

THE ROAD TO EASTER



HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL

“The angel said to the women,
“Do not be afraid, for I know that
you are looking for Jesus, who
was crucified. 6 He is not here; he
has risen, just as he said.””

- Matthew 28:5 -

THE ROAD TO EASTER

Welcome to this sacred time of reflection and spiritual renewal as we embark on a meaningful journey through Holy Week. This devotional serves as a guide, inviting you to dive deeper into the profound significance of the days leading up to Easter Sunday.

Holy Week stands as the cornerstone of the Christian faith, capturing the final moments of Jesus' life, from the triumphant entry into Jerusalem to the ultimate sacrifice on the cross and the glorious resurrection.

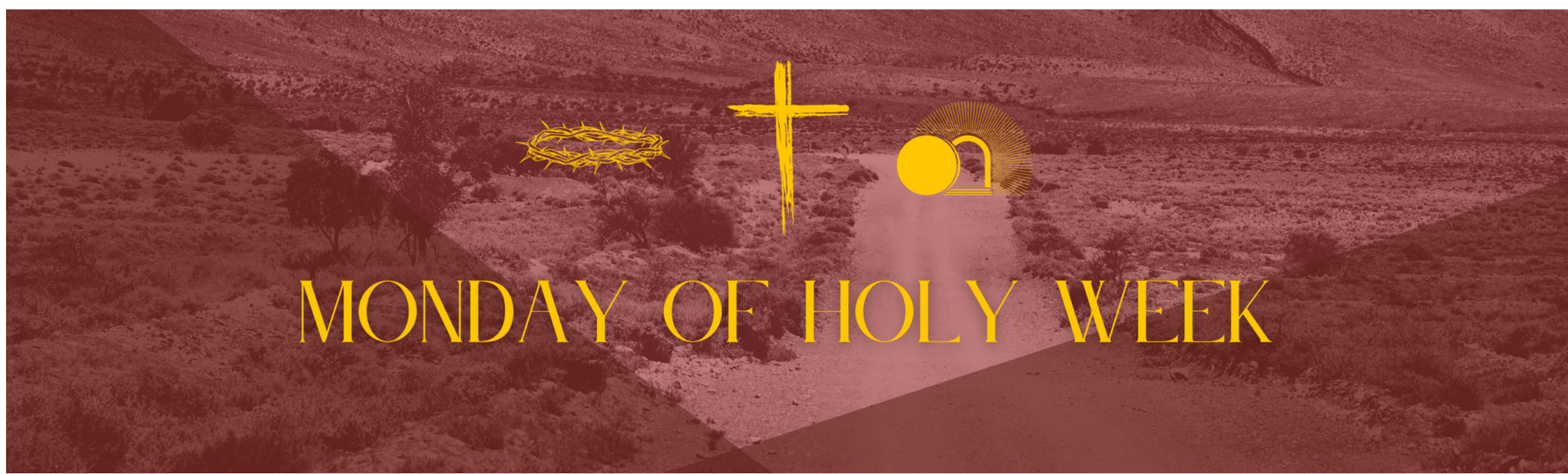
Throughout this week, I invite you to walk alongside Jesus, tracing His steps and contemplating the profound love, sacrifice, and hope that permeate each event. Together, let us pause, pray, and immerse ourselves in the timeless truths found in the Scriptures, seeking a deeper relationship with God.

In this Holy Week devotional, you'll find passages of scripture, daily reflections, and prayers that will guide you through the moving moments of Holy Week. It is my prayer that this devotional may help foster a renewed sense of faith, gratitude, and reverence for the profound journey of redemption that unfolded over these sacred days.

May this time of devotion draw you closer to the heart of God and light the path towards the glorious celebration of Christ's resurrection. As we embark on this journey together, may it be a transformative experience that renews our spirits and strengthens our commitment to live as disciples of Christ in the light of his love, sacrifice, and glorious resurrection.

May you be blessed abundantly as you engage in this holy pilgrimage.

Every blessing,
Rev'd Christopher Bate
Holy Spirit Algester



Read: Matthew 21:12-17

12 Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. 13 "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'"

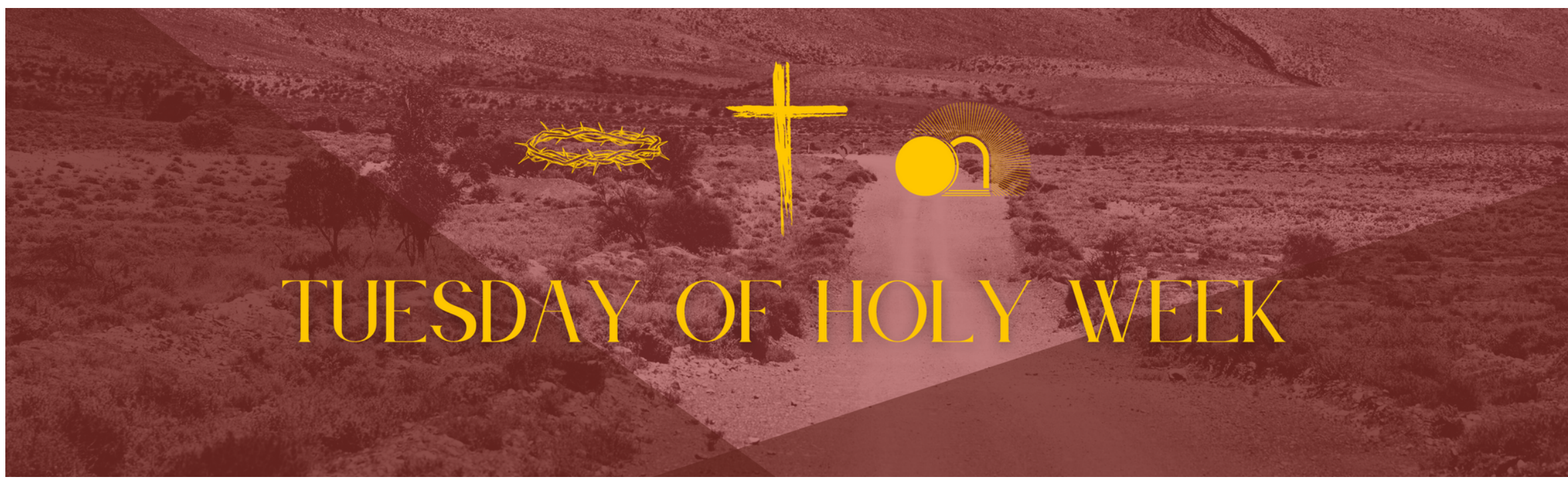
14 The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant.

16 "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, 'From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise'?"

17 And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

Jesus entered the temple and overturned the tables of the money changers, cleansing the temple. He denounced the commercial activities happening in the sacred space meant for prayer, emphasizing the importance of true worship and connection with God.

Reflection: Take time to examine your heart. Are there areas in your life where you need to invite Jesus to cleanse and renew? Are there distractions hindering your intimacy with God?



Read: Matthew 22:34-40

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. 35 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 36 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

37 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Jesus was questioned by religious leaders who sought to trap Him in His words. However, Jesus responded with wisdom and love, emphasizing the greatest commandments: to love God with all our hearts and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

Reflection: Reflect on your relationships. How can you more authentically express God's love to those around you? In what ways can you deepen your love for God?

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / ETC.

Prayer

Gracious God, grant us insight and wisdom to comprehend the depth of your message. Help us apply these lessons in our lives, so we may walk in the path of righteousness. Amen.

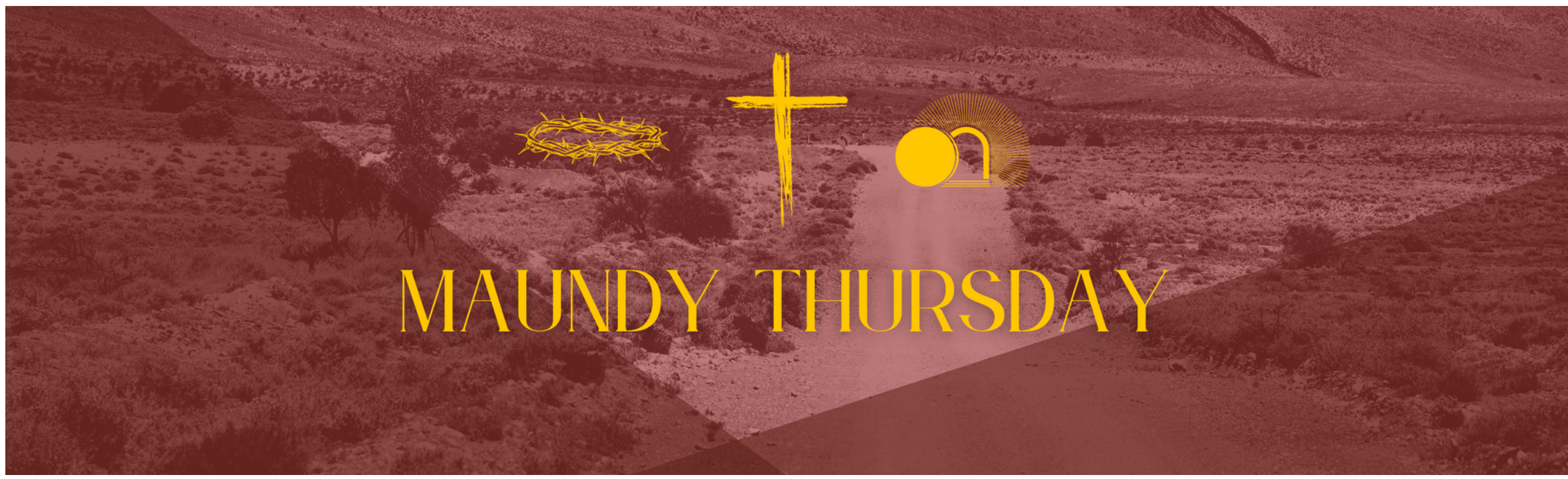


Read: Matthew 26:14-16

Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests **15** and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. **16** From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

On this day, Judas Iscariot agreed to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. It was a moment of betrayal and deceit that would lead to Jesus' arrest and crucifixion.

Reflection: Consider moments of betrayal or hurt in your life. How can you extend forgiveness and grace, following Jesus' example, even in the midst of pain?



Read: John 13:1-17

Read: Matthew 26:26-29

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. **28** This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. **29** I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

On this day, Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples. He washed their feet, demonstrating servanthood and humility, and gave the sacrament of Communion, instructing them to remember Him through the bread and wine.

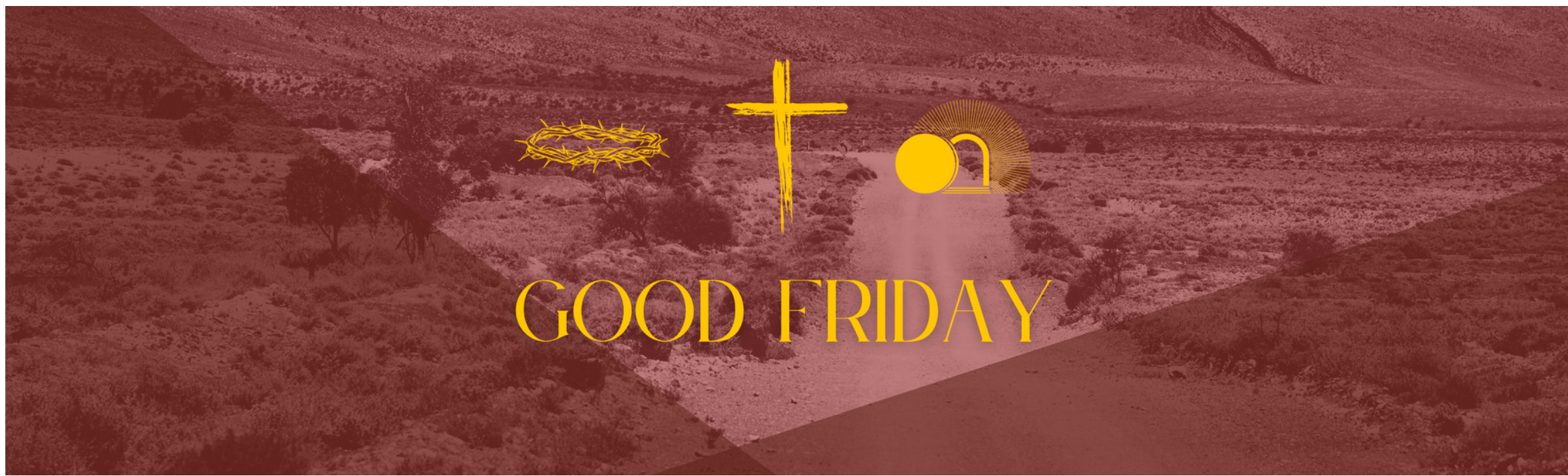
Reflection: Reflect on Jesus' act of humble service. How can you follow His example by serving others with humility and love?

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / ETC.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, on this day of the Last Supper, we remember your act of service and love in washing the feet of your disciples. Teach us to be humble and to serve one another with selflessness and compassion.

Amen.



Read: John 19:17-30

Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). **18** There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle. **19** Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the jews. **20** Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. **21** The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.” **22** Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

23 When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. **24** “Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.” This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, “They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.”

So this is what the soldiers did.

25 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. **26** When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” **27** and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. **28** Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” **29** A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. **30** When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Good Friday commemorates Jesus' crucifixion and death on the cross. It's a day of somber reflection on the sacrifice Jesus made for humanity's salvation.

Reflection: Take time to reflect on the immense love Jesus displayed by sacrificing Himself for us. How does His sacrifice impact your life, and how can you respond with gratitude and devotion?

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / ETC.

Prayer

O God, as we reflect on the agony and sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ, grant us a deeper understanding of His immense love for us. May we never take for granted the price paid for our redemption and salvation. Amen.



Read: Matthew 27:57-66

As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. 58 Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. 59 Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60 and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. 61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb. 62 The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. 63 "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' 64 So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first." 65 "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." 66 So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

Holy Saturday is a day of waiting and reflection. Jesus' body lay in the tomb, and His disciples waited in grief and uncertainty.

Reflection: Consider the times of waiting in your life. How can you find hope and trust in God, even in the midst of uncertainty?

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / ETC.

Prayer

God of Hope, on this day of anticipation, help us patiently wait for the joy of the resurrection. Strengthen our faith and fill us with hope, knowing that the darkness of today will give way to the light of Easter morning. Amen.



Read: Matthew 13:1-23

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Easter Sunday celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He conquered death, offering hope and new life to all who believe in Him.

Reflection: Rejoice in the victory of Christ's resurrection! How does the resurrection bring hope and transformation to your life today?

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / ETC.

Prayer

Risen Lord, we celebrate your victory over death and sin! Thank you for the gift of new life and hope. May the joy of your resurrection fill our hearts and inspire us to live as bearers of your light and love. Amen.



Sunnybank
Anglican Church



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