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### GOOD MORNING/INVOCATION – Bobby & Hannah

BS: This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Good morning.

HS: And it is a good morning and we are so happy that you're here. Welcome. Faith is not passive. Faith is a step out and step up. So let's act our faith today in mighty worship. Thank you for being here. We love you.

BS: Amen. Haven's on a missionary trip in Mexico right now, so Cohen's helping us keep it real, right Cohen? Yes.

Let's pray – Father, thank you so much for calling us into your house. We pray that this time, this would really be a sanctuary for us. Many of us going through difficult things and challenges. Lord, we're grateful that we can gather here and just take a break from the many stresses and difficulties of life and come here to just lift up your name. This is for an audience of one. We're coming to glorify the name of Jesus Christ, so Lord we thank you, thank you, thank you for all you've done, and it's in your name we pray, all God's people said, amen.

HS: Amen! Turn to the person next to you and say God loves you and so do I.

### SCRIPTURE – 2.Samuel 6,12-14 – Hannah Schuller

Would you open your Bibles with me to 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 6:12. Now King David was told, "The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and everything he has, because of the ark of God." So David went to bring up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing. When those who were carrying the ark of the Lord had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf. Wearing a linen ephod, David was dancing before the Lord with all his might. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

### DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Well welcome, we're so glad you're here. Would all of you, let's stand together. We're going to say this creed together as we do every week. Hold your hands like this as a way of receiving from the Lord. Let's say this together: I'm not what I do. I'm not what I have. I'm not what people say about me. I am the beloved of God. That's who I am. No one can take it from me. I don't have to worry, I don't have to hurry, I can trust my friend Jesus and share His love with my neighbor. Thanks you can be seated.

### MESSAGE/PRAYER – Uncommon People Get Uncommon Rewards

Let's talk today about the importance of being peculiar; a peculiar people; of being maybe a little bit weird, or as young people might say, a little bit extra. A little bit different. A little bit outside of the norm. A little bit socially awkward on purpose. Being uncommon.

Today I want to talk about the importance for your life of being uncommon. These characteristics, I believe, are necessary and helpful in your life. Yes, they're helpful in your business, yes they're helpful in your ministry, yes they're helpful in your parenting, they're helpful in the organizations you're on, they're helpful in the goals that you achieve, but in particular, the importance of being uncommon, of not fitting in, of being peculiar, of being a touch odd, these things are very, very important when it comes to the spiritual life, because who here knows that spiritual people are a little bit off. And not only that, I believe this is the key to being a happy person. It's a key to being a successful person. It's a key to being a free person.

I read years ago, there was a study about people's biggest fears. The number two fear that people always listed was death. The number one fear was public speaking. So you might have heard this before, but that means more people would prefer to be in the casket than giving the eulogy.

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It is strange how what's your biggest fear, the most common thing was getting in front of a bunch of people, a bunch of eyeballs looking at me, two per person in most cases and giving a speech, saying something, putting yourself out there.

And so we have these fears. Fears of speaking, fears of presenting, fears of doing something at my job, fears of giving a talk or teaching a class. But those fears expend other things. Fears of showing up to school in my underwear. Fears of being accused falsely. Fears of being fired. Fears of being humiliated. Fears of somebody saying something about me on social media.

And so these fears actually can entangle us where in our desire to manage our reputations and the way people view us, we become slaves and we fit right in. And yet, the people we admire most in life are likely to give a speech, a presentation, a power point, they're likely to say something controversial, they're likely to press or present, or give an idea that's not popular. And yes, they are likely to be accused, likely to be ridiculed. Someone's coming to mind right now, His name is Jesus Christ, who was all of these things, except for the power point. I don't think they had power point in Jerusalem. But Jesus was all of those things, and more.

And so in a way to become like Christ, there is a part of us that has to become, I guess you could say, comfortable with being uncomfortable. And why? Because of rewards. Now don't fool yourself. Jesus likes using rewards as a motive. When I memorized the Sermon on the Mount all those years ago, that was the thing that stood out the most to me was how often He said what reward will you get? What reward will you get if you do this? What reward will you get if you do that? Here's the reward you'll get if you do this. There is a reward. There are uncommon rewards for uncommon people. There are extraordinary rewards for extraordinary people. Uncommon people get uncommon rewards, that's right. So let's get those rewards. Let's get it, let's get it by getting freedom today. Freedom. Freedom. We're going to get some freedom.

Now King David, a central character in the Bible, has captured the imaginations of people for a long time. For me, one of the reasons King David stands out to me a lot is he has quite a number of flaws. He does a number of things that don't seem good or right, and yet unlike many of the other kings and people in the Old Testament, in particular, God seems to have extra grace, even extra favor for David. He seems to like lift up David more than everybody else.

And I think it's worth meditating and asking the question, if that's true, why does that happen for David unlike a lot of the others? What is it about David that he seems to really get ahold of God's heart? What is it about this king that does this? It's a deep mystery. I still haven't gotten to the bottom of, and you can take it or leave it. Take it with a grain of salt or leave it, but I heard this from Juan Carlos Ortiz, who mentored me all those years ago.

In this strange idea he presented was that there are three types of sin. The first type of sin is the sin of the flesh. That's a sin everybody can see. That's stealing, right? That's, whatever, getting drunk or doing some kind of visible obvious sin. Old days, they used to say 'don't smoke, don't drink, don't chew, don't go with girls that do,' or whatever. The obvious.. not all of those are sins, but...

Then there is the sin of the mind. A sin of the mind is something that we're also taught not to do, but it's more veiled, right? That's envy. Its contempt, bitterness, a deep un-forgiveness. Maybe it's a spinning your mind in fear. Maybe it's pride, and you go maybe it's lust. Right? These different feelings that we have that are in our head that we think about. The Ten Commandments, the last one is, "do not covet." "Thou shalt not covet." It's a sin of the mind.

But then Juan Carlos said there's a third, and that is a sin of the spirit. And this is one that cannot be written down in writing because it's just between you and God, and this is the weird one. It's between you and God. That nobody else would ever know, you would never get in trouble for it, but somehow you know. And to Juan Carlos this was the worst kind.

This is Moses, when God tells him to speak to the rock, but instead of speaking the rock, he hits the rock, like he did the first time. And by the way, he hits the rock twice, so it's almost like he gets the second chance to not mess up. And what's even weirder about that story is the miracle still works. The water still comes out of the rock. God still provides the water, and nobody seems to know, and yet Moses knows. And you remember the punishment for that spiritual sin? He couldn't enter the Promised Land. That was the one.

So I think, going back to David, the reason, maybe, this is just me talking, that David had such favor with God is I think He cared more about the spiritual sins than He did about the flesh sins, which were numerous. David cared more about pleasing and honoring God and lifting up God and being in God's presence than he was managing his own behavior. Take that or leave that.

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Today, Hannah read the story about the establishing of Jerusalem. Beautiful story. Goes like this. King David unites the tribes of Israel. They take Jerusalem from the Jebusites, and now it's time to bring the Ark of the Covenant into the city of Jerusalem, into the city of David. He's converted the fortress into his palace, they're going to bring the ark.. now you may recall the ark of the covenant from Indiana Jones and Raiders of the Lost Ark. The Nazi killing, golden box. This was in the Old Testament a very sacred, important artifact. In fact, it was the throne of God. That God sat upon the throne, the Ark of the Covenant, between the cherubim. And wherever the ark was, God was.

So David decides to put the Ark of the Covenant on a wagon and have it pulled by ox because it's very heavy. But there's a problem with that, for those of you who are scholars. The Torah says specifically that the ark can only be carried by Levites and they have to be carried by hand on poles. I don't know if David didn't know that, or if he was in a hurry, or maybe it was too heavy, but for whatever reason, the ark is placed on this wagon and its moving along on Bronze Age roads, right? Which are made of dirt. So what's happening is this cart is probably going ba ba ba ba ba ba ba ba ba, so they're already broke the rule by not carrying it. But now you can almost picture like God sitting on the throne going (MAKES JITTERY NOISES) it's not appropriate. And here's the ark bouncing around down the road.

And finally it gets stuck and a guy, captain in, I think, in the army named Uzza. A lot of people think it falls and he catches it. It also could be more that it gets stuck like in a pothole, and Uzza, just to add insult to injury, kind of decides he's going to kind of like shove the wagon out, right? And immediately when his hand or his shoulder or whatever touches the ark, he dies. And this dark sort of emotional blanket comes over everybody because they were excited, and everybody's like oh my gosh, what's going on. Terrifying.

King David is afraid and angry at God, and they don't know what to do, and so they decide to put the Ark of the Covenant in one of the guys' houses. Obed. Obed-Edom. I think Edom is Hebrew for Guinea pig because they want to see what happens to this this ark, and to Obed's family. So they put the ark in Obed's house for about three months, there it sits, and the Bible tells us, who knows, that Obed's house, we don't know what this means, but was 'extremely blessed.' So that could be money, it could be health, it could be life; a lot of good was happening. And they took from that observation, hey, the ark is good, we just broke the rules. Let's obey the rules. Let's treat it sacredly. Let's do it the right way. Let's do it the way it's supposed to be done.

And so this time, these 30,000 men and this parade, every six feet they stop and they make a sacrifice. They carry the ark on poles instead of on the thing. And King David, who likely the first time was dressed as a king and was all decorum and was marching like a military, now, to add respect, he's dancing and praising, and he's dressed as a.. who remembers? The choir remembers because they already heard this sermon. He was dressed as a priest, that's right. Dressed as a priest in linen with an ephod. And he's dancing like a wild man. Excited that the presence of God was coming into Jerusalem and everybody's celebrating and cakes and bread are given out, and gifts are given to the people and there's much rejoicing.

Here's a key observation from this story. King David sees dancing, praise, singing and music as respect. Here's another way. If we can invert that. David saw the lack of dancing, the lack of praise, the lack of carrying it on sticks, the lack of dressing like a priest as disrespect and desired to dance with all of his heart before the presence of the Lord, even though it was unbecoming of a king. You see?

Who pointed that out? Well, his wife, Michal, who was a princess. She was the daughter of the wicked King Saul, the foolish King Saul. Now she was raised that kings dress like kings. And kings present like kings. And they have decorum, and this kind of thing. And here she sees her husband, the new king dancing like a wild man. There's one point, apparently, where a bunch of girls are hootin' and hollerin' at the king. She didn't like that. And she says something to the degree like oh my king, who is dressing and dancing like a half-naked man before the slave girls, or something like this. Didn't like it. What does King David say? I will celebrate before the Lord. I will become even more (can you say it aloud) (AUDIENCE RESPONDS – undignified) a little louder like (AUDIENCE RESPONDS – undignified) yeah, okay. Then this – and I will be, one more, (AUDIENCE RESPONDS – humiliated) humiliated in my own eyes. This is a king of Israel. You see? This is why God loves David so much. This is it, right here.

King versus king. Saul versus David. What does Saul care about, we see in his story. We've looked at it before. Here's what Saul cares about. Saul cares about glory.

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Here's the question Saul's asking – how do I get glory? How do I get approval from my men, for my soldiers, for my peers, for my enemies? Rarely asking it of God.

Here's King David's question – how do I please God, even if I look like an animal, even if I look stupid, even if I look ridiculous? How do I please God? That is the question. That's a question. And what kind of person does that kind of a question create? It's this strange combination of being deeply principled and wild. Deeply principled and wild, and that's what I hope for you.

I think that's the combination for the spiritual life, that so many of us, whether we know it or not, are looking for. My grandpa Kerry was a pilot, or is a pilot for American Airlines, and he was, when I was a kid, trying to explain to me how a flight works in physics. And he said there's four things at play. There's lift and weight that neutralize each other, and then there's thrust and drag, and that's how a plane flies. And so to explain it to a child, he said picture a kite. This is how a kite works. Lift is the wind pushing the kite up in the air, and weight is the string holding the kite down to the earth. If there's no weight, and just wind, then the kite's going to fall to the earth. But if there's too much weight, if you pull too hard on the string, the kite will also come down. So actually too much lift, and too much weight both cause the kite to come down. You need a balance to neutralize it, to get flight. How many you know this: I think this is the spiritual life. Finding the strange balance between being principled and being wild. Finding the strange balance between the depth of the word and the fire of the spirit.

When I was at Oral Roberts University, the college I went to is a Pentecostal Christian college, and can I tell you, there was a lot of wind, a lot of fire, a lot of dancing in the aisles, a lot of speaking in tongues, a lot of praising aloud, a lot of jumping up and down, a lot of dancing, a lot of prophecy, a lot of crazy stuff, a lot of weird stuff. And can I tell you, when I was there, I thought to myself many times, I wish this was a little more rooted. We need some rules around here! We need some principled people! We need to just sit down and talk, right?

And then later, I went to Fuller Theological Seminary, and how many of you know there were a lot of students working on their Greek and their Hebrew and their doctrine and all this stuff. And many times I thought we need a little fire here. You can't read your way to heaven. You can't read your way to victory. You can't read your way to overcoming, to being a flame for the Lord. You need some fire in here!

And so I think there is something. I think there's something to that balance. But can I tell you, I think in the church today, we need more fire. I don't think we need more weight. We got a lot of weight, especially Presbyterians. We need some fire. We need some wind. We need some lift. Lift. We got enough drag, we got enough weight, we need lift.

Why? Why wind? Why fire? Why be a flame in life? Why go for it? Why be uncommon? Why be deeply principled and wild? Why be weird? Why be a peculiar people? Why? Here's why. Because uncommon people get uncommon rewards. Crazy people get crazy good rewards sometimes. The glory seeking, people affirming, people pleasing life, here's what it gets, people sized rewards. That's what Jesus tells us. That's the reward you get for pleasing people.

Here's what people rewards look like. It looks like this. A soft clap, right? That's what you take to your grave. But pleasing God gives us God-sized rewards. This is what we need in life. God-sized rewards, which aside from salvation, are miracles, open doors. God-sized rewards are opportunity. God-sized vision, fresh vision for your life. God-sized goals. Healing, provision. Life-long friends that will help you along the journey. That's what God has for you. But you have to break free. You got to break free. Break free.

We love people, we help people, we serve people, we forgive people, we encourage people, we serve people, but do not be controlled by people. Be controlled by the Lord. Amen? And you'll be free. You'll be free. So let's get free. All right.

Here's some things, a little smorgasbord of Bobby's ideas for you for a little bit of freedom from people, okay? Number one, don't let little things cheat you out of big opportunity. I do this a lot. We all do this very often. A woman I know well, when she went to her daughter's wedding, she was really excited about that moment where you get your daughter ready for her wedding. You help her put her dress on and help her do her hair and makeup, and make her look right, and give her a hug and pray with her. Well there was another woman from the groom's side, an old lady who wanted to get her hair done before the wedding, and asked this woman, can you take me to get my hair done? And that process got delayed and delayed and delayed to the point where she missed out on helping her daughter get ready for the wedding. That's the end of the story.

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Now we resonate with that, don't we? Very innocent. In the desire to help someone that's almost a stranger, you are unable to be there for the person when they need you the most, in a precious and special way to you, also. Don't let little things cheat you out of big opportunity.

It's weird how sometimes trying to love everyone keeps us from loving the people we're supposed to love the right way. This is also true for creators, by the way, as an aside. Most leaders have to create. I have to create, I have to write sermons and books and things like that. And many of you, you have to create a product for your business, or you have to create copy, an ad, or you have to create a lesson for your classroom, or whatever it is. You got to create a thing but to create the thing, you need large blocks of at least three/four hours uninterrupted. You can't put even a 15-minute phone call in the middle of that, or it ruins the whole block. Managers don't understand that. But sometimes you have to be a manager, too, and here's what managers do – they want to cram everything together. And so someone like me, sometimes I have my manager hat on, and sometimes I have my creator hat on. So when I'm a manager, I want all of my meetings to be clumped together – ba ba ba ba ba ba ba ba and that's good. But when I'm creating, you want them to be on another time, not intermittently. Okay, take that or leave it. That one's free.

Don't say yes.. I think it was Bill Gaultiere who said this, but I'm not sure. Don't say yes when you don't have a yes to give. Was that you, Bill? That is a Bill Gaultiere quote. Sorry, I didn't quote you. He's my friend, so I think he'll forgive me. Don't say yes when you don't have a yes to give.

All right, number two, practice a positive no. You can say no in a positive way. Isn't that nice? A no seems like it's always going to be negative, but it's not. I learned this from a book from William Ury, the great process. You know I say no to people all the time? I even say no.. I have said no to my closest friends multiple times. I've said no to my family members multiple times. Back when I had a boss, I've said no to my boss. I've said no on a couple occasions to board members. I've said no to people I really am trying to impress or help, I've said no. I've even said no one time to my daughter, which is saying something. She's so charming and cute. Saying no Haven Schuller is very, very hard. Very hard, even for the strongest of us.

But here's how you do a no the right way. You give a positive no. A positive no looks like this: yes, no, yes. It's like a no sandwich. Yes, no, yes. So you're hiring for someone, someone applies for a role, yes you're a talented person in this way, no I don't think you're a good fit for this role, but yes we have somewhere else we'd like to put you. Or, same thing where you're not hiring them, yes, you're a talented person, you have some skills, but no I don't think you're a good fit here, but yes, I have some things you could work on where you might be ready for this role by next year. You see what I'm saying how that's still a no, but it's a positive no. Okay? So work on that. You can practice other no's like I don't think so right now, but if I change my mind, I'll call you and let you know. See, that's not that hard. But it feels hard. Okay, so positive no.

Here's the most important thing – don't get in this horrible new thing where you leave people hanging. If somebody sends you an invite, if someone asks you a yes or no, if someone applies for something, let them know it's no or yes, but let them know. Don't leave them hanging. As my daughter's generation says, don't leave them on red. Like don't leave them hanging. Don't leave it just out there. Let them know. Be honest. Respect yourself by being honest. Don't leave people hanging.

Why do we say no to so many people that we love and care about? Why do we say no to so many things? It's so we can say yes to the good things. We say no to the good things, so we can yes to the great things. Okay? You guys say no to me all the time. I say no to you, it's fine. All right.

Number three – this one is worth the price of gold. This one, if you're sleeping, wake up. If you want to write something down, write this down. I don't know what it is about this idea. I've been practicing this for two years, from Benjamin Disraeli, one of my all-time favorite quotes – never complain, never explain.

Try this. This is good. There's something of self-respect in this and dignity that is very hard to.. it's weird how often we're always trying to explain everything to everyone, even though they're not asking for an explanation. You go to a restaurant. Would you like something to drink? How about a soda? I normally get a soda, but I'm not going to get a soda today, I'm just going to have a glass of water because I'm quitting soda for a month. The server doesn't care. Just say I'd like a glass of water. It is amazing, watch, how often you explain some thing to people, and they're like okay. If they ask for an explanation, like your mother or your wife, you can give it to them, and they will. That's what mom's and wives do. But if they don't ask for it, they probably don't want it, they just want the info. All right? You try that one.

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Next one. This is a good one. Become un-offendable. Become un-offendable. You want to please God, just forgive people. Doesn't mean that what they're doing is okay, but forgive them. Let it go, especially with strangers. You can forgive a monkey for monkey'ing around. Did you know that? You can forgive a mule for acting like a mule. You can forgive a dog for acting like a dog. You can forgive a pig for acting like a pig. You can forgive a scorpion for acting like a scorpion. You can forgive a shark for acting like a shark. You can forgive a chicken for acting like a chicken. A man does what he does according to his nature, said Marcus Aurelius. And one of the best things you can do to help people change to become the wonderful creatures that God has created them to become, is to forgive them.

I was with a friend of mine years ago, and we were standing in line somewhere or something, and some guy, I think he got us mixed up with someone else, came up and give this gnarly insult to both of us. And my response immediately was my fist tightened up and my teeth clamped and my brow furled and my heart rate went up and I was ready to let go or fight or something, I don't know. And my friend seeming unscathed looked at him and he goes "that's interesting." And the temperature went to zero. And I looked at my friend and I thought wow. That's interesting. That's a good phrase – that's interesting. That's a good thing to say if someone you don't know or you don't care.. that's interesting. It was amazing! And I've used it ever since.

Here's what Jesus says – blessed are you when people insult you. Why are you blessed when people insult you? Here's why – because they can see you. You see? If people can't see you, they can't insult you. But people see you so they're going to insult you. That's part and parcel. Taleb asked people, please ban my book. Please burn my book. One of the best things that could happen to me as a pastor is if on the, I don't know, the cover of the New York Times tomorrow, they said 'all schools should ban Bobby Schuller's book You Are Beloved because God doesn't love everybody.' I don't know. I'm trying to think of something, but attacking someone's book, attacking someone's message, attacking a person for their ideas is one of the best things you can do to help those ideas grow. Isn't that interesting?

So don't get angry over words when people insult you, especially if it's because of your faith. Don't get angry over words. Why? Because anyone who can make you angry with words can control you. Get angry if someone gets physical, get angry if someone steals from you, get angry if someone betrays you, but if a stranger says insulting words to you, you can forgive. You can forgive them and move on, and ask that the Lord would help you, amen?

You can say what? That's interesting. Look, there's always going to be bullies, there's always going to be racists, there's always going to be bad ideas, there's always going to be liars, there's always going to be unjust middle fingers. Now a middle finger is one thing when you deserve it, but an unjust middle finger? When someone gives you a middle finger and you don't know why, and they disappear, and you wonder what was it? And you've got to go to your grave and never knowing what it was that was so unfair. It's going to happen. And here's what you say – that's interesting. That's all it has to be to you. In Oklahoma they used to say don't wrestle with a hogs – because you'll both get dirty and the hog will enjoy it. All right?

Last one – don't judge. Just don't judge people. Unless God's put you in an office of judgment where you have to do that, and if you are in that role, judge with grace, judge with love and kindness, be gentle on the person, but in general, let God do the judging. You don't need to judge people. Here's why – because when we judge people, it makes us hard to be that wild principled person we're called to be. The more we judge, the harder it is to let loose a little bit. The more we judge others, the more we judge ourselves. The harder we are on others, the harder we'll be on ourselves.

You guys remember Simon Cowell from American Idol? Who here has heard Simon Cowell sing? Anyone? You will never hear Simon Cowell, the vocal critic, you'll never hear him sing. Why? Why? Because everybody will do what? They will judge. Everybody will pull out the magnifying glass, any note, anything. See this is the principle. When we judge, we cannot sing, we cannot dance, we cannot be wild, we cannot break things, we can't go on adventure, we can't be outside the box, we can't take a risk, we can't mess up. The more you judge, the more common you'll become. The more you judge, the more ordinary you become, you see. And so your life gets smaller and smaller.

Don't let your negative judgments get bigger than your dreams. Just like David, honor God with your life. And do whatever you can to honor God, even if you look a little crazy sometimes; even a little weird. Just honor God with your life. Just say in your heart, Lord, all I want from life is to honor you. Amen.

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Finally, I would encourage you not to leave here if you're not at peace with God. I want to encourage you to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, to forgive you of your sins that you could be saved, and if you want to make that decision, I encourage you to text me the word HOPE to the number on the screen so we can give you some materials.

All right, who's ready to be uncommon a little bit? Stand with me. Let's bring it before the Lord. Raise your hands with me like this. Father, we thank you that our lives are for you! You made us, God. We lift our hands and our hearts and our minds to the chain-breaking, life-giving, body-healing, bank providing, path making, vision laying God. We thank you, Lord that all we need is in you. We decide today to leave behind all of our burdens and bondage to people pleasing and we decide today, God that we want to honor you with our lives. We thank you, God. We love you and I ask in Jesus' name that every person here would leave with freedom, would leave with healing, would leave with forgiveness, would leave refreshed and renewed, and Lord we thank you and we ask it in the strong name of Jesus, and all God's people said, amen.

### BENEDICTION – Bobby Schuller

And now the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift His countenance upon you and give you His peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, amen.