



WELCOME!
ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OPEN DOORS WITH LOVING HEARTS
MAY 17, 2026

CENTERING SONG



SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT
UMH 334

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

334

WORDS: Doris Akers, 1962

There's a sweet,
sweet Spirit
in this place,
and I know that it's
the Spirit of the Lord



**there are sweet
expressions
on each face,
and I know
they feel the presence
of the Lord.**

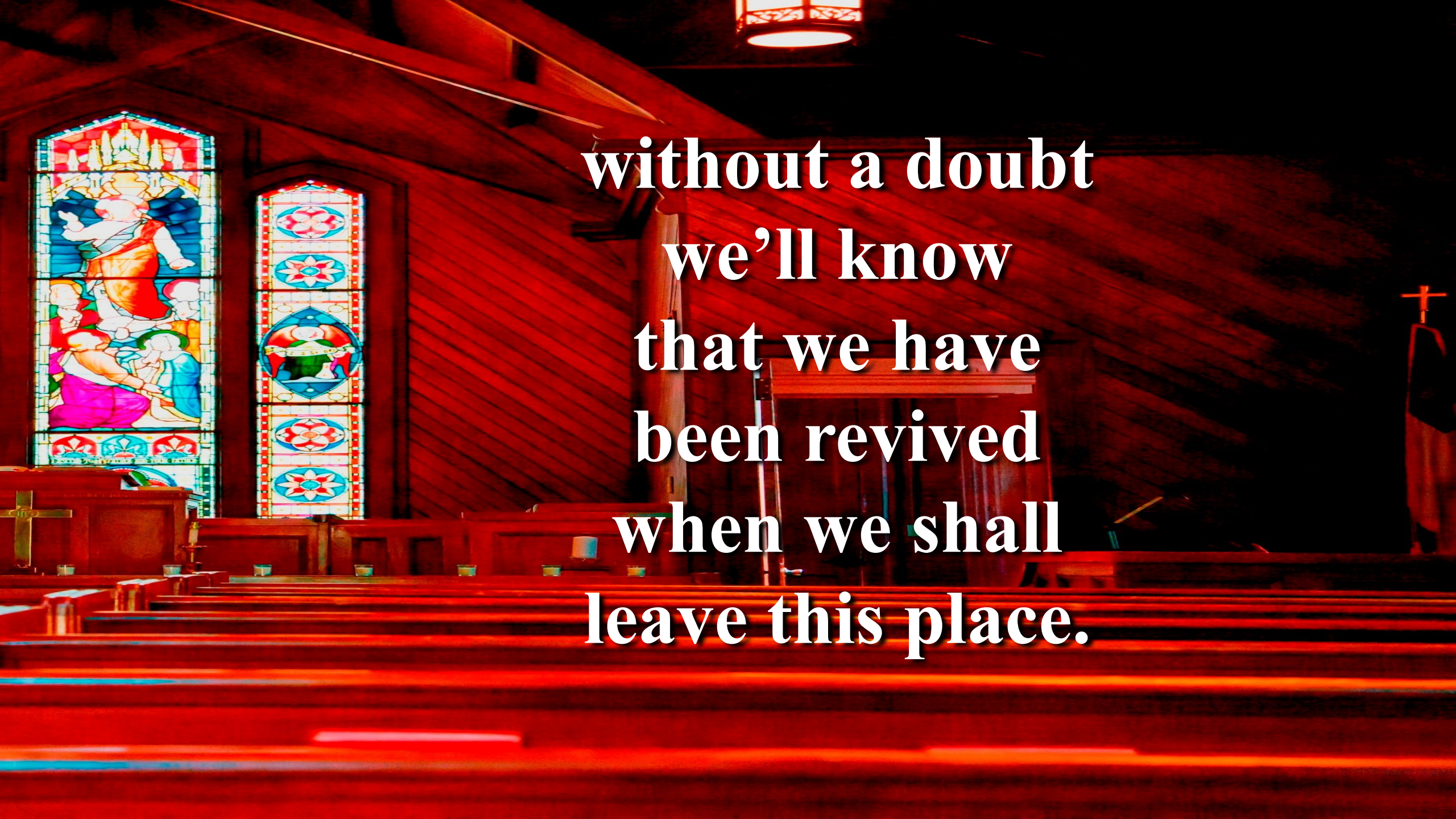


Refrain

Sweet Holy Spirit,
sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us,
filling us with your love;



**and for these blessings
we lift our hearts
in praise;**



**without a doubt
we'll know
that we have
been revived
when we shall
leave this place.**

GATHERNING SONG



“Kum Ba Yah”

Kum Ba Yah


494

(Come By Here)

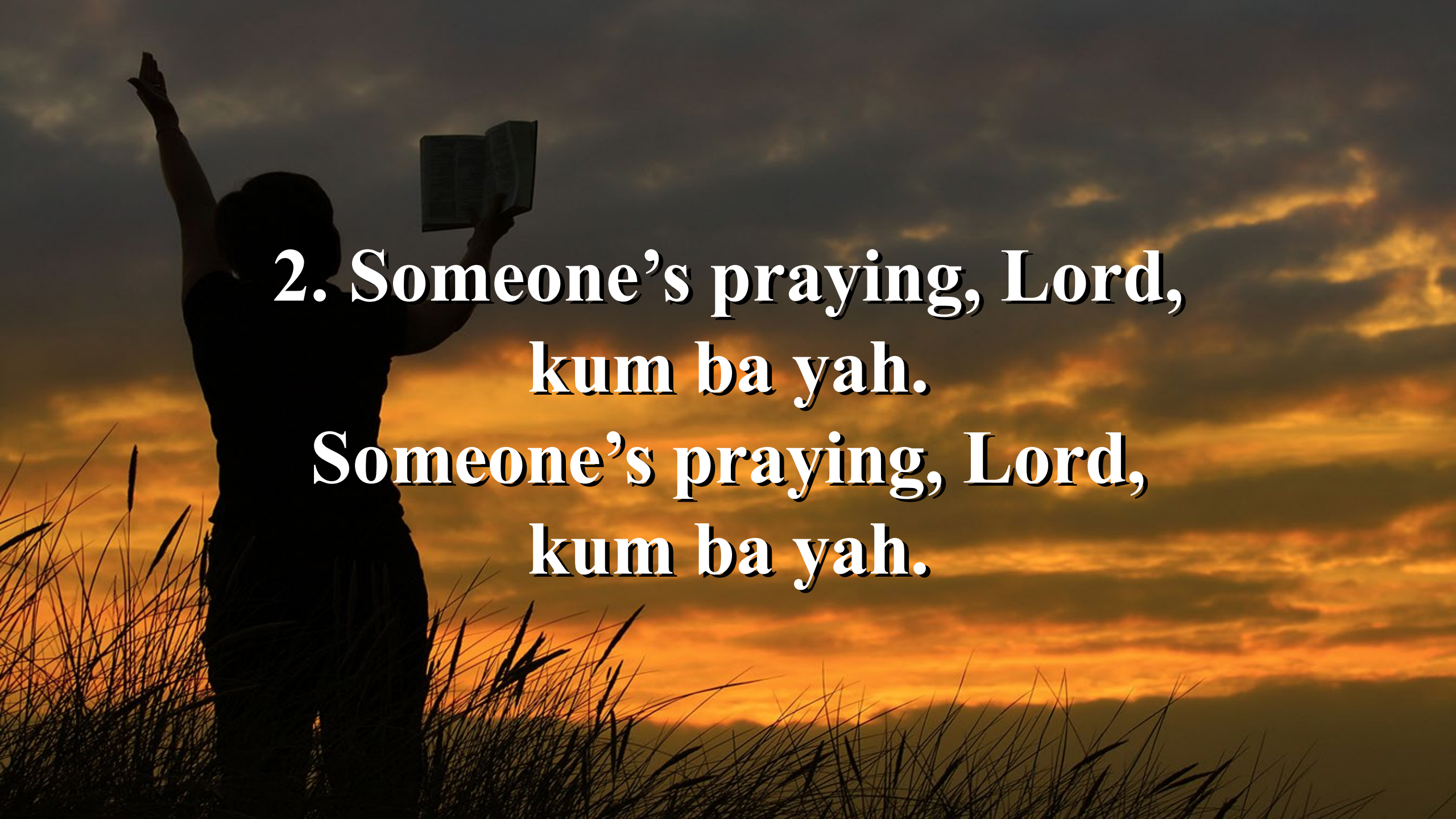
WORDS: African American spiritual

**1. Kum ba yah, my Lord,
kum ba yah.**

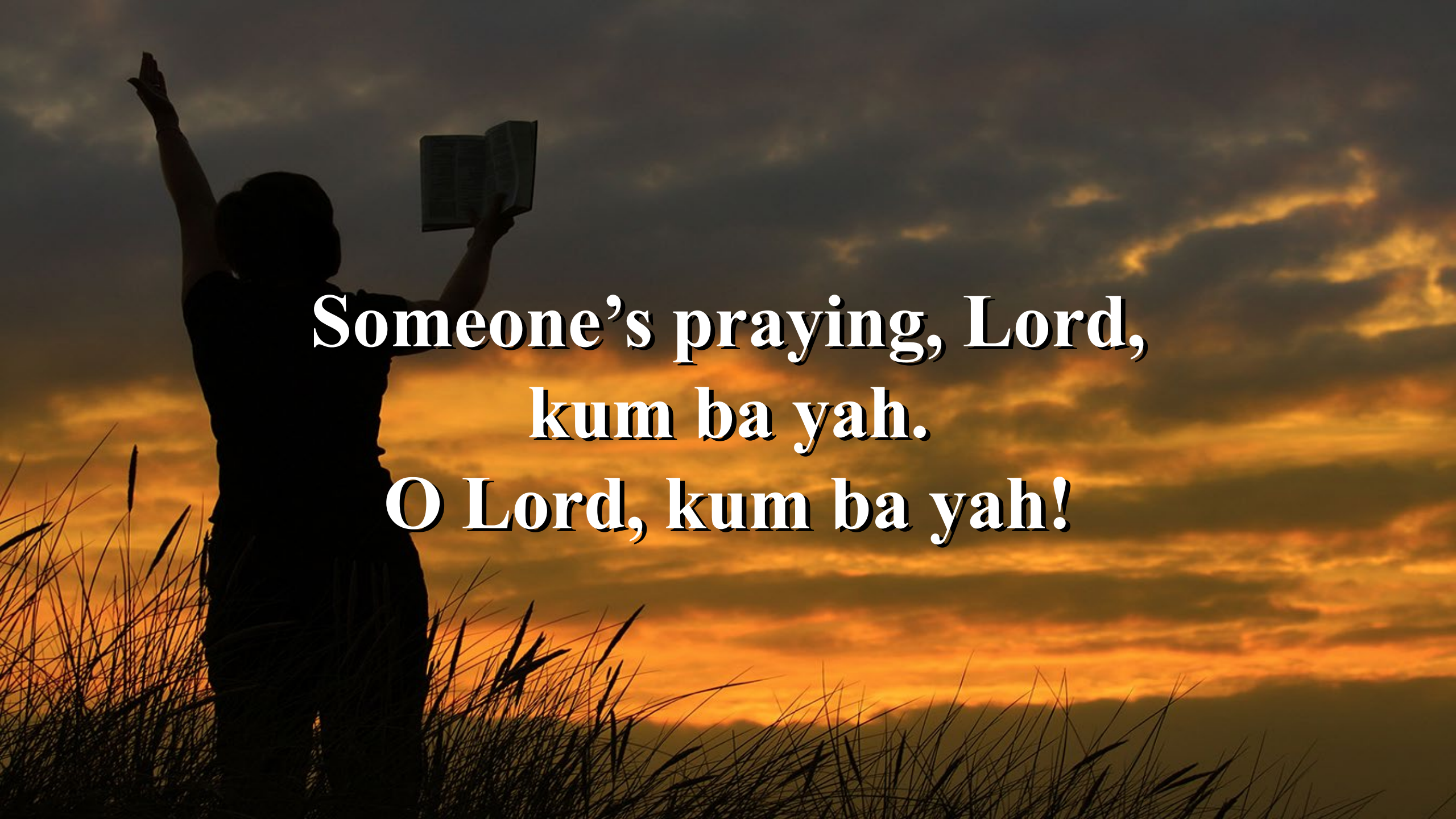
**Kum ba yah, my Lord,
kum ba yah.**

A silhouette of a person standing in a field of tall grass, holding an open book and raising their right hand in prayer. The background is a dramatic sunset sky with orange and yellow clouds. The text is overlaid in the center-right of the image.

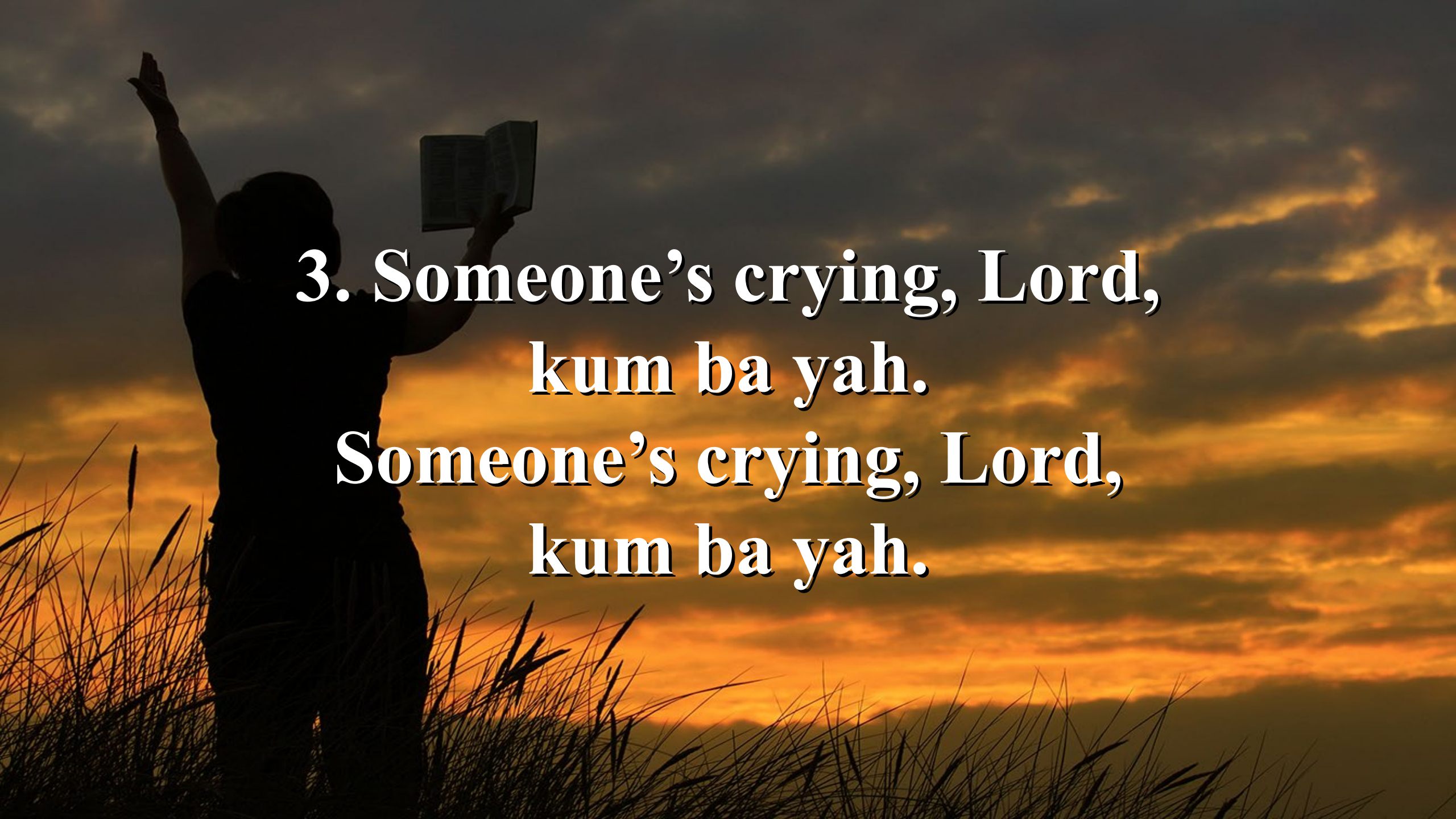
**Kum ba yah, my Lord,
kum ba yah.
O Lord, kum ba yah!**

A silhouette of a person standing in a field of tall grass, holding an open book and raising their right hand in prayer. The background is a dramatic sunset sky with orange and yellow clouds. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

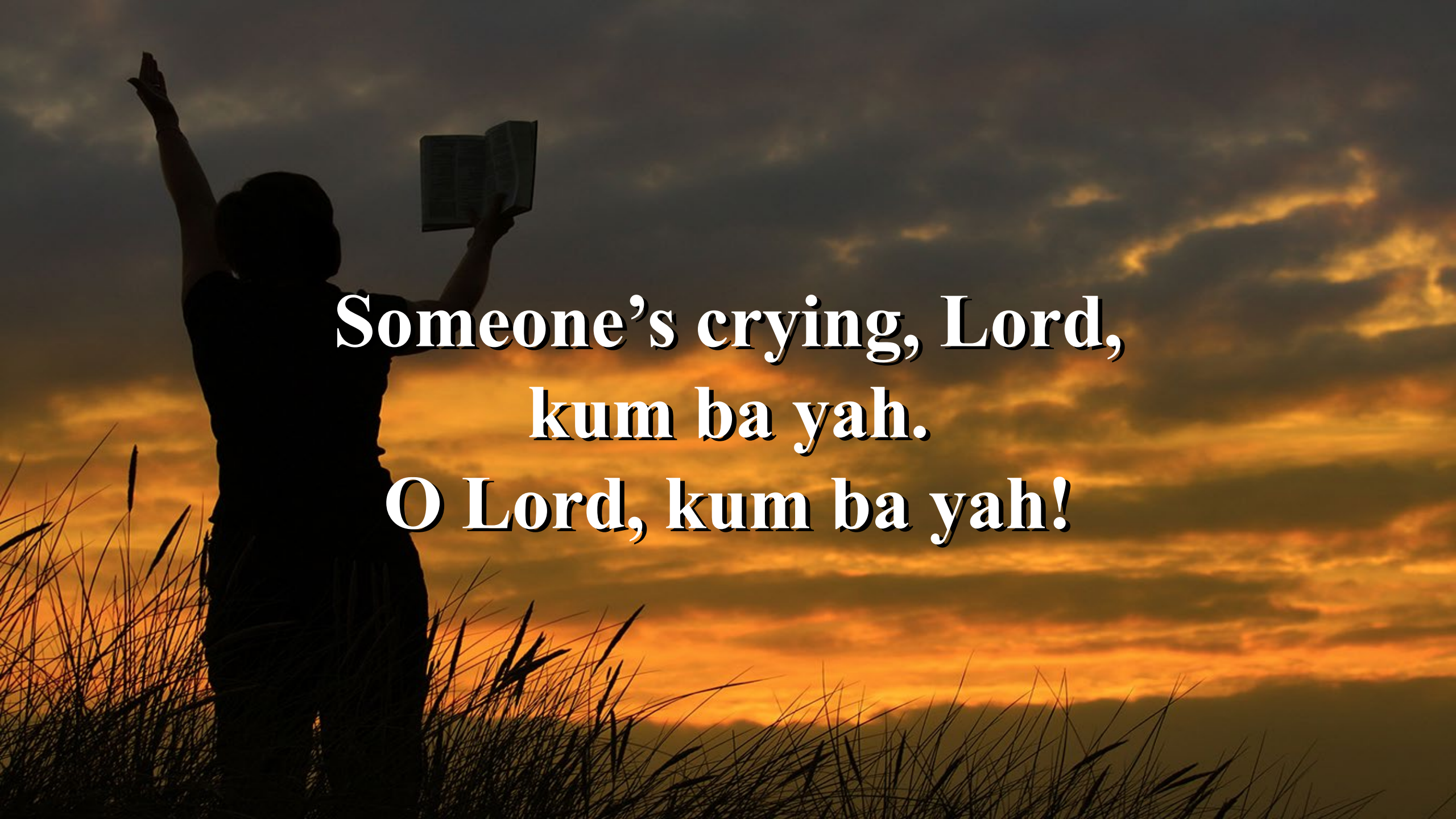
**2. Someone's praying, Lord,
kum ba yah.
Someone's praying, Lord,
kum ba yah.**

A silhouette of a person standing in a field of tall grass, holding an open Bible high in their right hand and their left hand raised in prayer. The background is a dramatic sunset sky with orange and yellow clouds. The text is overlaid in the center-right of the image.

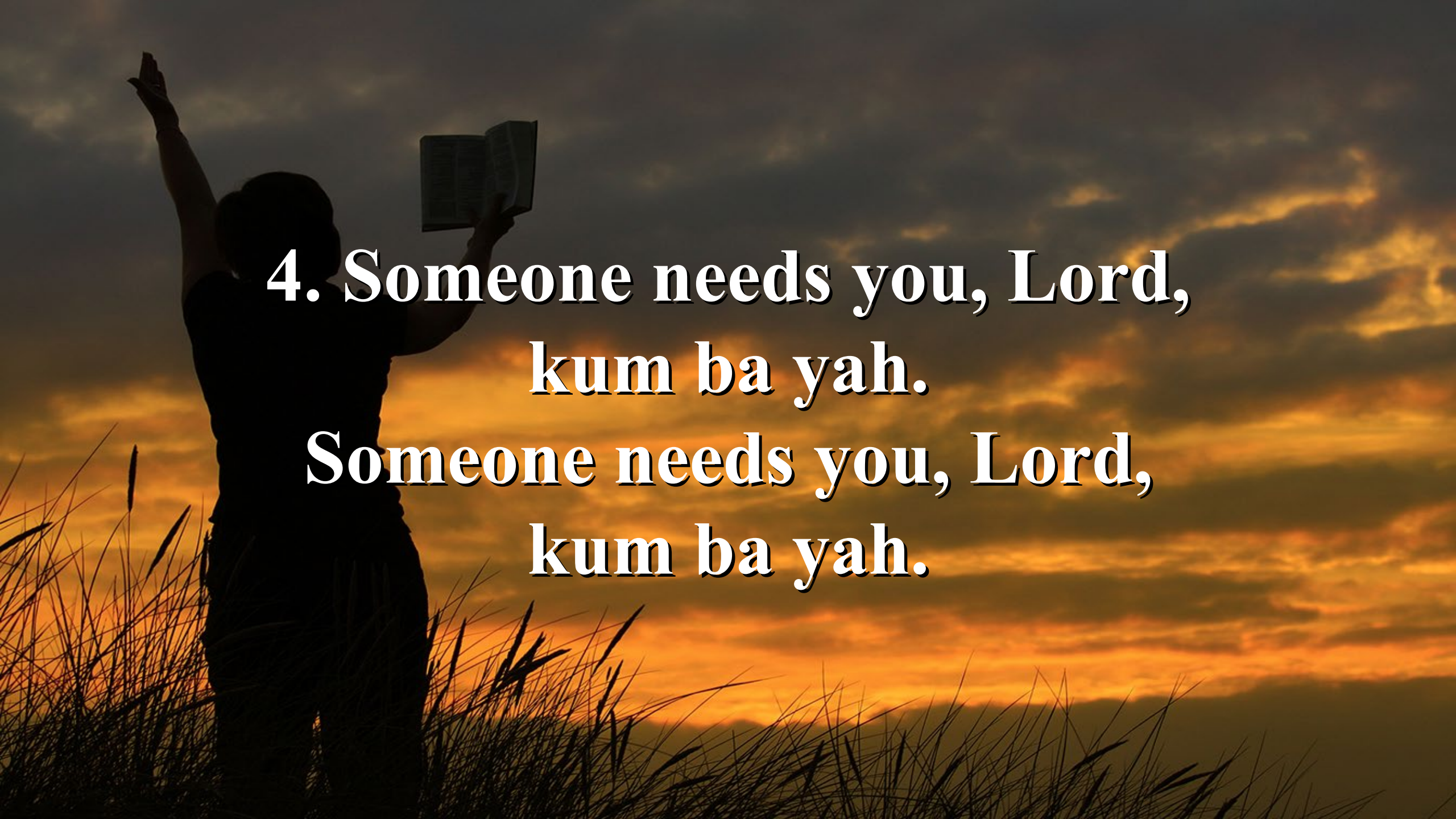
**Someone's praying, Lord,
kum ba yah.
O Lord, kum ba yah!**

A silhouette of a person standing in a field of tall grass, holding an open book in their left hand and raising their right hand towards the sky. The background is a dramatic sunset with orange and yellow clouds.

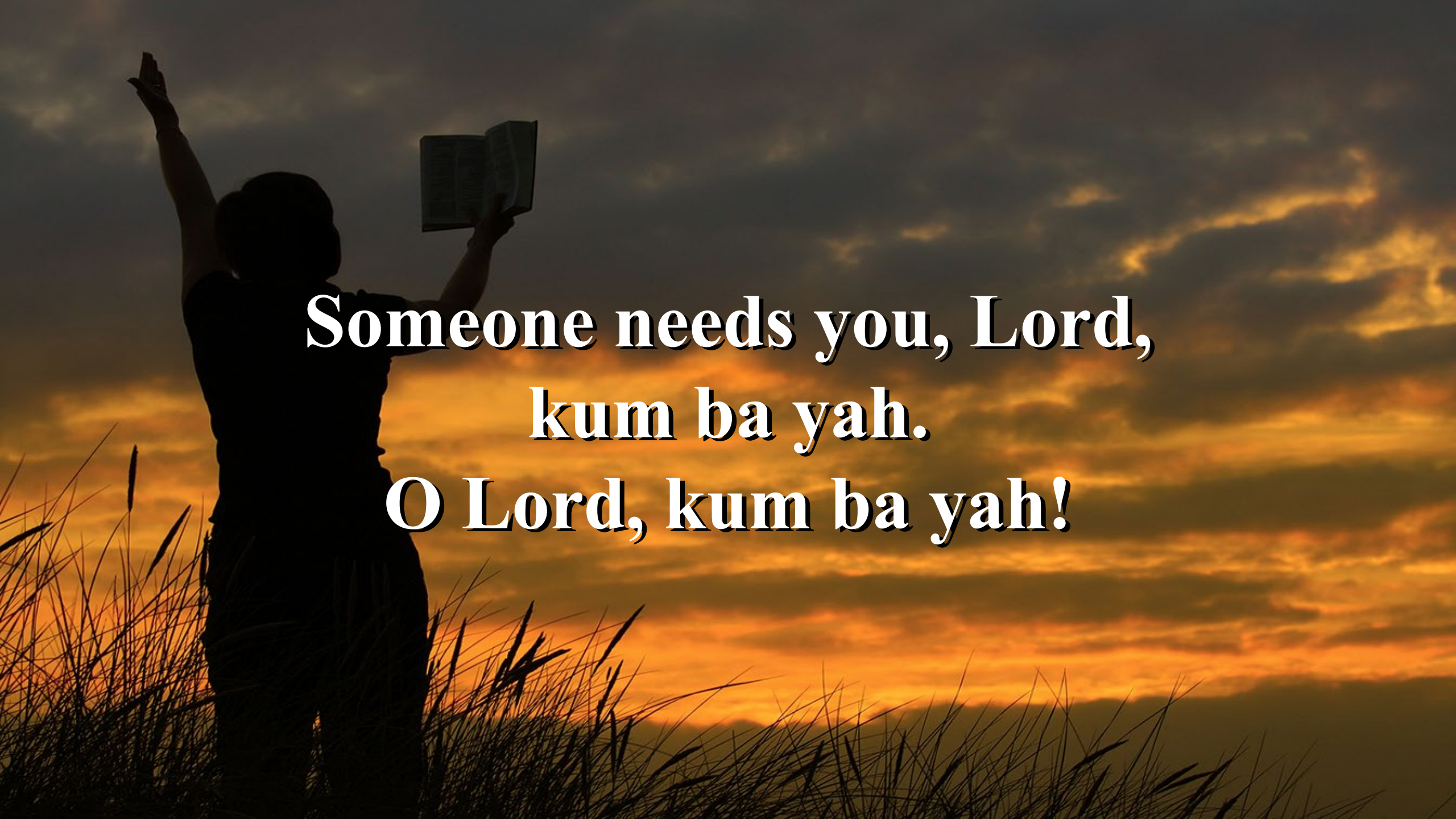
**3. Someone's crying, Lord,
kum ba yah.
Someone's crying, Lord,
kum ba yah.**

A silhouette of a person standing in a field of tall grass, holding an open book and raising their right hand in prayer. The background is a dramatic sunset sky with orange and yellow clouds. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.


**Someone's crying, Lord,
kum ba yah.
O Lord, kum ba yah!**

A silhouette of a person standing in a field of tall grass, holding an open book in their left hand and raising their right hand towards the sky. The background is a dramatic sunset with orange and yellow clouds.


**4. Someone needs you, Lord,
kum ba yah.
Someone needs you, Lord,
kum ba yah.**

A silhouette of a person standing in a field of tall grass, holding an open book in their left hand and raising their right hand towards the sky. The background is a dramatic sunset with orange and yellow clouds against a dark sky.

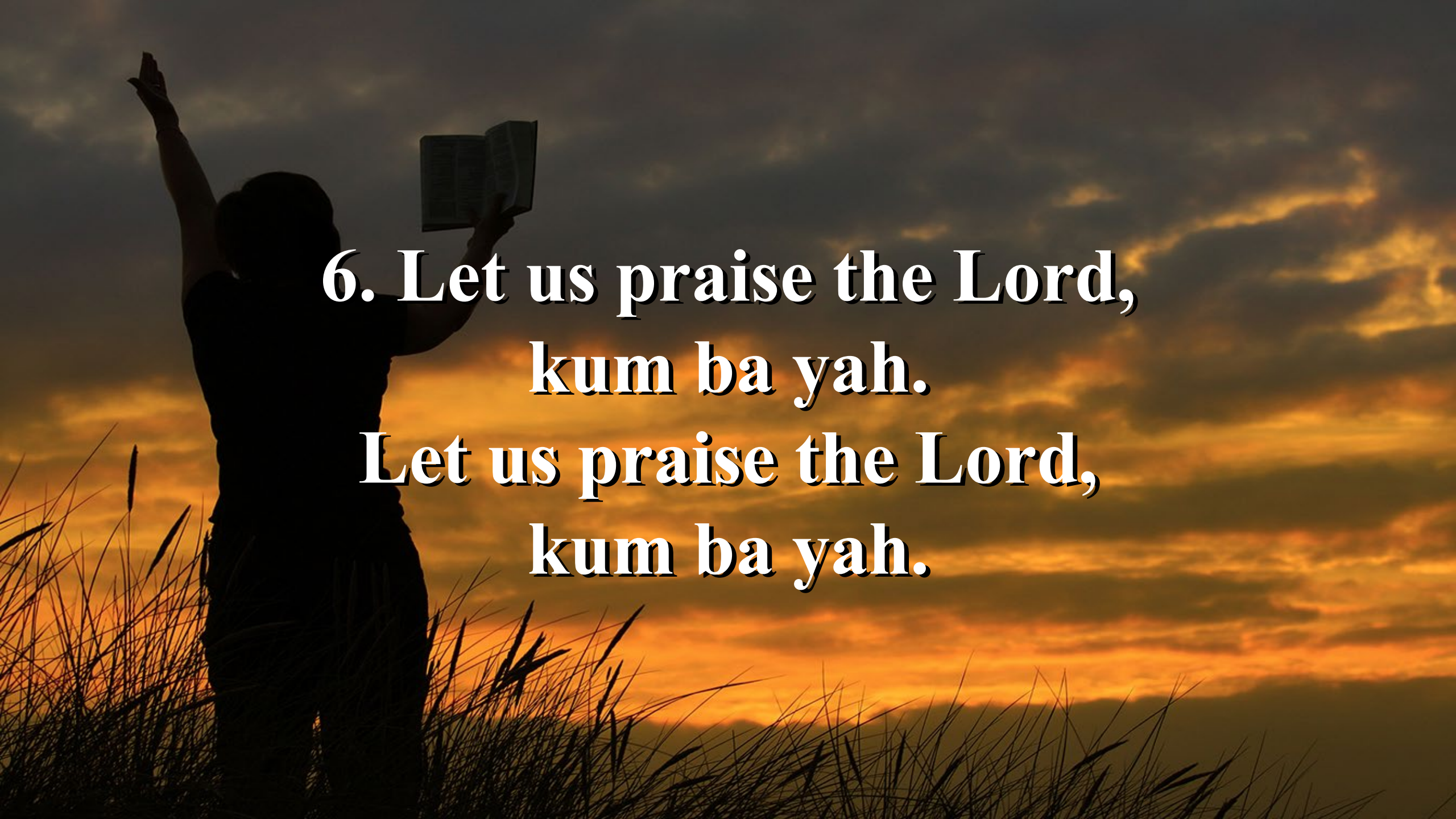
**Someone needs you, Lord,
kum ba yah.
O Lord, kum ba yah!**

A silhouette of a person standing in a field of tall grass, holding an open book and raising their right hand towards a dramatic, orange and yellow sunset sky. The person is positioned on the left side of the frame, facing right. The text is overlaid in the center-right area.

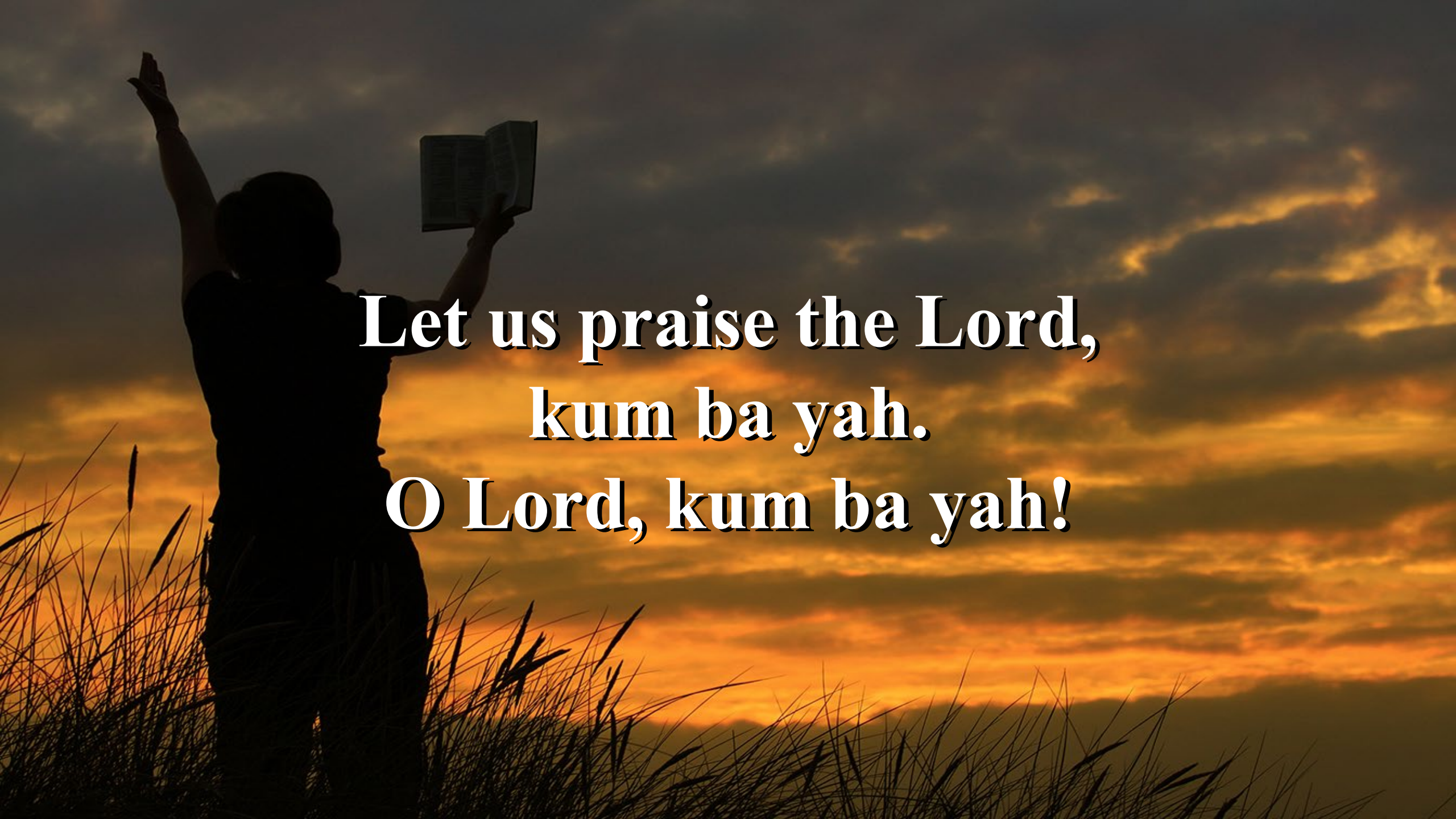
**5. Someone's singing, Lord,
kum ba yah.
Someone's singing, Lord,
kum ba yah.**

A silhouette of a person standing in a field of tall grass at sunset. The person is holding an open book in their left hand and has their right arm raised towards the sky. The background is a dramatic sky with orange and yellow clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**Someone's singing, Lord,
kum ba yah.
O Lord, kum ba yah!**

A silhouette of a person standing in a field of tall grass at sunset. The person is holding an open book in their left hand and has their right arm raised towards the sky. The background is a dramatic sky with orange and yellow clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is one of praise and devotion.

**6. Let us praise the Lord,
kum ba yah.
Let us praise the Lord,
kum ba yah.**

A silhouette of a person standing in a field of tall grass at sunset. The person is holding an open book in their left hand and has their right arm raised towards the sky. The background is a dramatic sky with orange and yellow clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is one of praise and devotion.

**Let us praise the Lord,
kum ba yah.
O Lord, kum ba yah!**



PRELUDE



**WELCOME
&
ANNOUNCEMENT**



Birthday/Anniversary



CALL TO WORSHIP



Leader: Look to the heavens, people of God.

People: See the power of the Most High God.

Leader: Christ ascends to heaven in glory.

People: Shout to God with cries of joy.

Leader: Clap your hand, children of Love incarnate.

All: Sing praises to God, our king.



OPENING SONG

“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

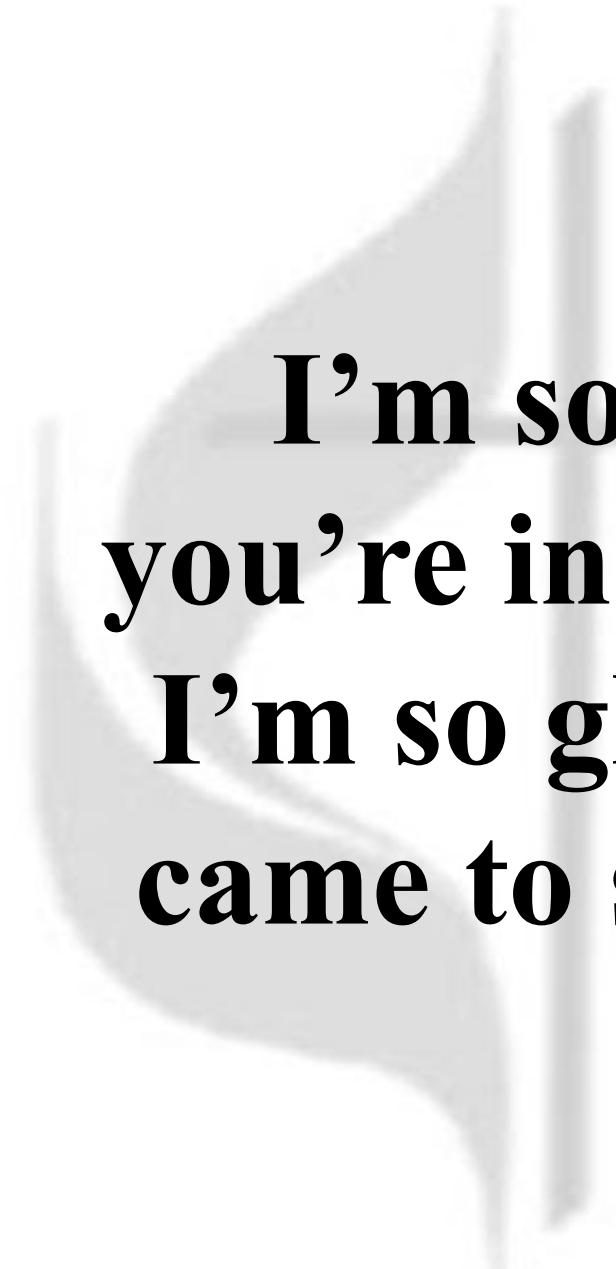
Lord, I Lift Your

2088

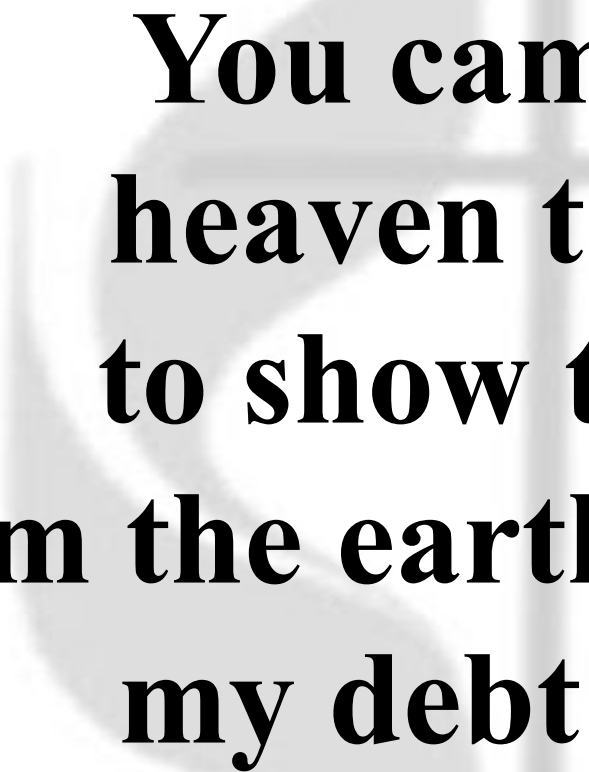
Name on High

Rick Founds (1 Cor. 15:3-4)

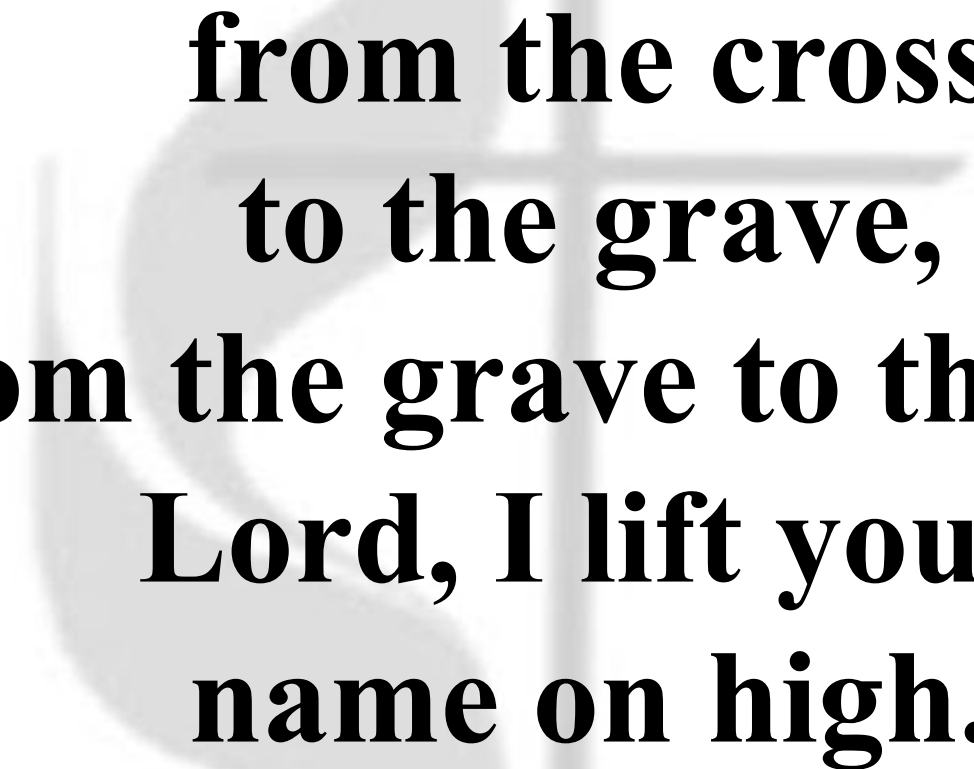
**Lord, I lift your
name on high;
Lord, I love to
sing your praises.**



**I'm so glad
you're in my life;
I'm so glad you
came to save us.**




**You came from
heaven to earth,
to show the way,
from the earth to the cross
my debt to pay;**



**from the cross
to the grave,
from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift your
name on high.**



OPENING PRAYER



God, Most High, as Christ ascended into the heavens, may our hearts ascend to you. Open our eyes to the power of your Spirit and open our lives to the fullness of your power, that we may be clothed with power on high. Help us wait patiently for the baptism of your Spirit, that we may be found worthy of your great gifts. Amen.



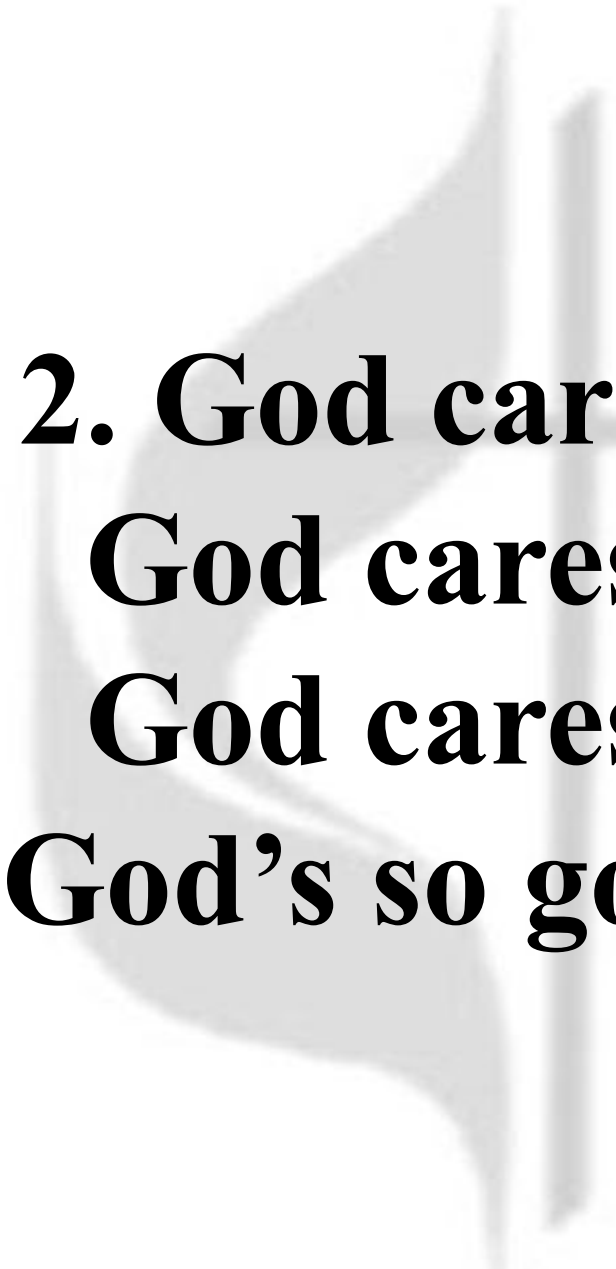
“God Is So Good”

God Is So Good


2056

Trad.

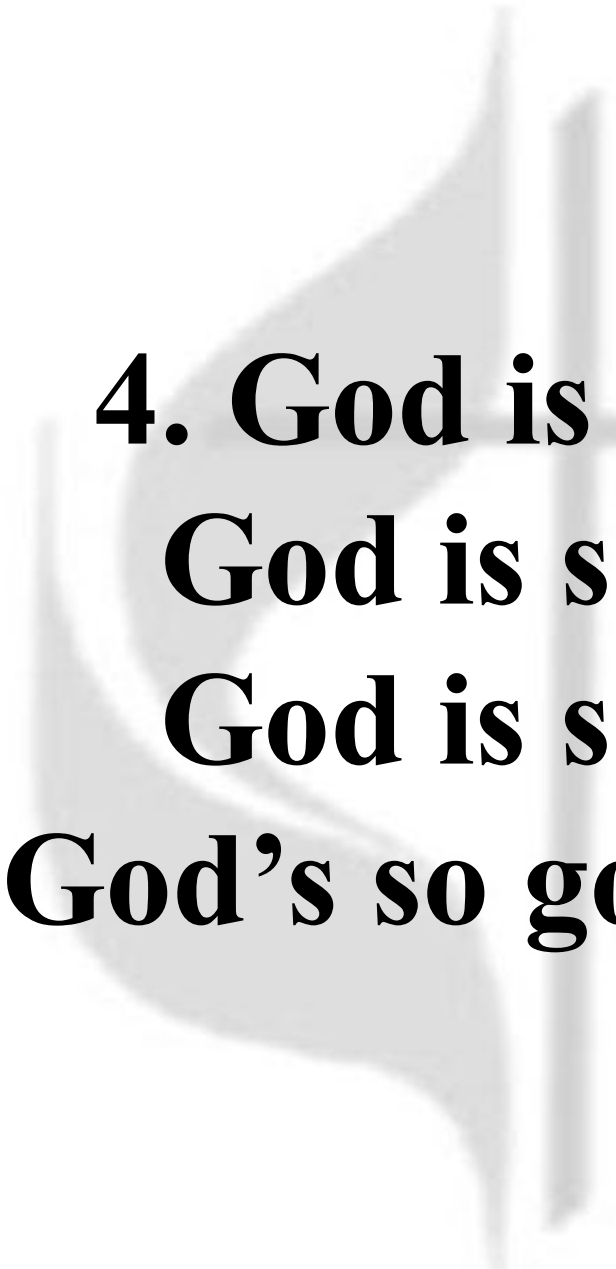
**1. God is so good,
God is so good,
God is so good,
God's so good to me.**



**2. God cares for me,
God cares for me,
God cares for me,
God's so good to me.**



**3. God loves me so,
God loves me so,
God loves me so,
God's so good to me.**



**4. God is so good,
God is so good,
God is so good,
God's so good to me.**



OFFERING

Praising God with Our Gifts

Open Doors with Loving Hearts



“DOXOLOGY”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE




PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.




SCRIPTURE

ACTS 1:6-14



6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses •in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” 9 After he said this, he was taken up before



their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” 12 Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the

hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. 13 When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.





SERMON

!

**“WHO KNOWS WHEN JESUS WILL RETURN?
NOT I...DO YOU?”**



PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we yearn for the promise of your glorious inheritance but settle for less. We long to see with the eyes of our hearts enlightened, that we might aspire to the glories of Christ above. Teach us anew to wait for your Holy Spirit, that we may be clothed with power on high. In the name of the one who ascended to heaven to show us the way to live here on earth, we pray. Amen.



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Wait in patient for God's Spirit. Wait in longing for the hope to which we are called. God will fill us with Christ's glorious Spirit and clothe us with power on high. Amen.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE



The Lord's Prayer



**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name thy
kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven. Give
us this day our daily bread; and
forgive us our trespasses as we
forgive those who trespass**



**against us. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from
evil, for thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory
forever. Amen.**



CLOSING SONG

“THE SUMMONS”

The Summons

2130

John Bell

**1. Will you come
and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go
where you don't know
and never be the same?**

**Will you let
my love be shown,
will you let
my name be known,
will you let
my life be grown in you
and you in me?**

**2. Will you leave
yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care
for cruel and kind
and never be the same?**

**Will you risk
the hostile stare
should your life
attract or scare?**

**Will you let
me answer prayer in you
and you in me?**

**3. Will you let
the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set
the prisoners free
and never be the same?**

**Will you kiss
the leper clean,
and do such
as this unseen,
and admit to
what I mean in you
and you in me?**

**4. Will you love
the “you” you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell
the fear inside
and never be the same?**

**Will you use the
faith you've found
to reshape the
world around,
through my sight and
touch and sound in you
and you in me?**

**5. Lord, your summons
echoes true
when you but
call my name.
Let me turn
and follow you
and never be the same.**

**In your company I'll go
where your love
and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move
and live and grow in you
and you in me.**



BENEDICTION





Lift your eyes to the heavens. We lift them to the one who ascended in glory. Trust the power of God's Holy Spirit. We embrace the one who clothe us with power. Go as witnesses of the risen Lord. We celebrate the one who bring us eternal life.



564 Threefold Amen

Walter Henry Hall (1862-1935)

A-men, A-men, A - - - men.

CARRY OUT THE LIGHT

