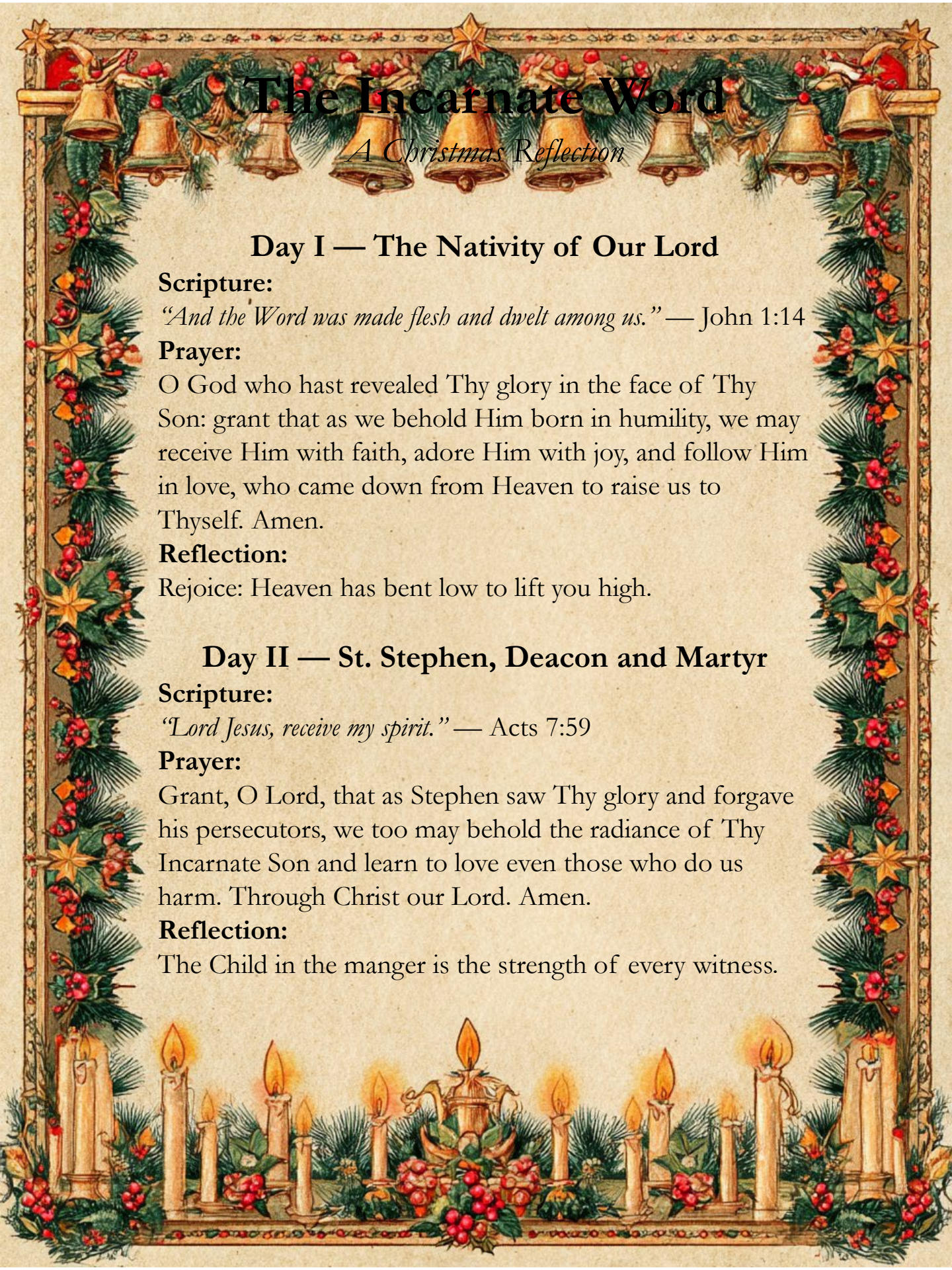




The Incarnate Word

A Christmas Reflection

Day I — The Nativity of Our Lord

Scripture:

"And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." — John 1:14

Prayer:

O God who hast revealed Thy glory in the face of Thy Son: grant that as we behold Him born in humility, we may receive Him with faith, adore Him with joy, and follow Him in love, who came down from Heaven to raise us to Thyself. Amen.

Reflection:

Rejoice: Heaven has bent low to lift you high.

Day II — St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Scripture:

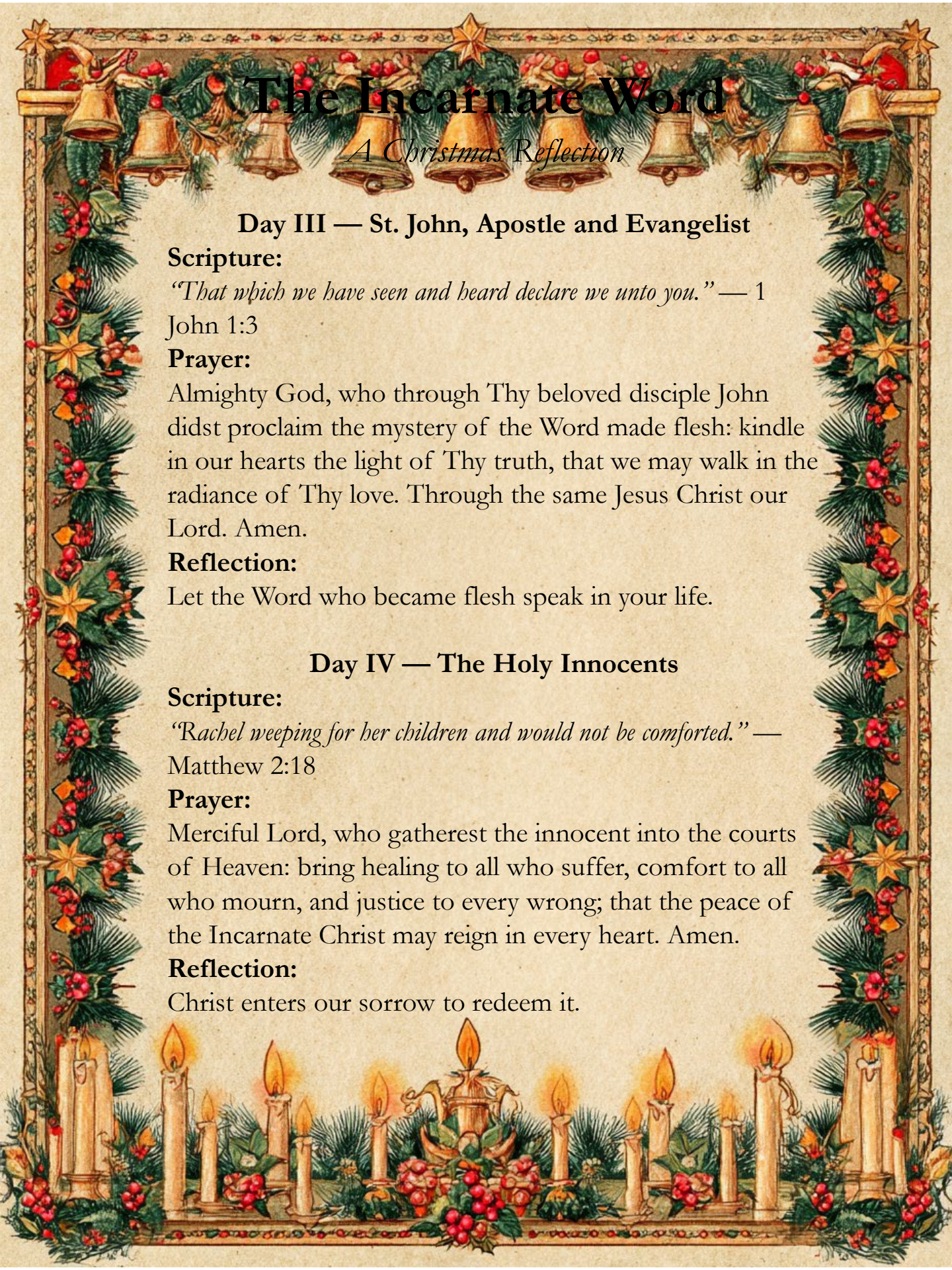
"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." — Acts 7:59

Prayer:

Grant, O Lord, that as Stephen saw Thy glory and forgave his persecutors, we too may behold the radiance of Thy Incarnate Son and learn to love even those who do us harm. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reflection:

The Child in the manger is the strength of every witness.



The Incarnate Word

A Christmas Reflection

Day III — St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Scripture:

"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you." — 1 John 1:3

Prayer:

Almighty God, who through Thy beloved disciple John didst proclaim the mystery of the Word made flesh: kindle in our hearts the light of Thy truth, that we may walk in the radiance of Thy love. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reflection:

Let the Word who became flesh speak in your life.

Day IV — The Holy Innocents

Scripture:

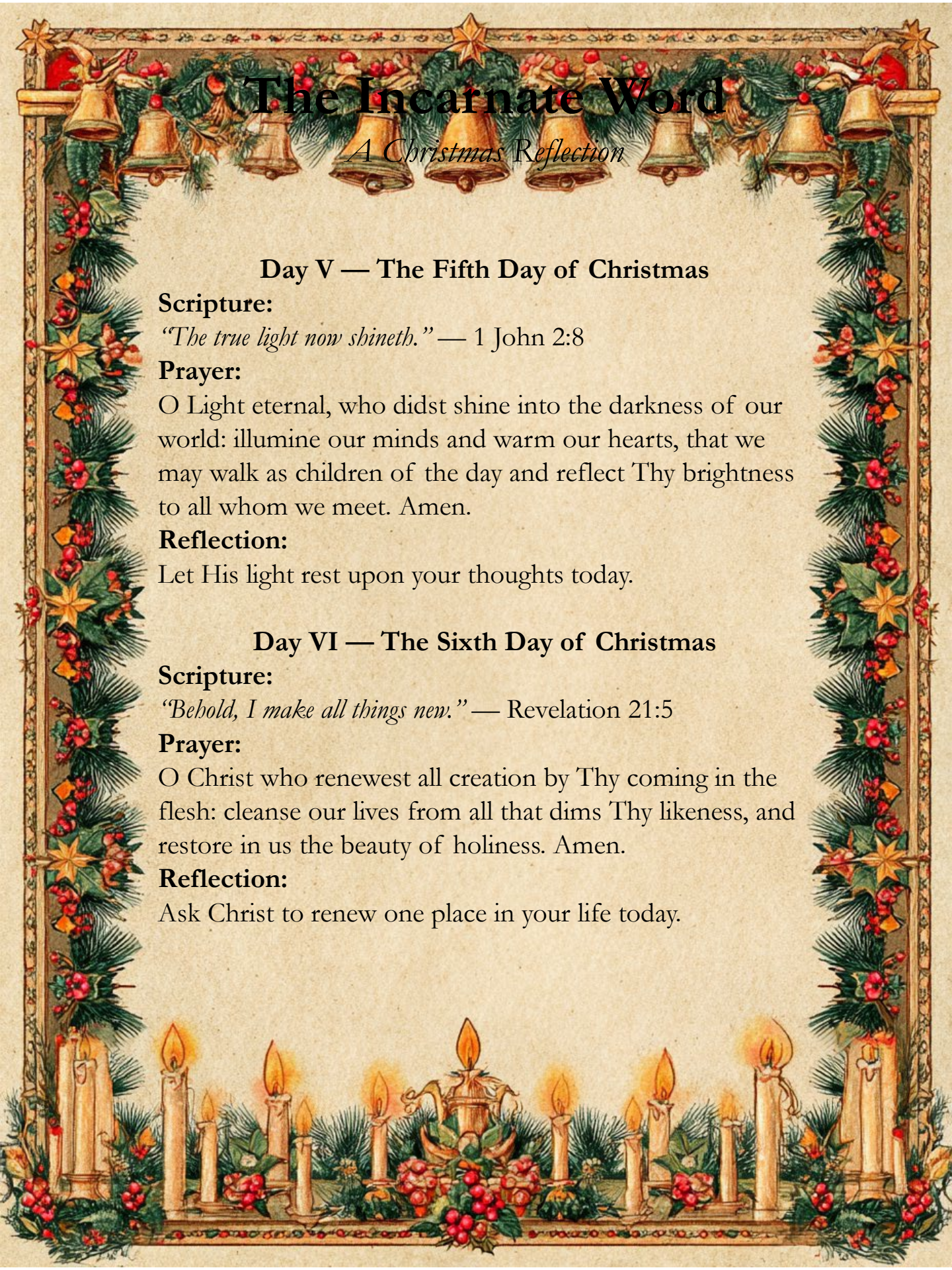
"Rachel weeping for her children and would not be comforted." — Matthew 2:18

Prayer:

Merciful Lord, who gatherest the innocent into the courts of Heaven: bring healing to all who suffer, comfort to all who mourn, and justice to every wrong; that the peace of the Incarnate Christ may reign in every heart. Amen.

Reflection:

Christ enters our sorrow to redeem it.



The Incarnate Word

A Christmas Reflection

Day V — The Fifth Day of Christmas

Scripture:

"The true light now shineth." — 1 John 2:8

Prayer:

O Light eternal, who didst shine into the darkness of our world: illumine our minds and warm our hearts, that we may walk as children of the day and reflect Thy brightness to all whom we meet. Amen.

Reflection:

Let His light rest upon your thoughts today.

Day VI — The Sixth Day of Christmas

Scripture:

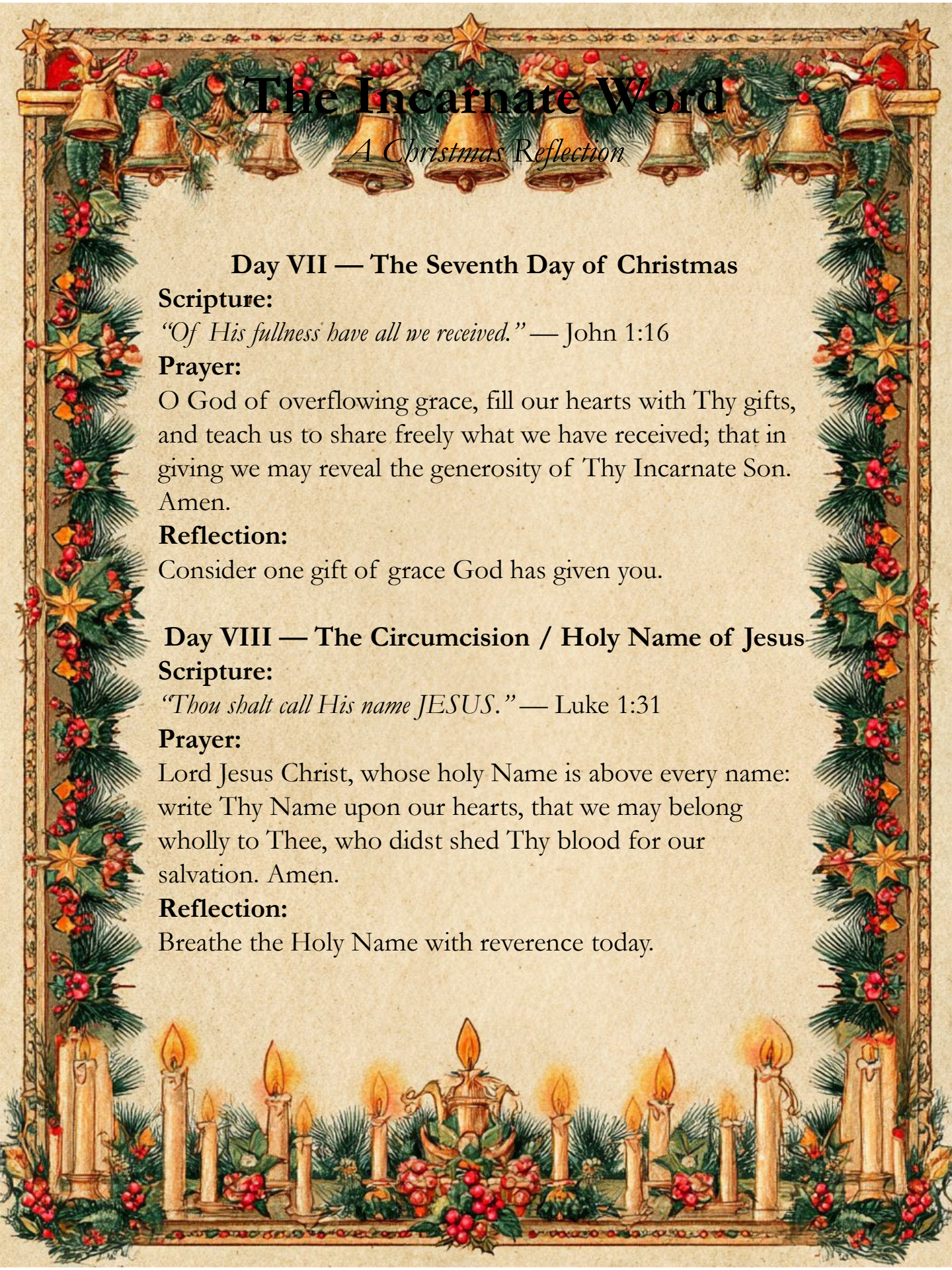
"Behold, I make all things new." — Revelation 21:5

Prayer:

O Christ who renewest all creation by Thy coming in the flesh: cleanse our lives from all that dims Thy likeness, and restore in us the beauty of holiness. Amen.

Reflection:

Ask Christ to renew one place in your life today.



The Incarnate Word

A Christmas Reflection

Day VII — The Seventh Day of Christmas

Scripture:

"Of His fullness have all we received." — John 1:16

Prayer:

O God of overflowing grace, fill our hearts with Thy gifts, and teach us to share freely what we have received; that in giving we may reveal the generosity of Thy Incarnate Son. Amen.

Reflection:

Consider one gift of grace God has given you.

Day VIII — The Circumcision / Holy Name of Jesus

Scripture:

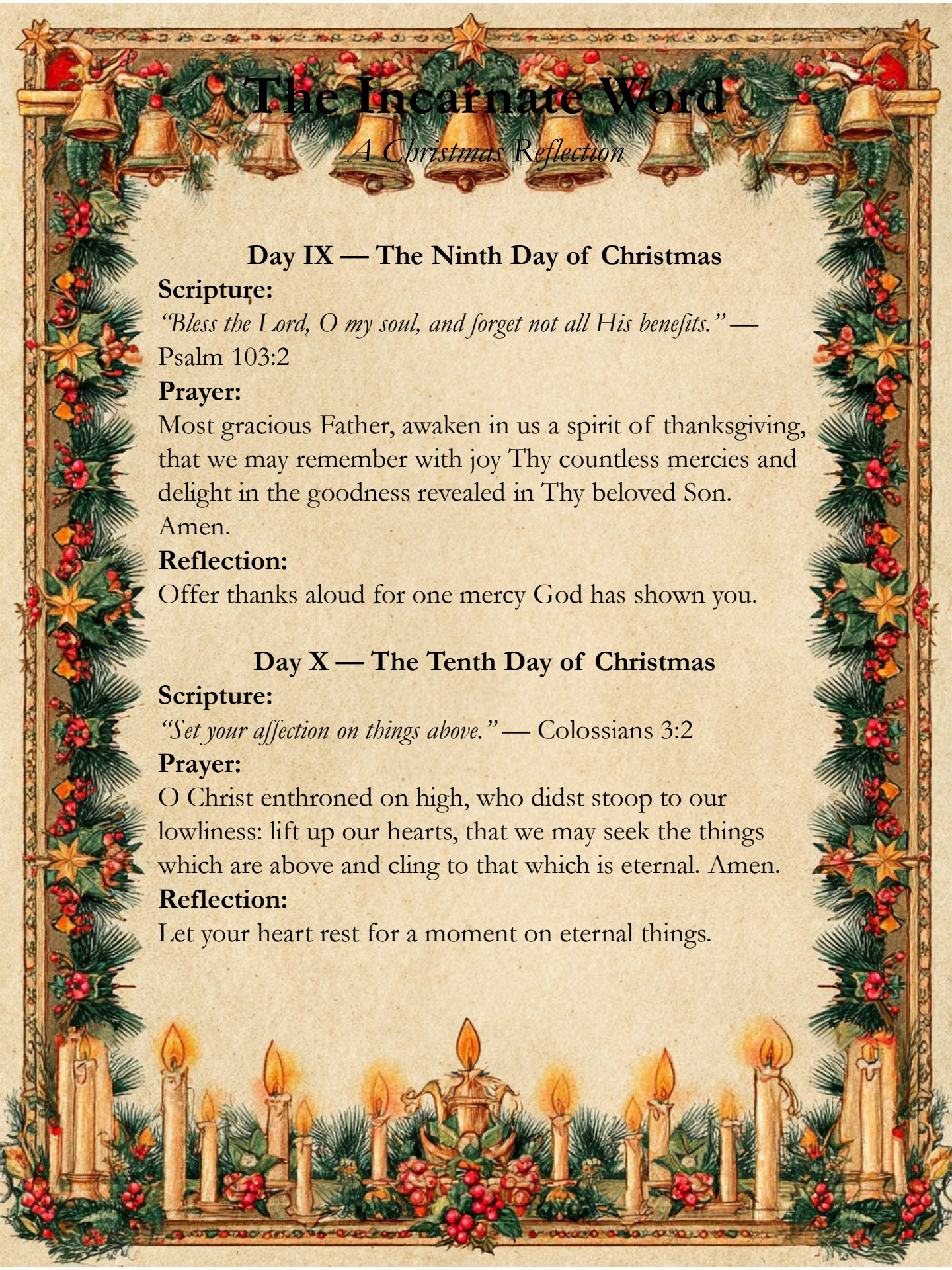
"Thou shalt call His name JESUS." — Luke 1:31

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, whose holy Name is above every name: write Thy Name upon our hearts, that we may belong wholly to Thee, who didst shed Thy blood for our salvation. Amen.

Reflection:

Breathe the Holy Name with reverence today.



The Incarnate Word

A Christmas Reflection

Day IX — The Ninth Day of Christmas

Scripture:

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits." —

Psalms 103:2

Prayer:

Most gracious Father, awaken in us a spirit of thanksgiving, that we may remember with joy Thy countless mercies and delight in the goodness revealed in Thy beloved Son. Amen.

Reflection:

Offer thanks aloud for one mercy God has shown you.

Day X — The Tenth Day of Christmas

Scripture:

"Set your affection on things above." — Colossians 3:2

Prayer:

O Christ enthroned on high, who didst stoop to our lowliness: lift up our hearts, that we may seek the things which are above and cling to that which is eternal. Amen.

Reflection:

Let your heart rest for a moment on eternal things.



The Incarnate Word

A Christmas Reflection

Day XI — The Eleventh Day of Christmas

Scripture:

"Arise, shine, for thy light is come." — Isaiah 60:1

Prayer:

O God of glory, who shinest upon all nations: stir up in us a longing for Thy presence, that we may be ready to behold the appearing of Thy Son in His majesty. Amen.

Reflection:

Ask God to awaken expectancy in your heart.

Day XII — Eve of the Epiphany

Scripture:

"We have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him."

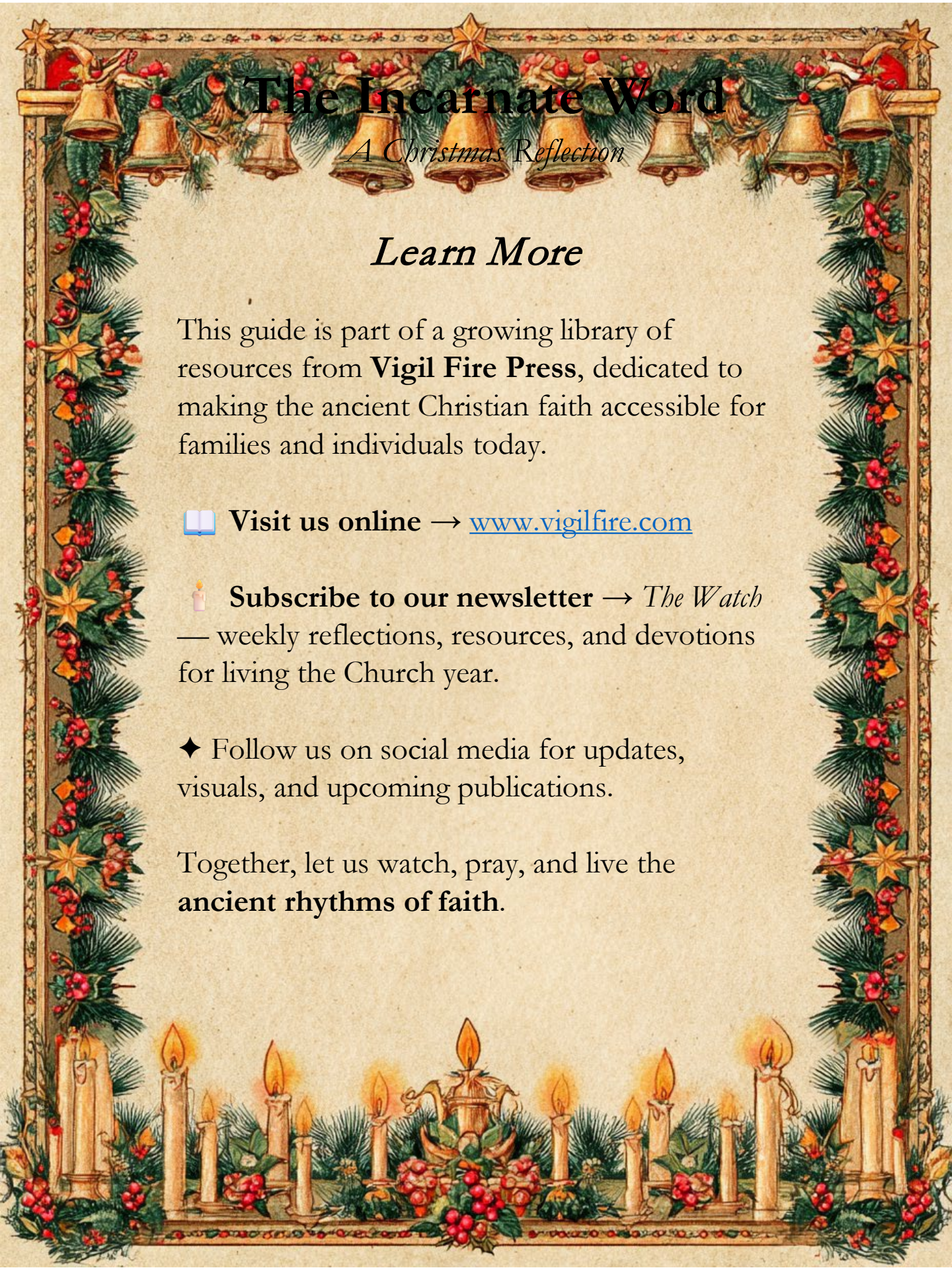
— Matthew 2:2

Prayer:

O Lord who didst guide the Magi by a star: lead us ever toward Thy light, prepare our homes for Thy blessing, and set our hearts to worship Thee in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reflection:

Prepare a place in your home for tomorrow's blessing.



The Incarnate Word

A Christmas Reflection

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