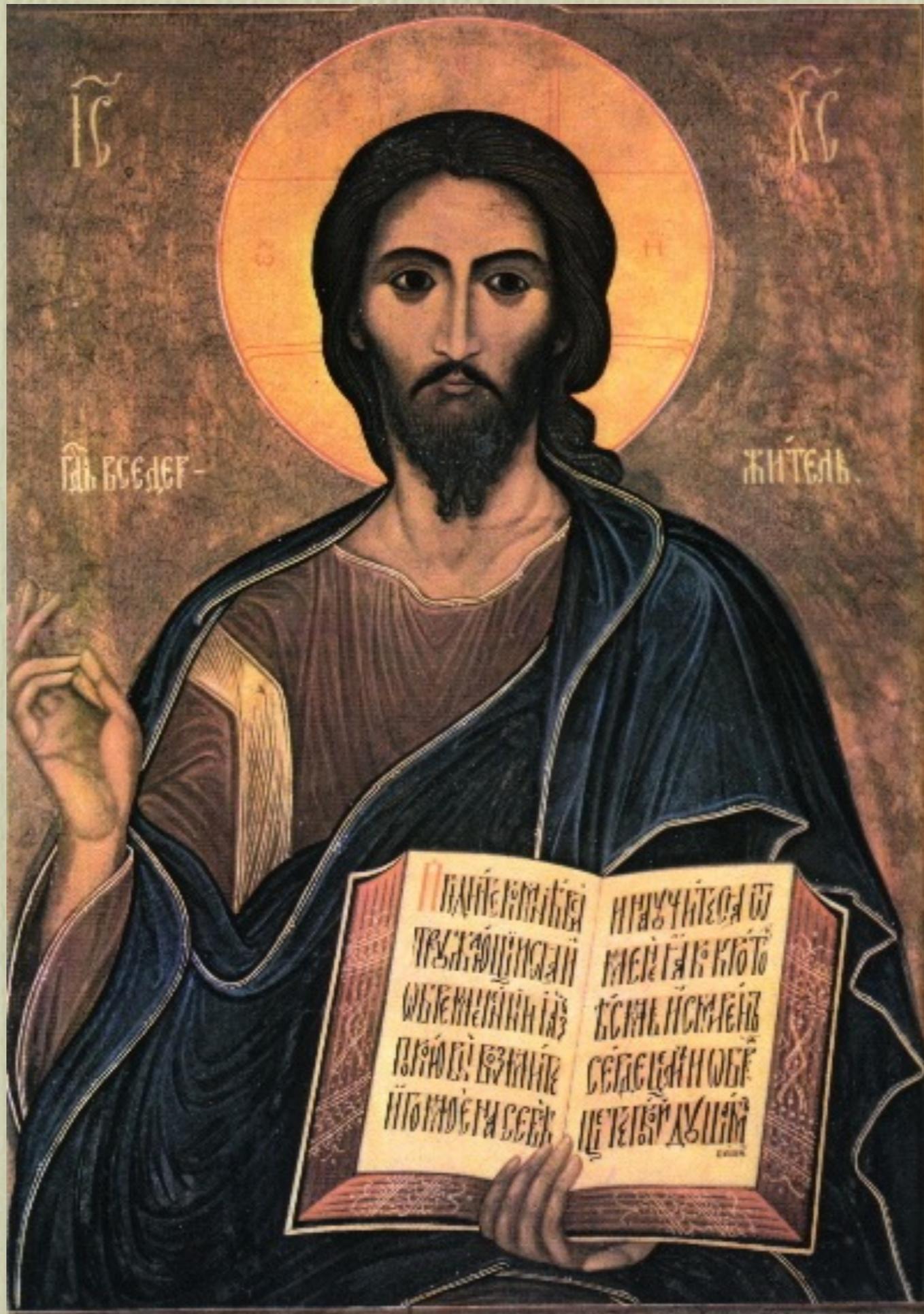
Lyn Maxwell 1994



In his agony and in his ecstasy and in the ups and downs of his daily life and ministry, Jesus remained 'faithful'. He knew the 'gladness of heart' of being in communion with God in whose love he 'placed all his trust'.

Galatians 2:20

It is no longer I who live. It is Christ who lives in me.
And the life I now live in the flesh
I live by the faith of the Son of God,
loving me and giving himself for me.



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