

The background features a large, stylized cross in the center, rendered in a gradient of orange and red. The cross has a red ribbon draped over its horizontal arm. The background is composed of stylized, rounded clouds in shades of orange and red, with white crescent shapes inside them. The bottom of the image shows a field of tall grass in white and light orange. The overall color palette is warm, dominated by oranges, reds, and yellows.

# HOLY WEEK

7 DAYS OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE

BLUFF PARK COMMUNITY CHURCH

# Sunday, April 13

## Matthew 21:1-11

*"Jesus is the king who came to die. The branches strewn beneath the feet of his donkey would soon be replaced with a cross upon his shoulders." - Timothy Keller*

*"The crowd welcomed Him with 'Hosanna' which means 'Save us now!' Little did they know that His salvation would come not by revolution but by crucifixion." -*

*John Piper*

### Reflect

- In what ways have I misunderstood Jesus' kingship, expecting Him to meet my expectations rather than fulfilling God's plan?
- How does Jesus' humble entry on a donkey challenge the world's understanding of power and victory?
- Where in my life am I crying out "Hosanna" (Save us now), and how might Jesus be answering in unexpected ways?

***Lord Jesus, as I begin this journey through Holy Week, open my eyes to see You as You truly are—not as the king I want, but as the Savior I need. Help me to lay down my expectations like palm branches and follow You even when Your path leads where I wouldn't choose to go. Give me a heart that celebrates Your humble kingship today and every day. Amen.***

Monday, April 14

Mark 11:12-19

*"The temple was to be a picture of God's future for the world: a place of prayer, healing, forgiveness, reconciliation. What Jesus does in the temple symbolizes the giant cleanup operation he has come to launch upon the whole world." - N.T.*

*Wright*

## Reflect

- What tables might Jesus need to overturn in the temple of my heart today?
- How have I allowed my worship to become transactional rather than transformational?
- In what ways might I be creating barriers that prevent others from encountering God?

***Holy God, I confess that I often turn Your house of prayer into a marketplace of self-interest. Cleanse the temple of my heart today. Overturn what needs to be overturned, drive out what needs to be driven out, and restore in me a pure devotion to You. Make my life a house of prayer where others can encounter Your presence. In Jesus' name, Amen.***

**Tuesday, April 15**

**Matthew 22:15-46**

*"He was calm because He was certain. He was certain because He knew that He was accomplishing God's purpose, and that God's purpose, no matter how inscrutable, mysterious, or painful, was likewise good." - Elisabeth Elliot*

## Reflect

- When facing opposition or difficult questions, do I respond with Christ's wisdom and confidence?
- What areas of my life am I rendering to "Caesar" that rightfully belong to God?
- How can I better love God with all my mind, as Jesus demonstrated in these encounters?

***Lord of wisdom, I marvel at Your responses to those who sought to trap You. When I face challenges to my faith, grant me the same calm certainty that comes from knowing Your purposes. Help me to render my whole life to You, holding nothing back for lesser loyalties. Sharpen my mind to love You more deeply and follow You more faithfully. In Your name, Amen.***

# Wednesday, April 16

## Matthew 26:6-16

*"The contrast is stark—a woman giving her most precious possession to Jesus and Judas selling the most precious person for silver. Each day we face the same choice: Will we pour out our lives in worship or will we betray Him for what we think we need more?" - Scotty Smith*

### Reflect

- What is my "alabaster jar"—the most valuable thing I'm hesitant to surrender to Jesus?
- In what subtle ways might I be betraying Jesus for lesser treasures?
- How can I express extravagant devotion to Christ today?

*Jesus, my Savior, forgive me for the times I've valued other things above You. Break open the jar of my heart and let the fragrance of true worship fill every part of my life. Keep me from the path of Judas, from exchanging Your presence for temporary gain. Instead, give me the heart of Mary, who held nothing back from You. I surrender all I am to You today. Amen.*

Thursday, April 17

John 13:1-17, 34-35;

Luke 22:14-23

*"The towel and the basin define greatness in the kingdom of God. True leadership begins on your knees. The way up in Christ's kingdom is first down." - J.I. Packer*

## Reflect

- Whose "feet" am I reluctant to wash? Who am I unwilling to serve?
- How does the Communion table challenge my understanding of what it means to follow Jesus?
- In what ways can I better embody Christ's new commandment to "love one another"?

*Lord Jesus, on the night You were betrayed, You showed the full extent of Your love. You wrapped Yourself in a towel when You could have claimed a crown. You became a servant when You could have demanded service. As I remember Your body broken and Your blood shed, help me to embrace Your way of humble love. Give me Your heart to serve, especially those I find difficult to love. May my life be a reflection of the love You demonstrated on this holy night. Amen.*

**Friday, April 18**  
**John 19:1-37**

*"On the cross, Jesus was treated as if He lived your life so that you could be treated as if you lived His life. This is the great exchange at the heart of the gospel." - Timothy Keller*

## Reflect

- As I reflect on Christ's suffering, what stirs in my heart? Gratitude? Sorrow? Awe?
- What does it mean to me personally that "by His wounds we are healed"?
- How does the cross reshape my understanding of love, sacrifice, and forgiveness?

*Jesus, my Savior, today I stand at the foot of Your cross. I am silenced by the depth of Your suffering and the vastness of Your love. What can I say in the face of such sacrifice? You endured what I deserved. You were crushed for my iniquities. You were forsaken so that I might be embraced. As I contemplate Your final hours, deepen my gratitude, strengthen my faith, and transform my life. By Your wounds, heal me. By Your death, give me life. In Your holy name, Amen.*



# Saturday, April 19

## Matthew 27:57-66

*"The gospel is something for which a man must wait in quiet patience. The ache and the void cannot be filled by frantic activity. These are the hours of waiting, of resting in the tomb. But it is a waiting that pulses with hope." - Eugene Peterson*

### Reflect

- Where in my life am I experiencing a "Holy Saturday"—a time of waiting, uncertainty, or darkness?
- How can I practice hopeful waiting rather than anxious striving in these areas?
- What does it mean to believe that God is at work even when everything seems silent?

*Father, on this day of waiting, when hope seems buried with Your Son, teach me to trust Your hidden work. In the silence and darkness of this Saturday, remind me that You are never inactive, even when I cannot see Your hand. Give me courage to sit in the tension of "already but not yet," to lament what is broken while hoping for what will be restored. Help me to wait with patience, confident that Your resurrection power is already stirring beneath the surface of my circumstances. Through Christ, my buried and rising Lord, Amen.*



Sunday, April 20

John 20:1-18; 1

Corinthians 15:12-22

*"The resurrection of Jesus is not simply a happy ending to an otherwise sad story; it is the foundation of a whole new world. Everything has changed because Jesus has been raised from the dead." - N.T. Wright*

## Reflect

- If Christ is truly risen, what should be different about my life today?
- What "grave clothes" do I need to leave behind as I embrace resurrection life?
- How can I live as a witness to the resurrection in my everyday relationships and activities?

*Risen Lord Jesus, today I rejoice in the empty tomb! You have conquered sin and death, and nothing will ever be the same. Your resurrection is not just a historical fact to believe but a present reality to live. Resurrect my faith where it has grown cold. Resurrect my hope where it has grown dim. Resurrect my love where it has grown weak. Help me to walk in newness of life, empowered by Your Spirit who raised You from the dead. May my life declare that You are risen indeed! Hallelujah! Amen.*