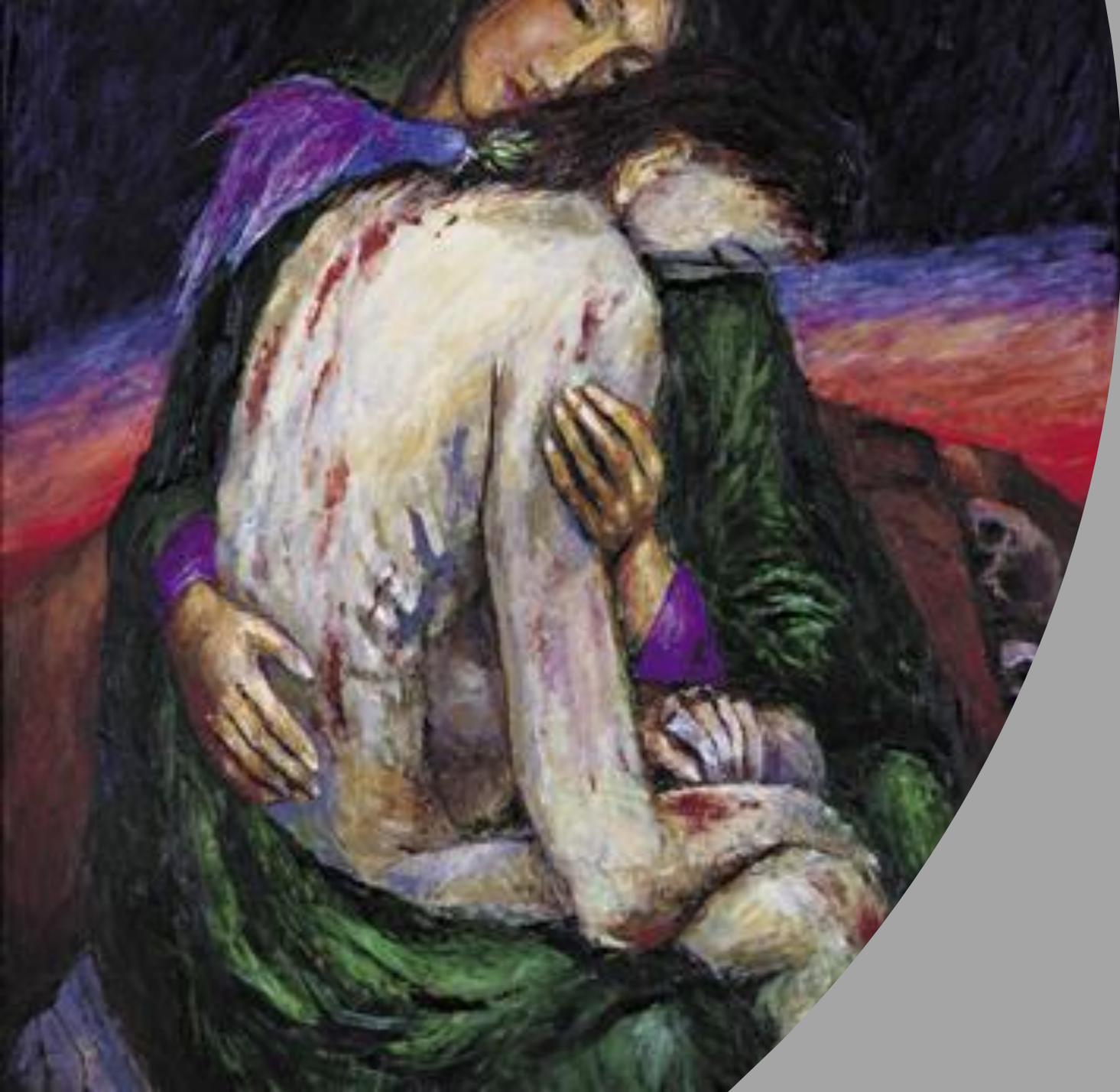


# Jesus is taken down from the cross

*Peace be with you,  
My own peace I give you.  
A peace which  
The world cannot give ,  
This is my gift to you.*

*John 14:27*





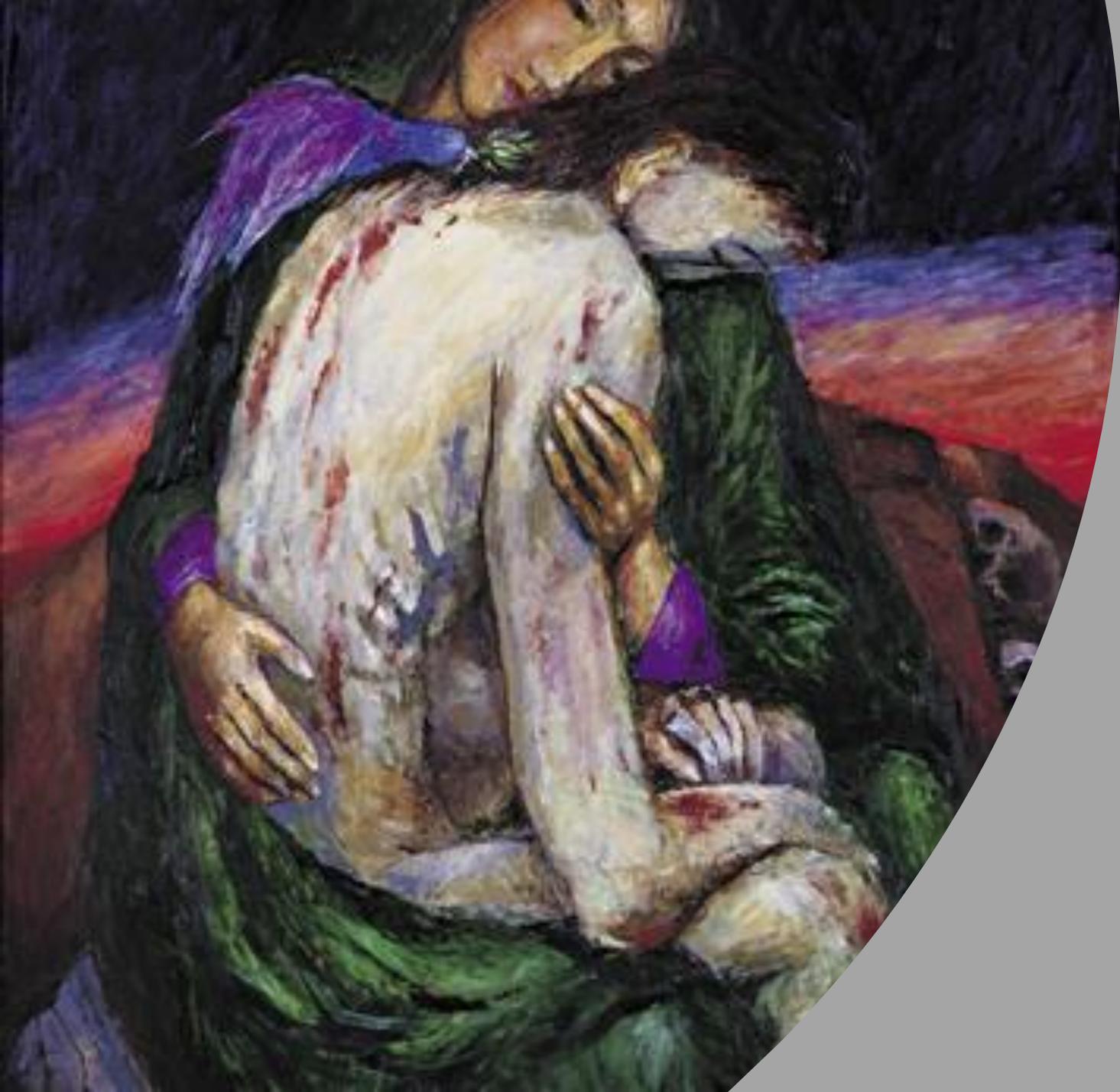
All is fulfilled!  
Now there are  
No cries of sorrow  
no pain, no struggle.  
A corpse finally at peace,  
Secure in his mother's embrace.

Silence  
Intimacy  
Peace.

A mother tenderly  
Enfolding the child of her womb,  
Cherishing his blood-stained body;  
Naked as the day  
She gave birth.

Now she hushes him  
Into the dawn of new birth..



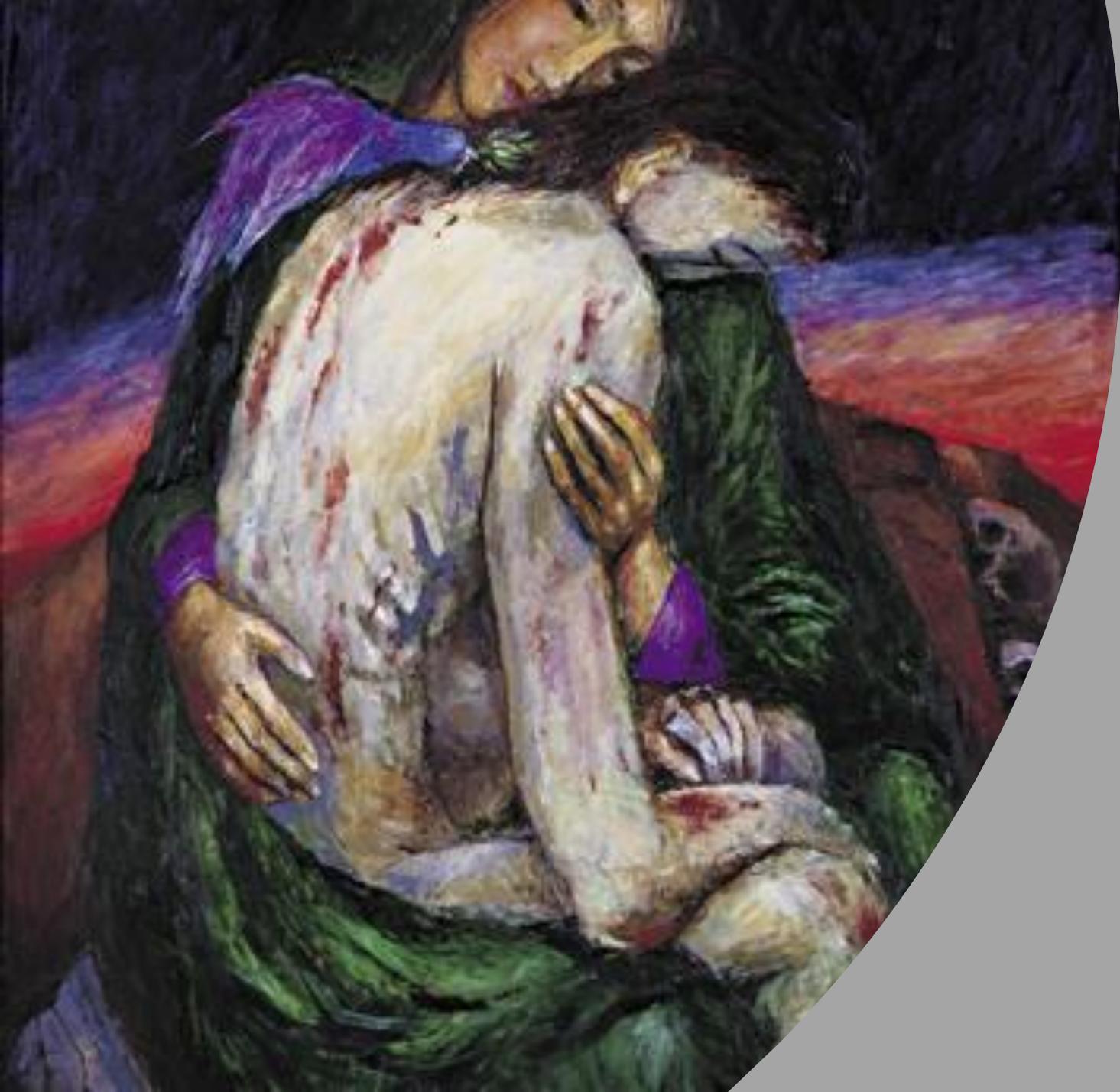


The skulls of our fore-bearers,  
A symbol of death,  
Now superseded  
By the new creation.

A new dawn  
Filtering through new life.

The dove,  
Bearing an olive branch,  
Announces  
The new covenant of peace.  
His gift to all.





## We Pray

*Lord of Life  
We pray with Mary:  
Give us faith to love  
When our hearts feel cold.*

*Give us hope  
When all seems lost,  
And trust  
When we feel bereft.*

*In Jesus, may we find  
The source  
Of our new life  
And our peace.*





# Jesus is buried in the Tomb

*Unless the grain of wheat falls  
Into the earth and dies  
It remains a single grain.  
If it dies  
It yields a rich harvest.*

*John 12:24*





The burial cloth  
Translucent  
Revealing  
A body at rest.  
The face at peace.  
Wounded hands  
Marked with red blood.





Inside the tomb is dark and spacious  
Outside, the promise of a bright morning

The light is breaking  
Through the stone  
Which seeks the entrance.  
Within the linen cloths  
The body dazzles,  
Like –  
a pearl in the oyster shell  
a chrysalis in a cocoon  
a seed in germination  
an embryo in the womb.

The inexplicable  
Untouchable  
Invisible  
Recreating the energy!  
Into the soil  
Swollen with new life.





## We Pray

Help us to believe  
Lord  
That ends  
Are but beginnings  
And that graves  
Are but the doorway  
To a new life.

For you are  
The Lord  
Of the living  
And the dead.

