



HOLY  
**WEEK**  
DEVOTIONAL





What is

# HOLY WEEK?

Holy Week stretches from Palm Sunday to Easter. Traditionally, this is a time when the church reflects on the last days of Jesus' life and his death on the cross. The week culminates with the celebration of Easter and the hope that Jesus' resurrection brought to the world.

We created this short devotional to help you set apart Holy Week from every other week of the year.

Each daily reading and meditation is an opportunity to contemplate scripture, pause, and consider how God might be speaking to you today. Let this booklet be a tool to set this Holy Week apart, making it a special time with you and the Lord.



PALM SUNDAY

PALM SUNDAY



PALM SUNDAY

PALM SUNDAY



# Today's Readings

STORY SECTION

Mark 11:1-11

STORY CONTEXT

Psalms 118:26-29

**T**oday's reading is about Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey. Psalm 118 was one of the songs Jewish pilgrims would have sung as they approached Jerusalem for the Passover while "waving boughs" (palm branches). Palm branches are a symbol of victory. Israel was waiting for a Messiah who would lead them to freedom from Roman oppression, and they believed Jesus would bring the political triumph they were expecting. But, Jesus was concerned with saving his people from themselves, more than outside oppressors. Jesus was even willing to die to set us free from our sin and shame, that is not what the Jewish people anticipated.



DAY 1

Are you missing  
a move of God  
in your life right  
now because it  
doesn't look like  
your expectations?

TAKE WITH YOU



HOLY  
MONDAY



# Today's Readings

STORY SECTION

Mark 11:12-21

STORY CONTEXT

Isaiah 56:1-8





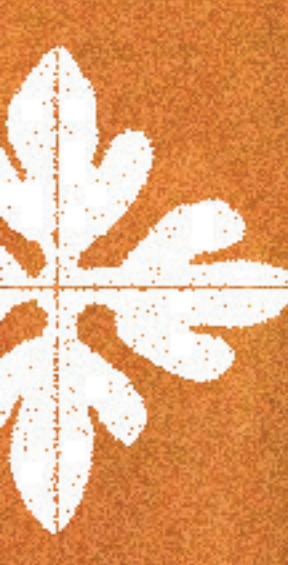
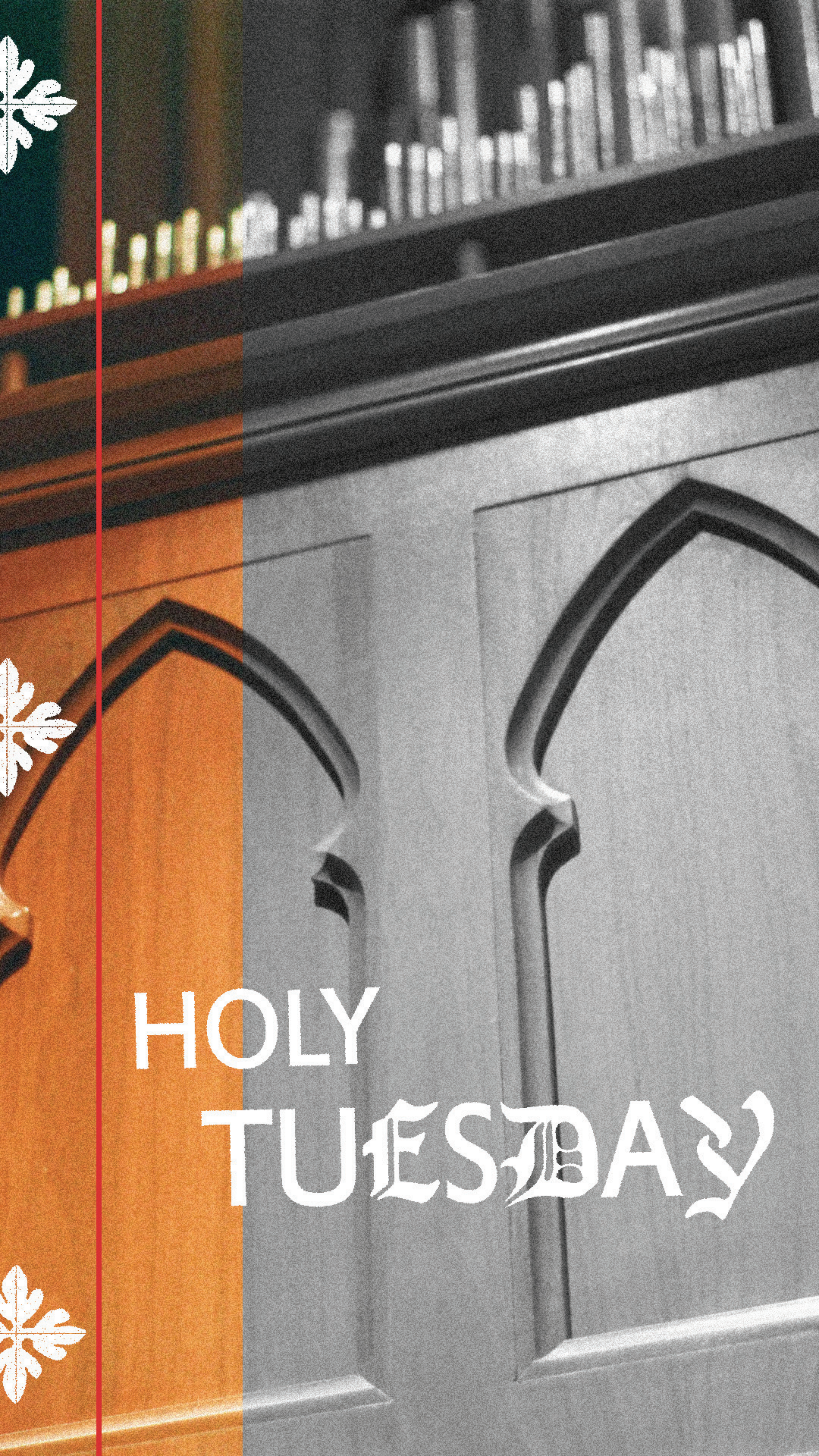
Today's reading begins with an unexpected encounter with Jesus and a fig tree. Jesus approaches a fig tree with lush leaves signaling fruitfulness. However, this is false advertising. An early bloomer yet, this tree had no figs. Jesus curses this ill-timed beauty. Similarly, the Temple was intended to be the house of prayer for all people. Yet, all Jesus saw was a marketplace crowded with religious rules and weak faith. Angered by the obstacles created to worship, Jesus overturned the tables of the money changers. In both examples, the fig tree and the Temple, Jesus saw things that appeared healthy rather than doing the work to produce fruit.

DAY 2

*Meditate on this  
statement today:*

God cares  
more about my  
inward transformation  
than my outward  
appearance.

TAKE WITH YOU



HOLY  
TUESDAY



# Today's Readings

STORY SECTION

Mark 12:1-12

STORY CONTEXT

Psalms 118:22-25



**I**n ancient Israel, everyone had expectations of what the Messiah would be like, and these images and hopes were formed over the centuries by the words of the prophets and Psalms like the one we read today. But when Jesus arrived, he upended their deeply rooted expectations. For some, this was marvelous, and a reason to rejoice—the Messiah was even more loving, powerful, and amazing than they imagined! But for many others, especially religious leaders, this was infuriating.



## DAY 3

Once again,  
today's reading confronts  
our expectation of God.

How can you choose to  
accept what God is doing  
and rejoice in it today?

How can you  
trust God's goodness  
even when it does not look  
the way you want it to?

TAKE WITH YOU

HOLY  
WEDNESDAY





# Today's Readings

STORY SECTION

Mark 13:26-36

STORY CONTEXT

Revelation 1:4-8



**E**ven as Jesus walked towards his Crucifixion, he was already pointing his followers to the day when he would come again, in power and glory. He was also preparing his followers for how to live in the “in-between” time before he comes again. Jesus said there would be signs and hints of His return, just like the fig trees bud when the seasons change. So all of us are to live prepared, ready for his return at any moment, even while we have to live in the awkward ambiguity that no one knows the day He’s coming back.

## DAY 4

Are you waiting for God to act without knowing how or when He will?

What promises has He given that you can trust while you watch and wait for God to work?

What can you do to sustain faith in the “in-between” season?

TAKE WITH YOU

HOLY

# Thursday



HOLY

# Thursday



# Today's Readings

STORY SECTION

Mark 14:22-25

STORY CONTEXT

Isaiah 25:6-9

**T**he night before he was crucified, Jesus gathered his disciples for a meal where he marked the beginning of the New Covenant, symbolized in bread and wine. He commanded them to keep sharing this sacramental meal as a way to remember his sacrifice and look forward to the feast that God would someday enjoy with all of His people. This meal will be a grand celebration because Death will be swallowed up, and God will wipe away our tears, fears and shame.



## DAY 5

**When you share Communion together, imagine the day when you will say these words while seeing the Lord face-to-face:**

**“This is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.” (Is. 26:9)**

**TAKE WITH YOU**



GOOD  
Friday



# Today's Readings


STORY SECTION

Mark 15:22-38

STORY CONTEXT

1 Peter 2:24



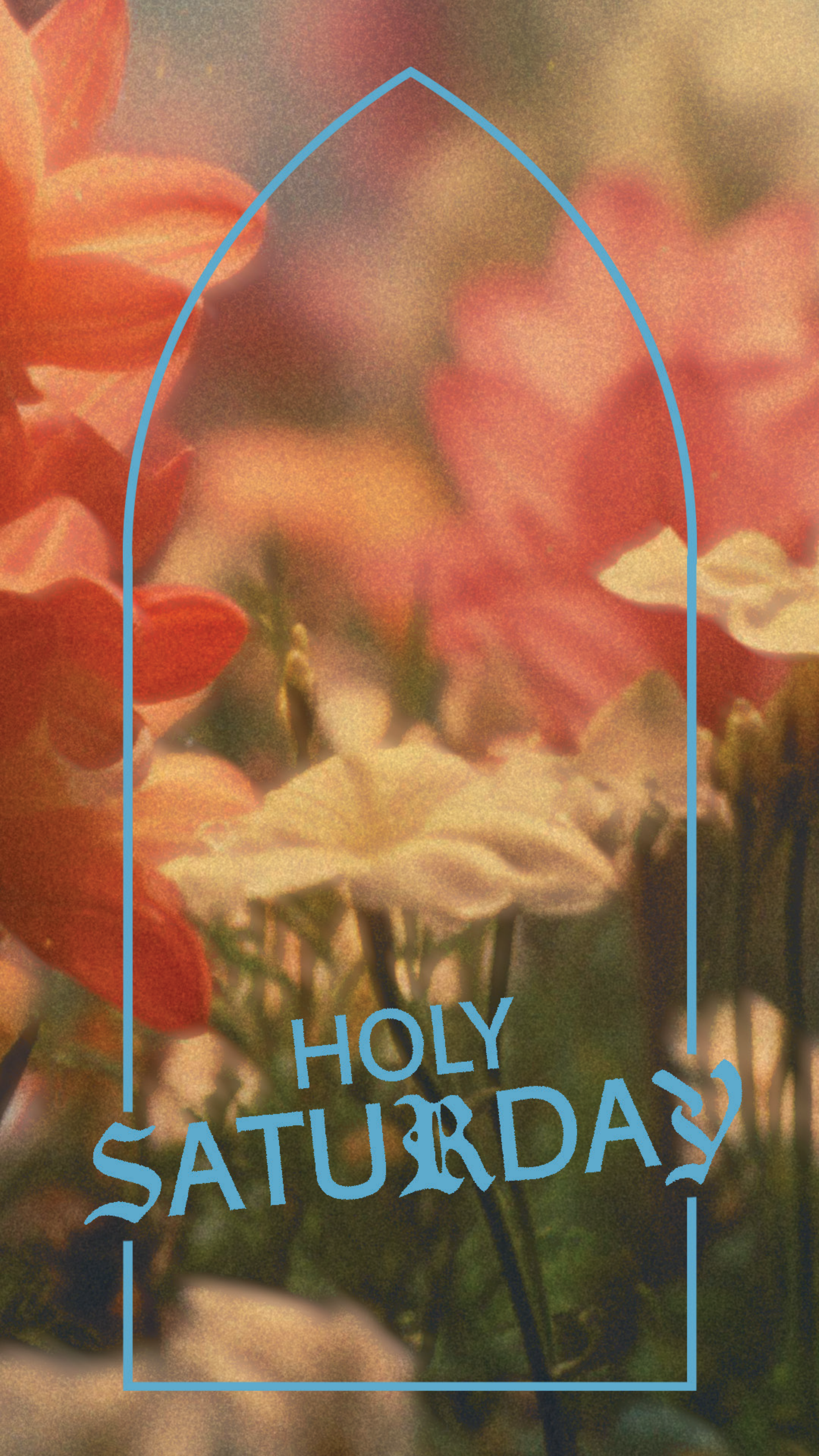


During the time of Christ, Romans would crucify rebels on the trees lining the roads into Jerusalem. They did this to intimidate the people, reminding them that they were held under Roman power and authority. Jesus' Crucifixion may have been on one of these trees. In the ESV, 1 Peter 2:24 says, "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree". By dying on the cross, this tree-turned torture device, Christ makes death a doorway and twists the Roman meaning of the cross. No longer did it stand as a symbol of oppression, but through Jesus, becomes a center of forgiveness and healing.

DAY 6

**Reflect on something in your life that seemed like a disappointment, but God used it for your good.**

TAKE WITH YOU



HOLY  
SATURDAY



# Today's Readings

STORY SECTION

Mark 15:42-47

STORY CONTEXT

Genesis 3:1-7, 21-24

After the Fall, humanity was disconnected from God and the abundance of the Garden and life everlasting, as symbolized by the Tree of Life in its center. Death became the common human experience from that day forward. None of those who took Jesus' body off the cross and placed it in the tomb understood that the blood on the wood beneath their hands broke the curse of sin. At this point, no one realized, that Jesus was making a way back to the Garden for all people. The cross is the tree that bridges history and connects the Trees of Life in Genesis and Revelation. Humanity reconnects with God through Christ's sacrifice on the cross.



DAY 7

*Consider your story.*  
How has the cross moved  
you into new life with God?

TAKE WITH YOU

A vibrant spring scene featuring a field of tulips and daisies under a bright blue sky with soft, white clouds. The tulips are in shades of red and orange, while the daisies are white with yellow centers. The overall atmosphere is cheerful and celebratory.

Easter



# Today's Readings

STORY SECTION

Mark 16:1-8

STORY CONTEXT

Revelation 21:1-5, 22:1-5



In Revelation 22:2, the author describes a vision of the Tree of Life, whose “leaves...are for the healing of the nations.” Though intended as a symbol of shame, the cross of Christ stands as a beacon of hope. From its leaves flow the forgiving blood of Christ; from its emptiness comes the promise of Resurrection. The women who journeyed to the tomb were unaware of the dynamic Resurrection. Instead, they traveled to the grave in the disappointment of Friday. But what they discovered was an empty tomb and a resurrected Jesus! They went expecting to see death and instead they saw new life!

DAY 8

*As you celebrate Easter  
today, ask yourself:  
Am I looking for  
New Life in dead places?*

TAKE WITH YOU



CHRIST  
THE LORD  
IS RISEN  
TODAY!