

## **You are Holy**

„God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved.“ (Col 3:12)

### **Reflections on the Light of Altenberg's motto 2025**

Each year in late autumn, the Light of Altenberg’s "Initiativkreis" (planning group) meets to reflect on what the motto for the coming year might be. What is close to our hearts? What message do we want to attach to the Light next year? Where do we want to offer comfort, where do we want to give strength? Where, and to what, are we sent in this world? Usually, we also ask: which crisis, which unrest in the world should we focus on?

This year, the motto doesn’t center on a crisis, but on a spiritual conviction: You are holy!

Holiness. It’s not a word that often crosses our lips; in everyday life, it doesn’t play a very prominent role. At most, we might say, *“this or that is sacred to me.”* But what does that mean? What is sacred to you? What is so precious to you that you never want to lose it? What has the greatest value in your life?

The subtitle of our motto gives the answer from God’s perspective, as St. Paul writes to a community in what is now Turkey: *You are holy to me, I love you, I have chosen you, I have made a decision for you.*

*“You are God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved.”* From the very beginning, from the very start of our lives.

What God takes into His hand is holy. And what God takes into His hand is meant to contribute to holiness, to the healing of the whole world. We are holy to God. We are chosen and called! And therefore, we are also sent — into our many worlds.

To live with the awareness of holiness means this: I know that I am seen, wanted, and loved. And I know—God has a dream for me. A purpose. A calling. And in the holy wonder of who I am, I cannot be replaced. As John Henry Newman puts it: *“Somehow I am necessary for God’s purpose, as necessary in my place as an archangel in his.”*

The Altenberg Light 2025 fully embraces this conviction and invites you to share the experience.