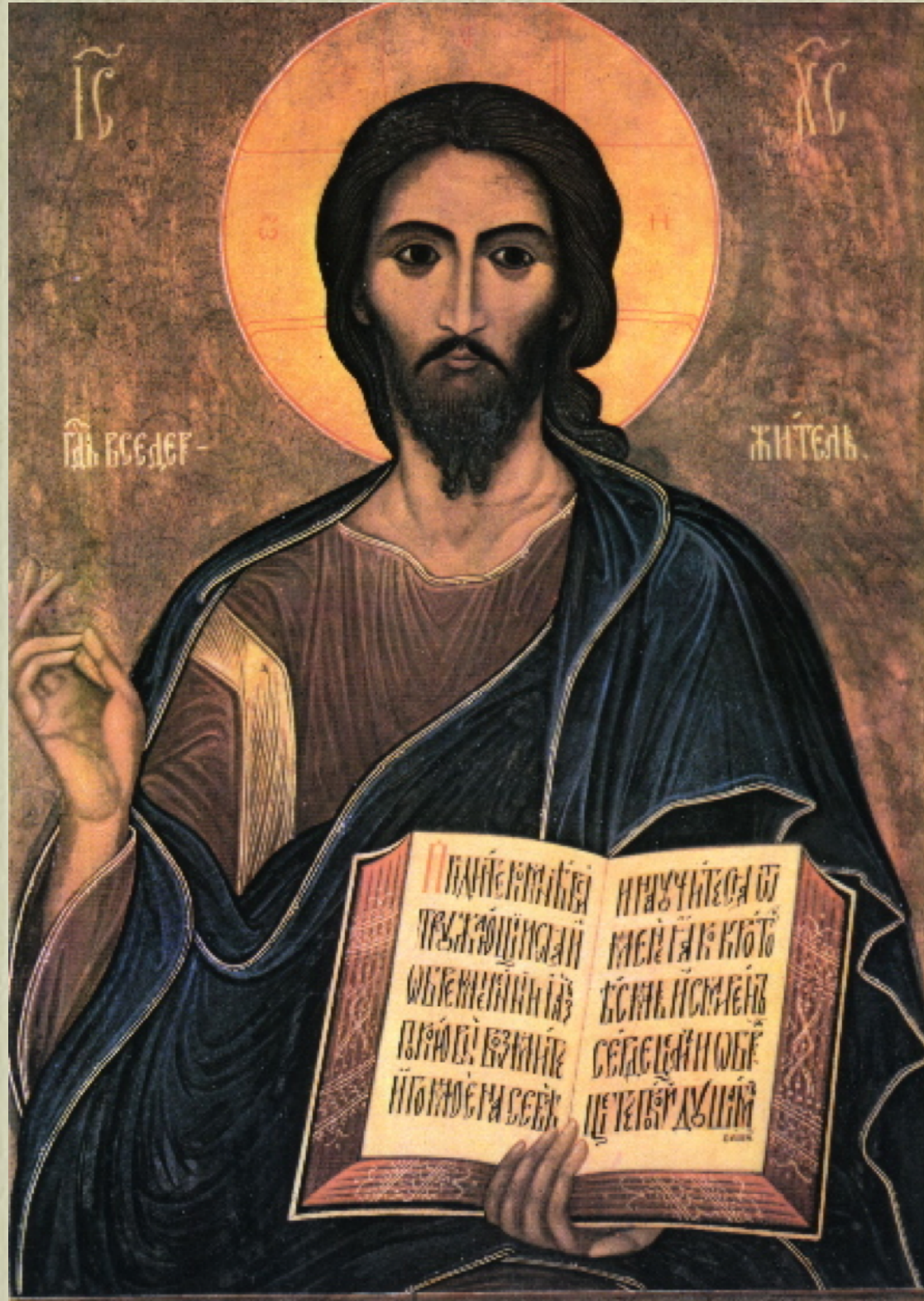


02. The Importance of Knowing the Real Jesus



I. Aims of the Year of Consecrated Life

2. Live the Present with passion

‘For me to live is Christ’(Philippians 1:21)

“Jesus called to him those whom he wanted ... to be with him and to be sent out to proclaim the gospel”(Mark 3: 13-14).

Keep Watch n.9 quotes Pope Francis

‘A witness to the Gospel is one who has encountered Jesus Christ, who knows him, or better, who feels known by him, recognised, respected, loved, forgiven, and this encounter has deeply touched him, filled him with a new joy, given life a new meaning. And this shines through. is passed on to others’(discourse to members of the Apostolic Movement for the Blind, Rome 29 March 2014).



‘We declare to you what we have heard,
what we have seen with our eyes,
what we have looked at and touched with
our hands, concerning the word of life —
this life was revealed, and we have seen it
and testify to it, and declare to you the
eternal life that was with the Father and
was revealed to us.

We declare to you what we have seen and
heard so that you may have communion
with us;

and truly our communion is with the
Father and with his Son Jesus the
Messiah.’

1 John 1:1-3

God's **WORD** (self-gift) is experienced

- in nature
- in people & events
- in words spoken & written
- in works of art

They reveal something of the truth, beauty & goodness
of the transcendent & mysterious God

God's **WORD** (self-gift) is experienced in

- the Vedas & Upanishads
- the sayings of K'ung-fu-tzu (Confucius)
- the sayings of Gautama the Buddha
- the oracles of the Hebrew Scriptures
- the New Testament
- the Moslem Qur'an
- the mystics, poets, artists of all cultures



Danger

Projecting a 'God' limited by our human experiences

Creating a 'God' in our own image

This spawns

atheism: the rejection of a limited God

agnosticism: failure to explore the implications of our experience

The **Numinous** Dimension of Religious Experience

Judaism

- Prophet - Moses
- Book - Torah
- Obedience

Islam

- Prophet - Muhammad
- Book - Qur'an
- Submission



Fundamentalist 'Christianity'

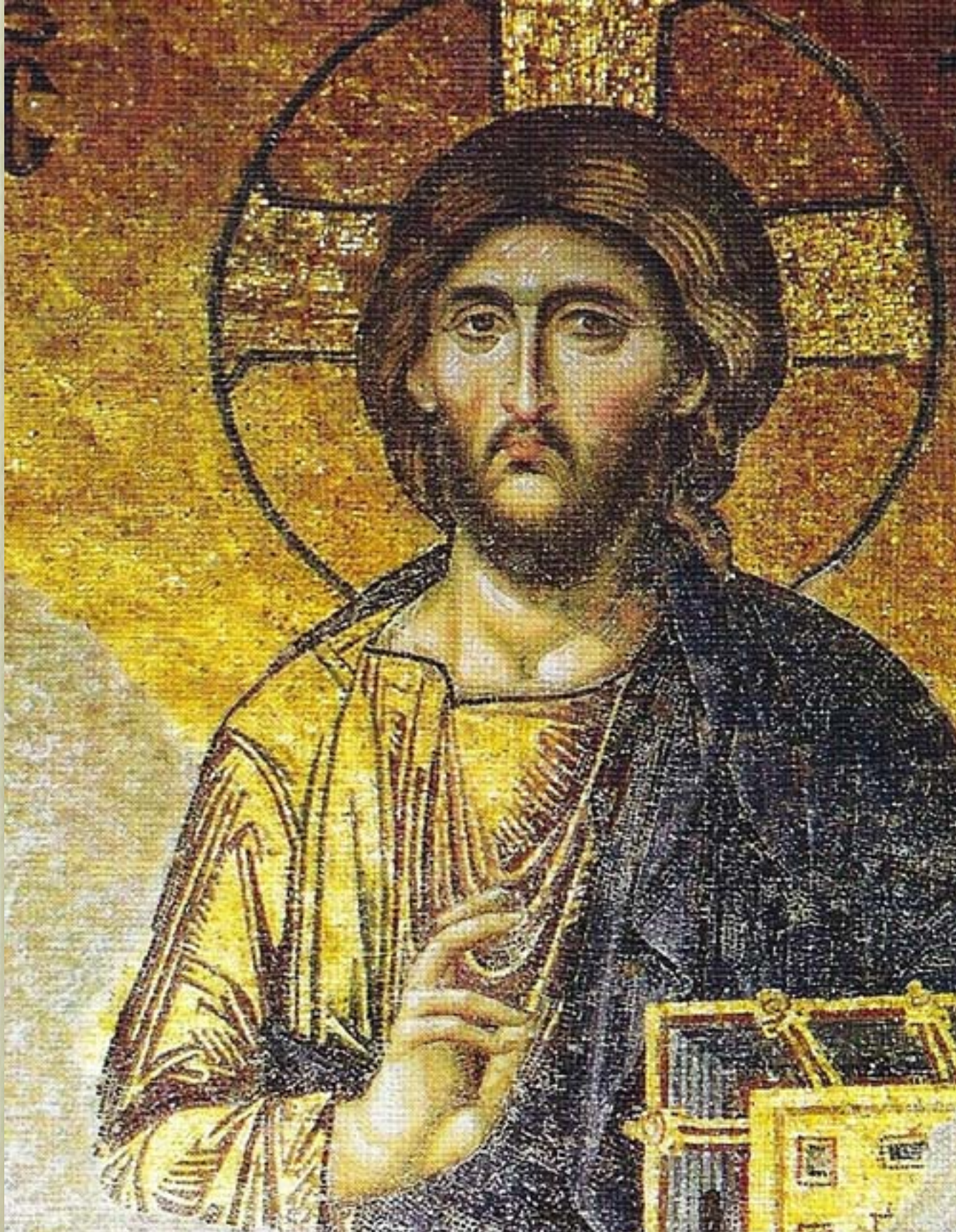
- Book - New Testament
- Obedience
- Book - Catechism
- Submission

The **Mystical** Dimension of Religious Experience

Buddhism points us to the heart



God's Word-made-flesh



John 3:34

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

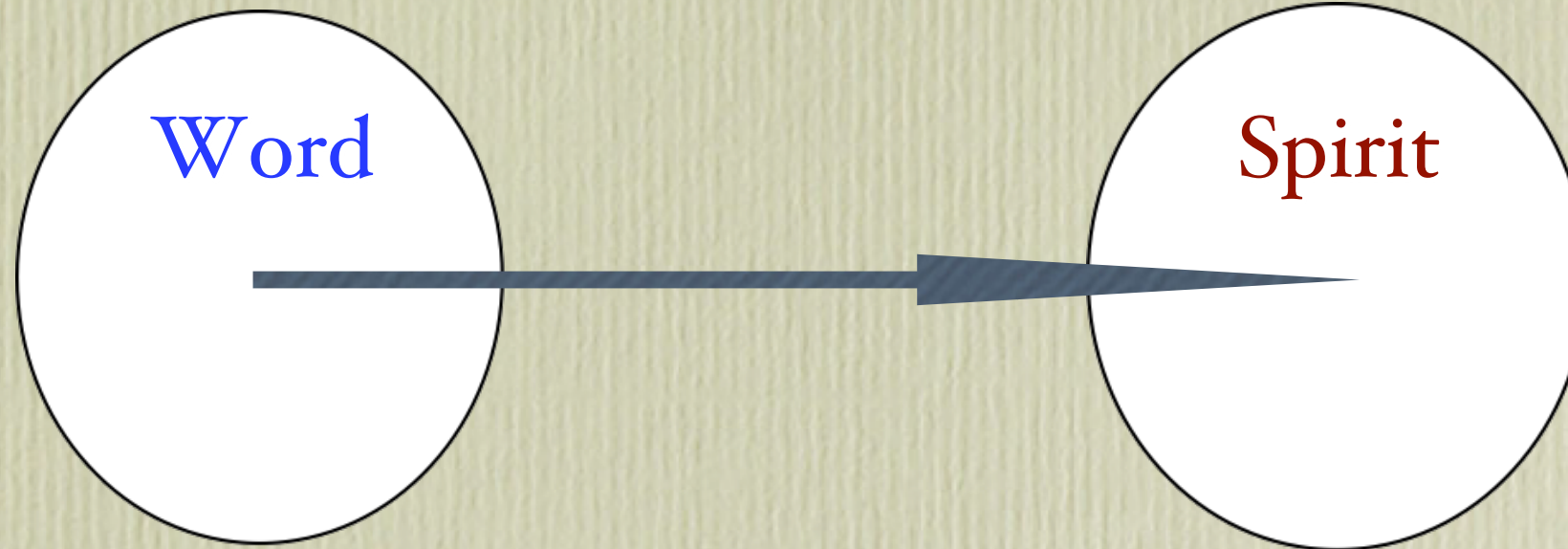
Romans 5:5

‘God’s love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.’

Revelation

Numinous

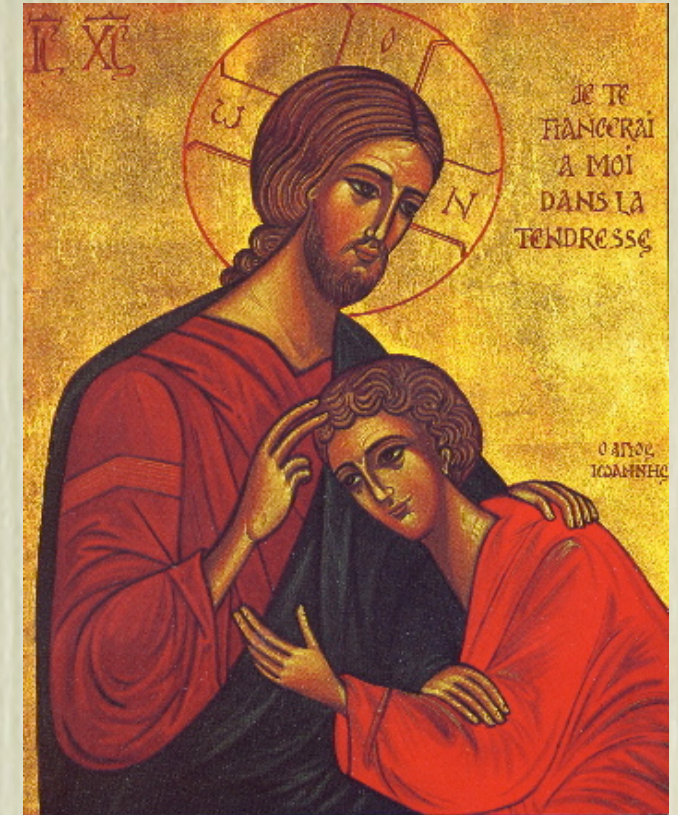
Mystical



Heart

speaks to

Heart





Matthew 11:28-29



- ‘I am in the Father and you are in me and I in you’(John 14:20).
- ‘I pray that they will be one as we are one, with me in them and you in me’(John 17:21).



‘I have come to cast fire upon the earth
and how I wish it were blazing already’ (Luke 12:49)

Teilhard de Chardin 1934

‘Some day,
after harnessing space,
the winds,
the tides
and gravitation,

We shall harness for God
the energies of Love.

And then,
for the second time in the history of the
world,
we shall have discovered fire.’

At the heart of Jesus' disciples attraction to him was their experience of his special relationship to God. Again and again the Gospels speak of Jesus' prayer.

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.'



Jesus' Baptism Experience



A voice came from heaven,
“You are my Son, the Beloved;
with you I am well pleased.”

Perugino

Having described a busy day in Jesus' ministry,
Mark writes that Jesus left the house to find a secluded place
where he could be alone in prayer.

Mark 1:35-38

In the morning, while it was still very dark,
Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place,
and there he prayed.

And Simon and his companions hunted for him.

When they found him, they said to him,

“Everyone is searching for you.”

He answered, “Let us go on to the neighbouring towns,
so that I may proclaim the message there also;
for that is what I came out to do.”

Luke tells us that ‘many crowds would gather to hear Jesus and to be cured of their diseases. but he would withdraw to deserted places and pray’(Luke 5:16).

Before selecting his twelve disciples, ‘Jesus went out to the mountain to pray, and spent the whole night in prayer to God’(Luke 6:12).

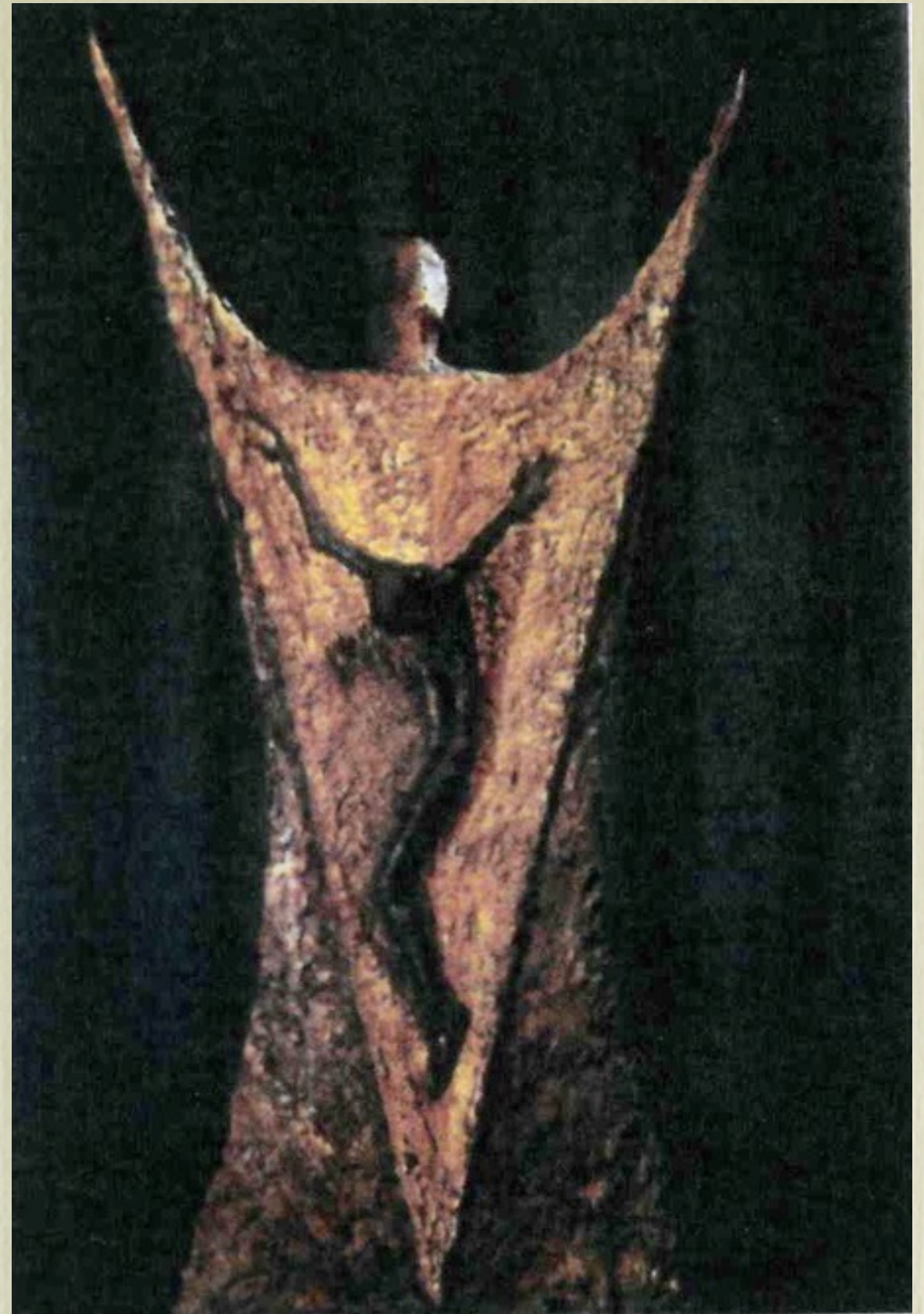




Raphael

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 him 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).





It is God who initiates communion. We call this communion 'prayer'.

Christian prayer is communion in the prayer of Jesus

God's perfect
human Word,
symbol of the
Divine Word
of the Self-giving
always Transcendent
God



Communion in the
Love-Spirit that
unites Jesus and God,
symbol of the
Divine Love-communion
of the
always Transcendent
God



Everyday God



Everyday God

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Earth's Creator, *Everyday God*
Loving Maker, *O Jesus,*
You who shaped us, *O Spirit*
Recreate us, *Come be with us*

In your presence, *Everyday God,*
We are gathered, *O Jesus,*
You have called us, *O Spirit,*
To restore us, *Come be with us.*

Life of all lives, *Everyday God,*
Love of all loves, *O Jesus,*
Hope of all hopes, *O Spirit,*
Light of all lights,
Come be with us.



In our resting, Everyday God,
In our rising, O Jesus,
In our hoping, O Spirit,
In our waiting, Come be with us.

In or dreaming, Everyday God,
In our daring, O Jesus,
In our searching, O Spirit,
In our sharing, Come be with us.

God of laughter, *Everyday God*,
God of sorrow, *O Jesus*,
Home and shelter, *O Spirit*,
Strong and patient,
Come be with us.



Way of freedom, Everyday God,
Star of morning, O Jesus,
Timeless healer, O Spirit,
Flame eternal, Come be with us.

Word of gladness, Everyday God,
Word of mercy, O Jesus,
Word of friendship, O Spirit,
Word of challenge,
Come be with us.

Gentle Father, Everyday God,
Faithful Brother, O Jesus,
Tender Sister, O Spirit,
Loving mother,
Come be with us.



Our Beginning, Everyday God,
Our unfolding, O Jesus,
Our enduring, O Spirit,
Journey's ending,
Come be with us.

Alleluia, Everyday God,
Now and always, O Jesus,
Alleluia, O Spirit,
Through all ages,
Come be with us.