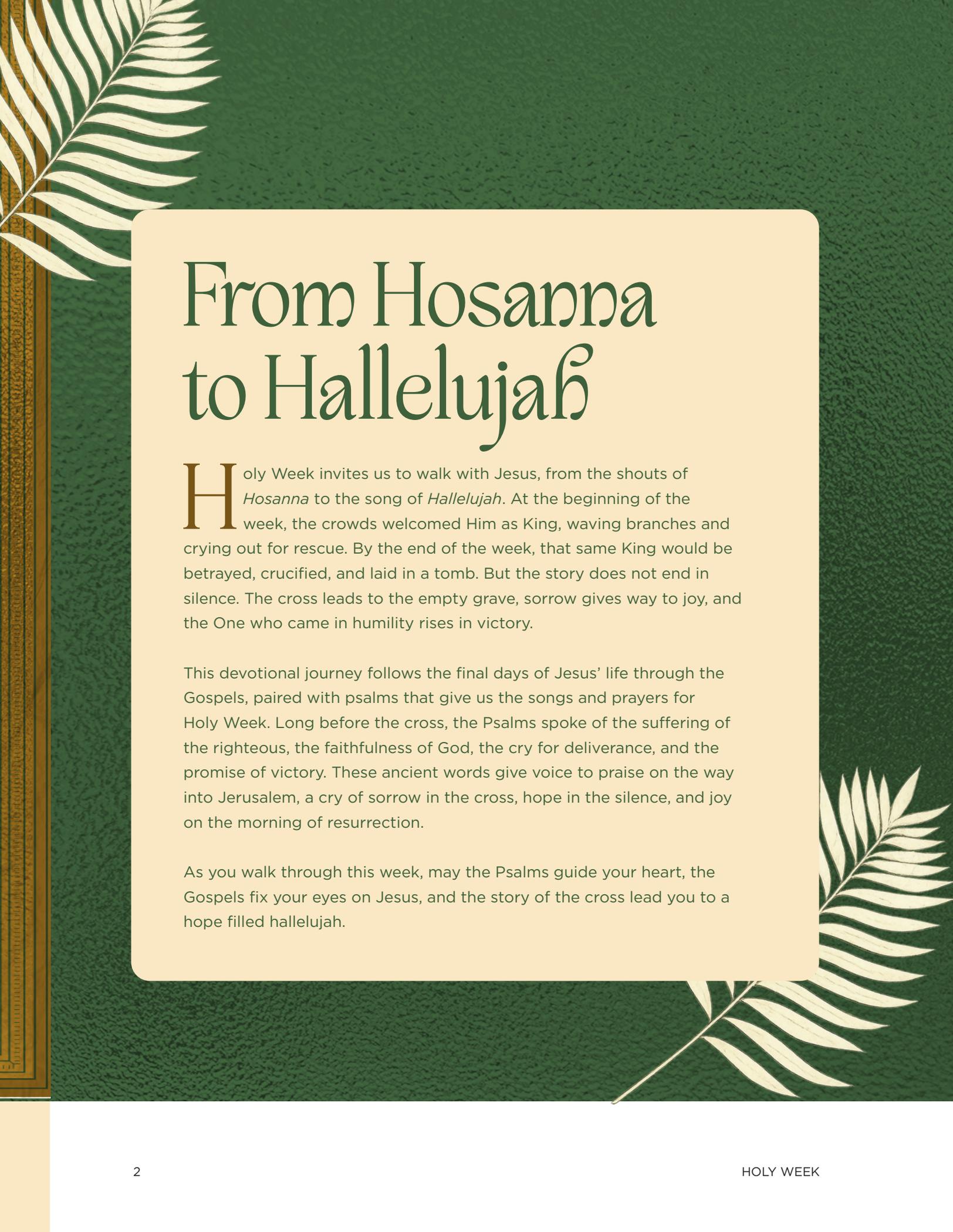


# HOLY WEEK



DEVOTIONAL  
2026



# From Hosanna to Hallelujah

**H**oly Week invites us to walk with Jesus, from the shouts of *Hosanna* to the song of *Hallelujah*. At the beginning of the week, the crowds welcomed Him as King, waving branches and crying out for rescue. By the end of the week, that same King would be betrayed, crucified, and laid in a tomb. But the story does not end in silence. The cross leads to the empty grave, sorrow gives way to joy, and the One who came in humility rises in victory.

This devotional journey follows the final days of Jesus' life through the Gospels, paired with psalms that give us the songs and prayers for Holy Week. Long before the cross, the Psalms spoke of the suffering of the righteous, the faithfulness of God, the cry for deliverance, and the promise of victory. These ancient words give voice to praise on the way into Jerusalem, a cry of sorrow in the cross, hope in the silence, and joy on the morning of resurrection.

As you walk through this week, may the Psalms guide your heart, the Gospels fix your eyes on Jesus, and the story of the cross lead you to a hope filled hallelujah.

# Palm Sunday

# The King Arrives

---

**Read:** Matthew 21:1-11

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD. The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar! <sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you. <sup>29</sup> Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! ~ Psalm 118: 26-29*

Psalm 118 was sung at Passover and often used as an entrance liturgy as the king and the worshippers made their way to the Temple. So when Jesus entered the city, the crowd reached for these familiar words, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." But even as they shouted praise, they were announcing the Messiah they longed for, not the Savior who had truly come. They welcomed a king of their expectations, not the King who would call them to surrender.

**Prayer Prompt:**

Like the crowd, it is easy for us to praise the version of Christ that appeals to us, while refusing to surrender our lives. Ask God to reveal where you praise with your words but resist with your heart. True celebration comes from a heart of surrender.

# Monday

## Making Room for the King

---

**Read:** Matthew 21:12-17

*Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? <sup>4</sup> **He who has clean hands and a pure heart**, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. <sup>5</sup> He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation. <sup>6</sup> Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah Lift up your heads, O gates! <sup>7</sup> And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. ~ Psalm 24:3-7*

When Jesus entered the temple, He found what was meant to be a place of worship filled with noise, distraction, and greed. With holy authority, He drove out the money changers and overturned the tables, declaring that His Father's house was to be a house of prayer. Psalm 24 asks, "*Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart.*" The King who entered Jerusalem did not come only to be welcomed—He came to make things holy. He entered the temple as Lord then, and He longs to be Lord over our hearts now.

**Prayer Prompt:**

Holy Week calls us to let Christ remove what does not belong, so that our lives can truly become a house of prayer. Trust Him enough to pray that the Holy Spirit would remove what does not belong in our temple (mind, heart, and soul). Ask that God would make your life a place where He is honored as King.

# Tuesday

## The LORD's Chosen King

---

**Read:** Matthew 22:15-46

***The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."*** <sup>2</sup> *The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies!* <sup>3</sup> *Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.* <sup>4</sup> *The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."* ~ Psalm 110:1-4

Jesus spent the day in the temple teaching, answering questions, and confronting the religious leaders. Again and again, they tried to trap Him with their words, but Jesus responded with truth and authority that revealed who He really was. In the middle of these conversations, Jesus asked a question of His own, quoting from Psalm 110 — the very psalm that is quoted more than any other in the New Testament: "The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool." With these words, Jesus showed that the Messiah was not only the son of David, but David's Lord. The One standing before them was the eternal Son, the One who would sit at the right hand of God. The King who had and would again rule over all allowed Himself to be questioned, rejected, and opposed, so that through His suffering, He could bring salvation to the world.

**Prayer Prompt:**

Jesus is both King and Savior. Pray for a heart that doesn't just admire His words, but submits to His authority. Practice trusting the One who reigns at the right hand of God, even when His ways are not what we expect.

# Wednesday

# Betrayal

---

**Read:** Matthew 26:1-16

*They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies."  
<sup>9</sup> **Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.** <sup>10</sup> But you, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them! <sup>11</sup> By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me. <sup>12</sup> But you have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in your presence forever. <sup>13</sup> Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!  
Amen and Amen." ~ Psalm 41:8-13*

The crowds have shouted, the temple has been cleansed, the teaching has been given, and now the shadow of the looming cross falls over the story. The Son of Man will be handed over to die. While He is preparing His followers, the religious leaders are secretly preparing their plan, and in the darkness, one of His own seeks them out. It wasn't an enemy from the outside who set this in motion, but someone who had walked with Him, listened to Him, eaten at His table, and seen His miracles. The King was not only rejected by the world. He was betrayed by one who had been close to His heart. Psalm 41 gives words to this sorrow long before it happened. These words echo through Holy Week with painful clarity. Christ felt the wound of broken trust, and the grief of love rejected. Yet even in the face of betrayal, Jesus continued toward the cross, knowing that the very ones who failed Him were the ones He came to save. Holy Week grows darker, but it also grows deeper. We begin to see that the cross was not the result of human cruelty; it was the path of costly love. The King, who could have called down power, chose instead to endure betrayal, so that mercy could reach even those who turned against Him.

**Prayer Prompt:**

We, like Judas, can have a divided loyalty. Disappointment and pain can leave us open to the lie that the things of this world are better and more trustworthy than God. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any distrust and disobedience in your mind and heart. Seek forgiveness for the times you have chosen your way over God's.

# Thursday

# The Table

---

**Read:** John 13:1-5, 12-17

*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. <sup>3</sup> He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever. ~ Psalm 23*

At tables around the city, Israel remembered how God had led them out of slavery and cared for them like a shepherd cares for his flock. But at a table in an upper room, the One who had come from God and was soon returning to God rose from the table, wrapped a towel around His waist, and knelt to wash His disciples' feet. With tenderness, He cared for those who would soon scatter, doubt, and struggle to understand what was coming. Psalm 23 reminds us that the Lord is not only our King, but also the Good Shepherd who stays close. He leads His people with gentleness, provides for them with steadfast love, and stays close even in the valley. In the upper room, Jesus gathered His disciples close, and served them with His own hands, giving them the bread and the cup as a way to remember the great salvation He was bringing. The Shepherd would walk into the valley first, so that His sheep would never walk alone.

**Prayer Prompt:**

Praise the Lord for being the Shepherd who leads, provides, and cares. Spend time worshipping the Lord for all the ways He has been faithful; all the ways He has cared for you. Let the story of the Last Supper remind you that God gave His only Son to prepare a place for you at His table.

# Friday

## Forsaken for Our Sake

---

**Read:** John 19:14-30

***My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*** *Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? <sup>2</sup> O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest. <sup>3</sup> Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. <sup>4</sup> In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. <sup>5</sup> To you they cried and were rescued, in you they trusted and were not put to shame. ~ Psalm 22:1-5*

The King, who had entered the city under shouts of Hosanna, stood before the crowd condemned. Pilate declared, “Behold your King,” and the voices of the people cried out for His crucifixion. Jesus was lifted up, not onto a throne, but to a wooden cross, crowned not with gold but with thorns. And still, He did not turn away. As He hung there, the words of Psalm 22 came to life: “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Why are You so far from saving me...?” Jesus allowed Himself to feel the weight of separation, the silence, the anguish, the judgment that sin deserves. The One who had come to shepherd His people through the valley walked into it alone. Our King was willing to be forsaken so that we would never have to be. When Jesus said, “It is finished,” He wasn’t speaking words of surrender but of completion. The work was done. Because He was forsaken, we are welcomed. Because He suffered, we are healed. Because He died, we can live.

**Prayer Prompt:**

Spend time sitting in silence today. Think about your sin. Remember the debt of sin you have that you could never repay. Too often, we want to rush to forgiveness because it guards against guilt. But acknowledging the depth of our sin helps us to grasp the depth of God’s grace.

# Saturday

# In the Waiting

---

**Read:** Matthew 27:57–66

*Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD; <sup>2</sup> Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. <sup>3</sup> If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? <sup>4</sup> But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you. <sup>5</sup> **I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.** <sup>6</sup> I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning. <sup>7</sup> Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. <sup>8</sup> He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins. ~ Psalm 130*

At tables around the city, Israel remembered how God had led them out of slavery and cared for them like a shepherd cares for his flock. But at a table in an upper room, the One who had come from God and was soon returning to God rose from the table, wrapped a towel around His waist, and knelt to wash His disciples' feet. With tenderness, He cared for those who would soon scatter, doubt, and struggle to understand what was coming. Psalm 23 reminds us that the Lord is not only our King, but also the Good Shepherd who stays close. He leads His people with gentleness, provides for them with steadfast love, and stays close even in the valley. In the upper room, Jesus gathered His disciples close, and served them with His own hands, giving them the bread and the cup as a way to remember the great salvation He was bringing. The Shepherd would walk into the valley first, so that His sheep would never walk alone.

**Prayer Prompt:**

Praise the Lord for being the Shepherd who leads, provides, and cares. Spend time worshipping the Lord for all the ways He has been faithful; all the ways He has cared for you. Let the story of the Last Supper remind you that God gave His only Son to prepare a place for you at His table.

# Easter Sunday

## Hallelujah to the King

---

**Read:** Matthew 28:1-10

*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever... <sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. <sup>15</sup> Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: "The LORD's right hand has done mighty things! <sup>16</sup> The LORD's right hand is lifted high; the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!" <sup>17</sup> I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done. [...]*

*<sup>22</sup> The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone <sup>23</sup> the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. <sup>24</sup> **The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.** ~ Psalm 118:1,14-17, 22-24*

At the beginning of the week, the crowds welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem with the words of Psalm 118: "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." They praised Him as the triumphant King, but before the week was over, He was rejected, crucified, and laid in a tomb. It seemed as though hope itself had been buried behind the stone. Yet Psalm 118 had already told the story: The stone the builders rejected was becoming the cornerstone. God was doing this, and it is marvelous! Death could not hold Him. The cross was a means not the end. The King who came in the name of the Lord now stands in victory. Let us be people who set all hope in King Jesus who came to bring peace, and will come again to reign forever. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

**Prayer Prompt:**

Today is for praising! Spend time praising Jesus for all He willingly walked through, so that we could be redeemed into a saving relationship with God. Honor Him as the true King of this world and King of your life.



