



Palm Sunday

April 5, 2020

10:00 AM

Salem Lutheran Church

Our Saviours Lutheran Church of Baxter

Saron Lutheran Church

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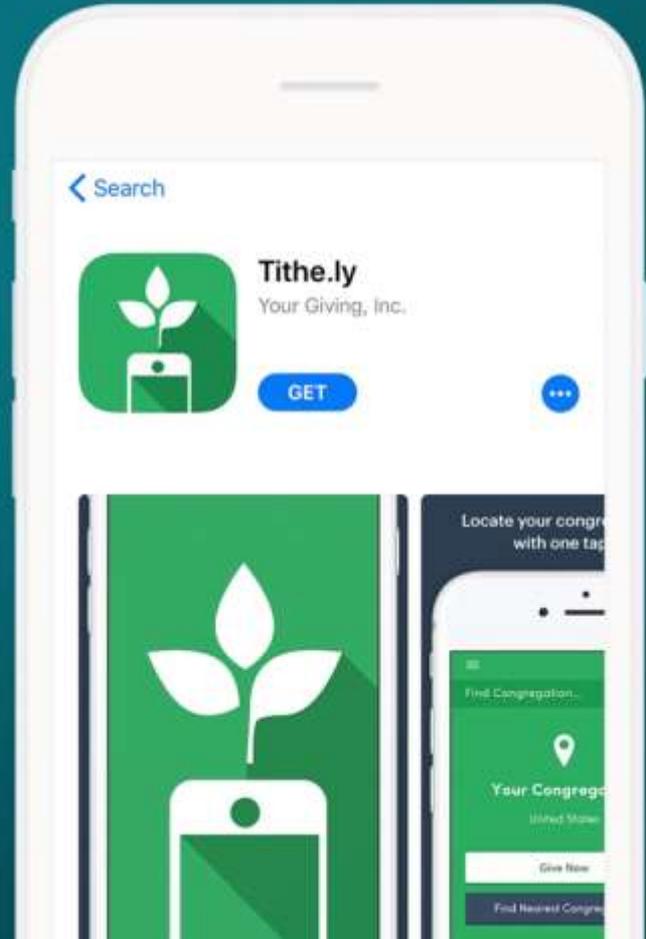
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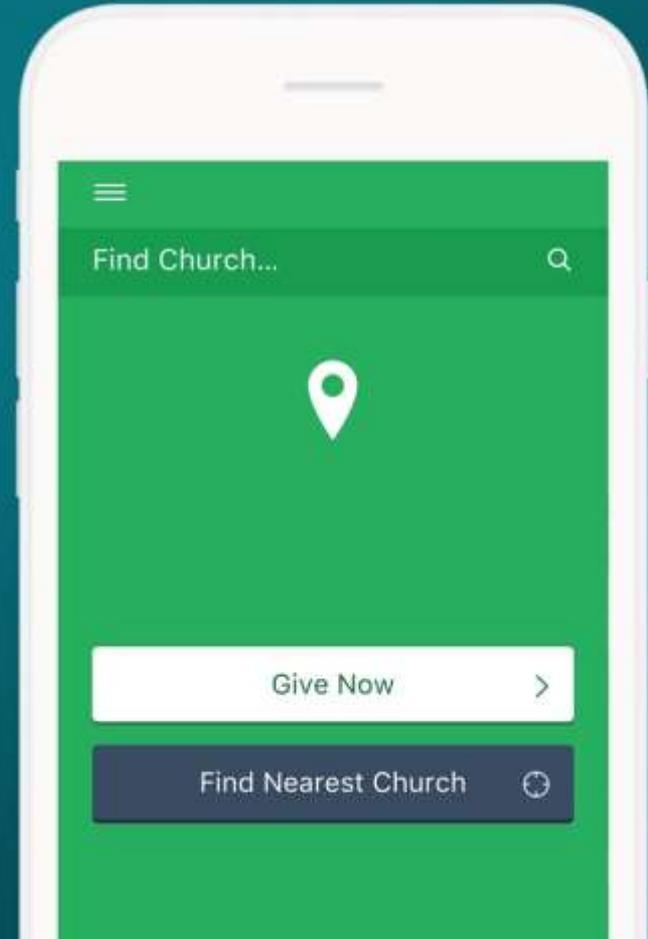
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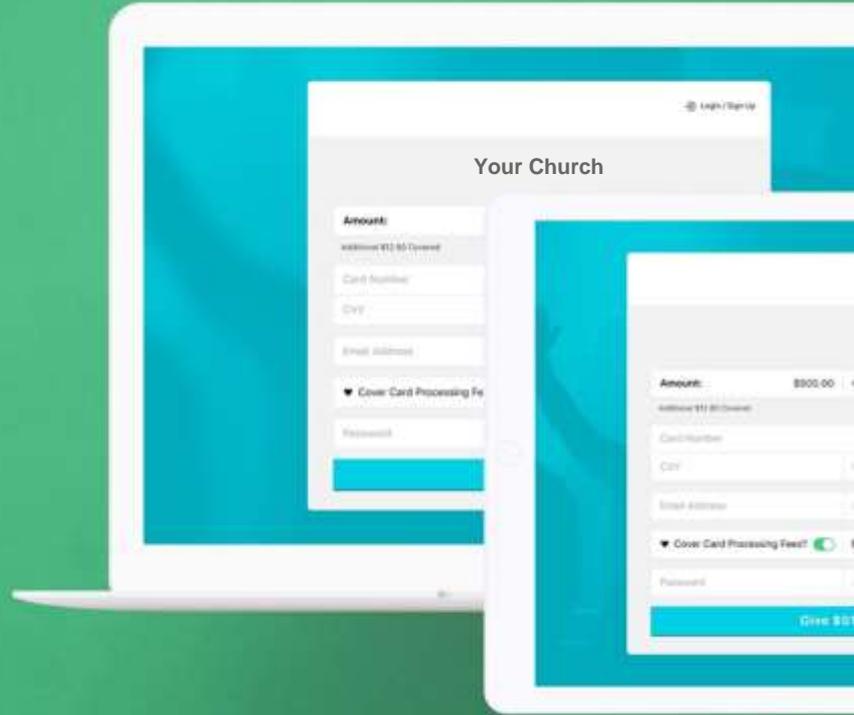
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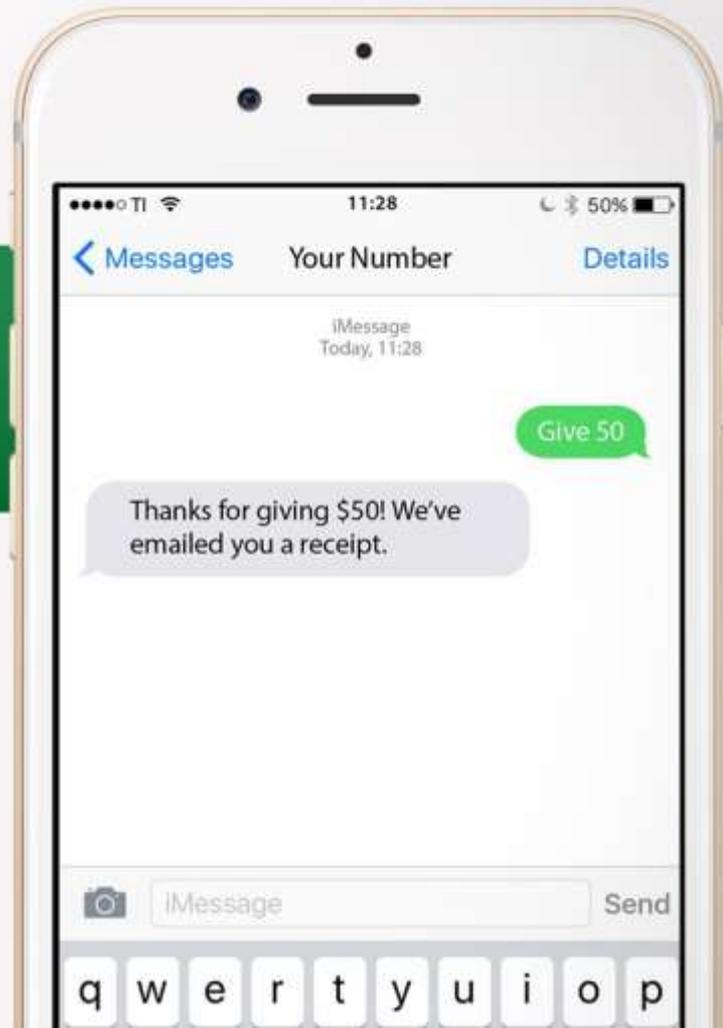
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Salem Members:

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Simply text “Give” to our number to get started.

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Salem Lutheran Church

631 N 7th St Montevideo, MN 56265

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OSLC of Baxter

PO Box 43 Montevideo MN 56265

Saron Lutheran Church

PO Box 43 or 1010 60th St SE, Montevideo MN 56265

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CALL TO WORSHIP

The story of Palm Sunday tells of how people removed their cloaks and spread them out in front of Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.



The cloak we wear every day to face the world is both the persona we wish to present, and our defense against the elements.



As we come to worship
may we be willing to lay
down our defenses and
disguises, at the feet of
the One who sees us we
really are.



And then, set free for
worship, may we offer
our praises with open
hearts and lives.

Written by Ann Siddall, in Lent to Easter liturgies: Year C. Posted on the
website of the Stillpoint Spirituality Centre.
<http://stillpoint.unitingchurchsa.org.au/>



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious Lord,

**Humble and riding on a donkey, we greet you;
Acclaimed by crowds and caroled by children, we
cheer you; moving from the peace of the
countryside to the corridors of power,
We salute you: Christ our Lord.**

**You are giving the beast of burden a new dignity;
you are giving majesty a new face; you are giving
those who long for redemption a new song to
sing. With them, with heart and voice, we shout:
Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the
name of the Lord!**

—from Common Order, Panel on Worship, Church of Scotland, 1994.

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

Today, we probably don't have access to palm branches. Instead, let's lift the palms of our hands, offering them in service to God.

When we were lost our Savior sought us out, found us and rested us on his shoulders.

Our palms are raised in glory and honor to the One who has sought us out only and especially because he loves us.

Let us pray. O God who found us, bless our hands raised in your name and to your glory, that they would be used as a way of honoring your sacrifice and giving you praise. Be present in our praise that the words of grace you speak to us would resound back to you in shouts of joy and songs of acclaim. In the great name of Jesus we pray.

Amen.

PALM SUNDAY READING

Matthew 21:1-9

21 When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.”

4 This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, 5 “Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; 7 they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them.

8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

The background of the image is a dense, out-of-focus pattern of green palm fronds. The leaves are various shades of green, from dark forest green to a lighter, more vibrant green, creating a textured and organic backdrop. The central text is white and stands out clearly against the darker areas of the foliage.

PROCESSION WITH PALMS

Imagine Jesus and his disciples walking dusty roads from one village to the next, where there were lame people and blind people that Jesus would heal, and then crowds would gather to hear him teach.



Then on the way Jesus would have all kinds of conversations with his disciples, trying to help them understand his mission, and his dream for the world.



And all the way, they were heading for Jerusalem. Where Jesus knew he would come up against all the powers, where he would be abandoned, rejected, betrayed, humiliated, flogged, and nailed to a cross.



And yet he kept on walking.



On Palm Sunday we celebrate what is often called Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem. It's easily imagined that the focus of the whole city was on Jesus and that they knew what they were celebrating.



The reality is that possibly hundreds thousands of pilgrims were flooding in for the Passover, and Jesus may not have been the center of attention.



It was his small band of followers who in excited anticipation imagined they were part of a royal procession, and that Jesus would become king.

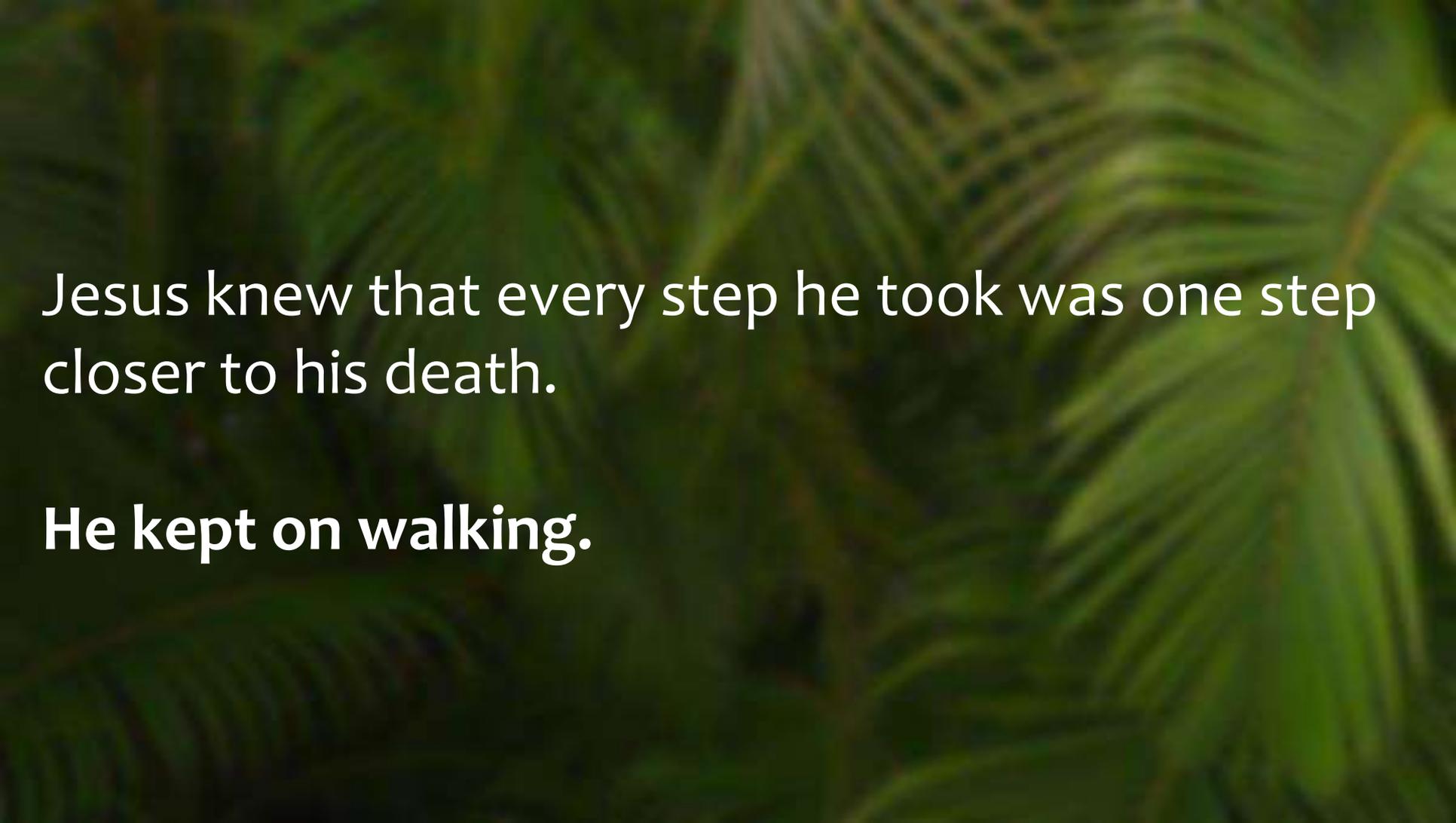


Jesus let them treat him as royalty, even as he arrived on a donkey.



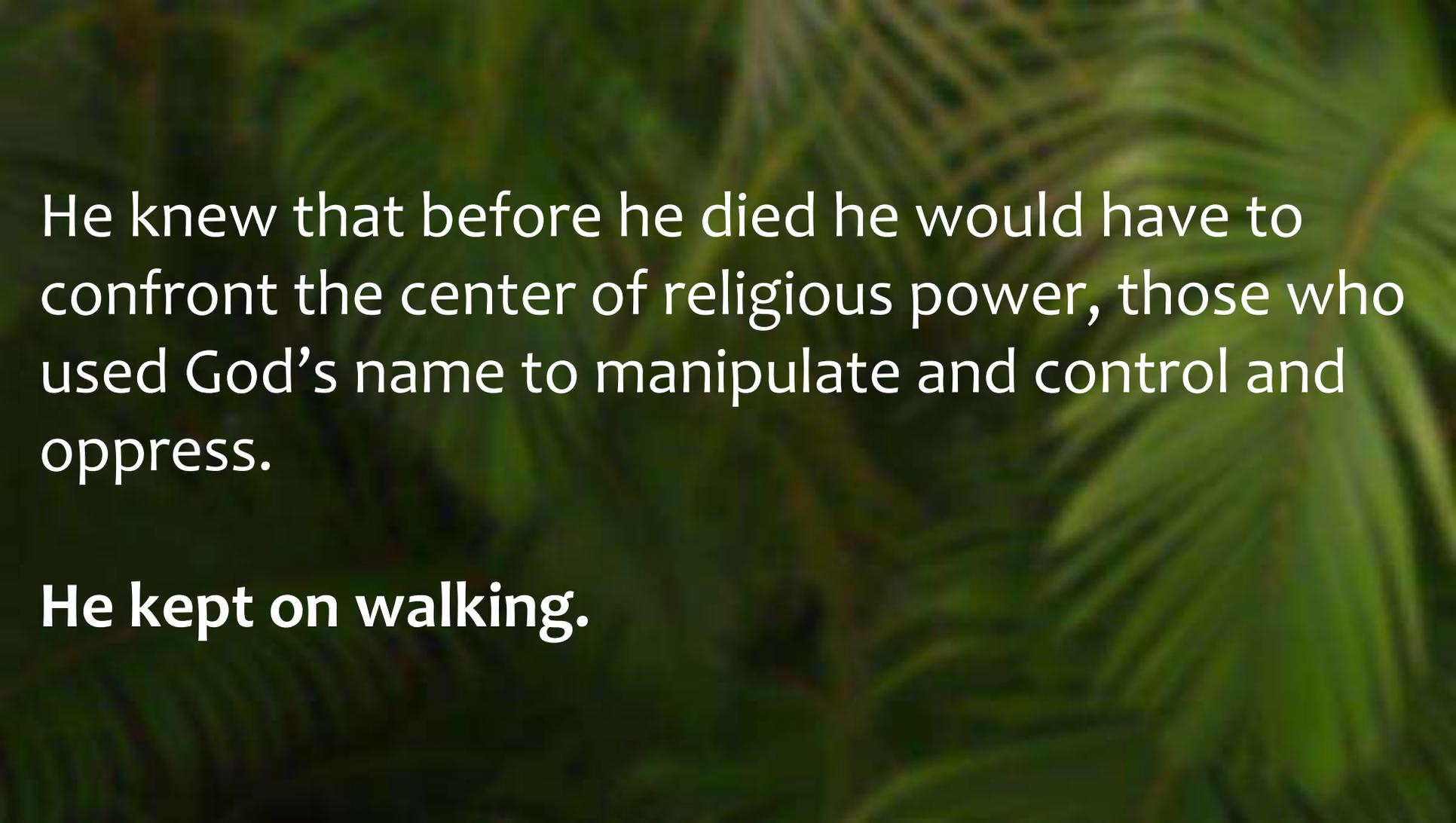
But deep in his heart, he knew that this was also like a funeral procession, or a walk down death row.





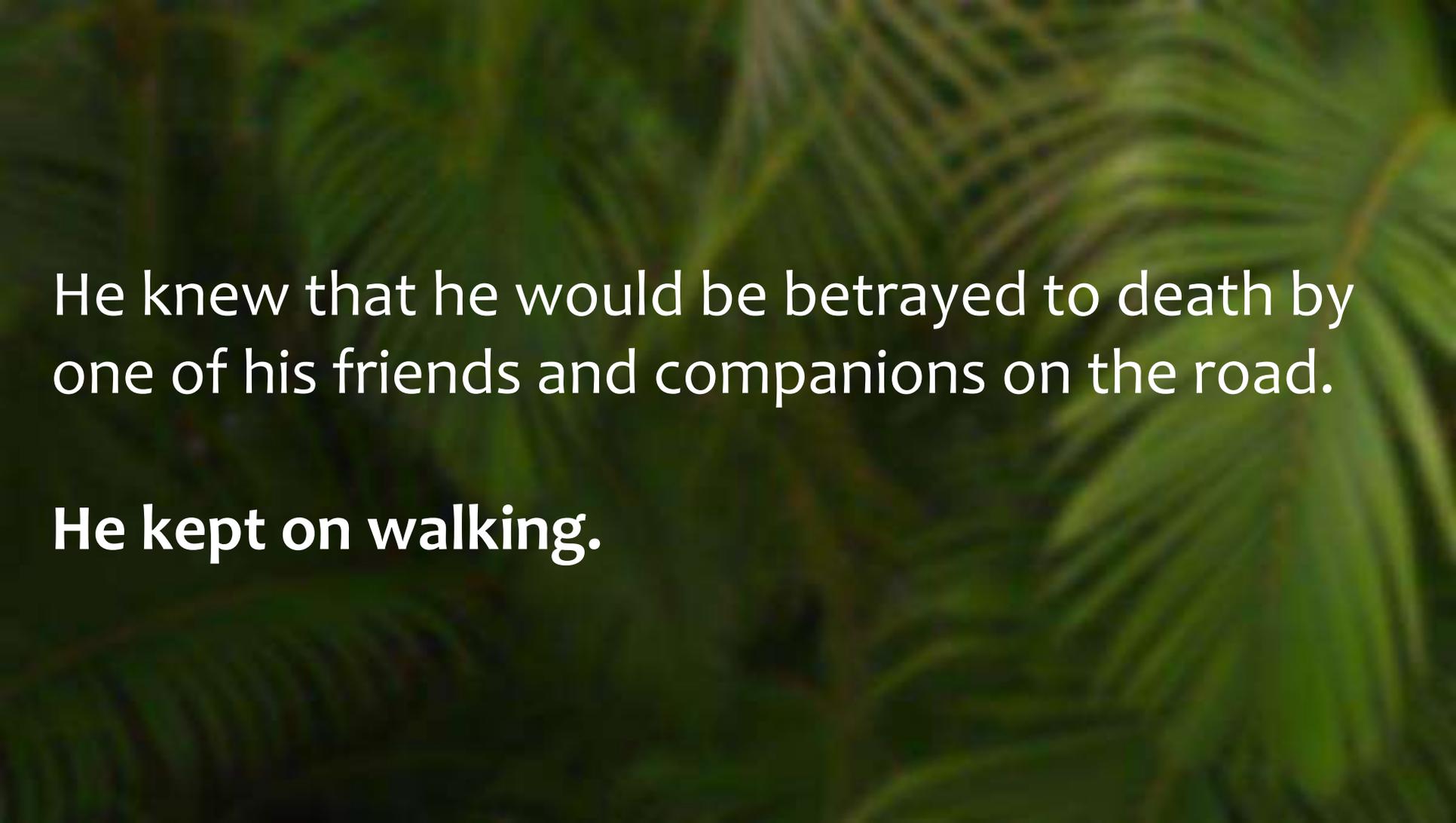
Jesus knew that every step he took was one step closer to his death.

He kept on walking.

The background of the image is a blurred, close-up view of green leaves, likely from a fern or similar plant, creating a textured, organic pattern. The colors range from dark green to bright, almost yellow-green, with some highlights and shadows that give it depth.

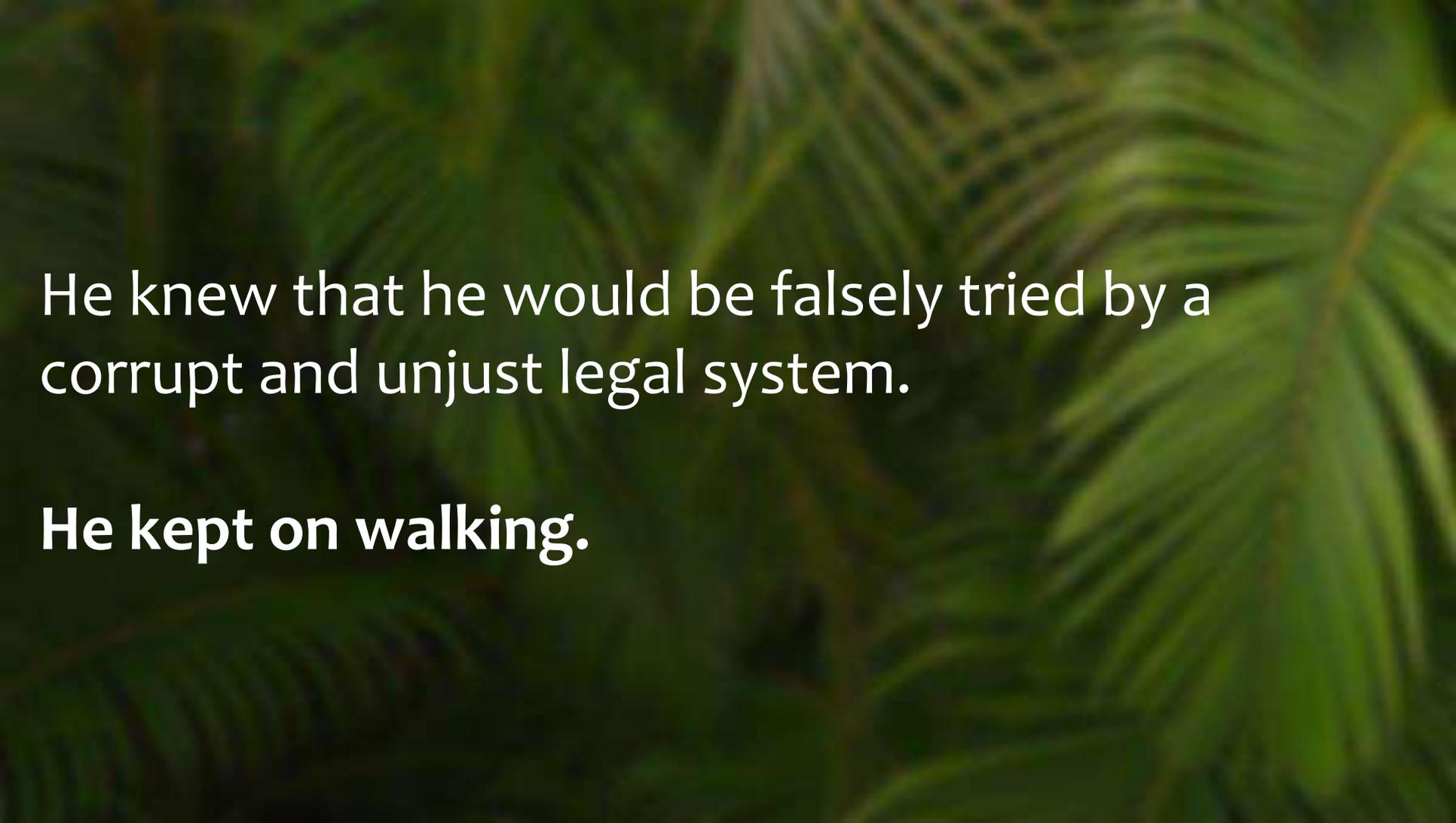
He knew that before he died he would have to confront the center of religious power, those who used God's name to manipulate and control and oppress.

He kept on walking.



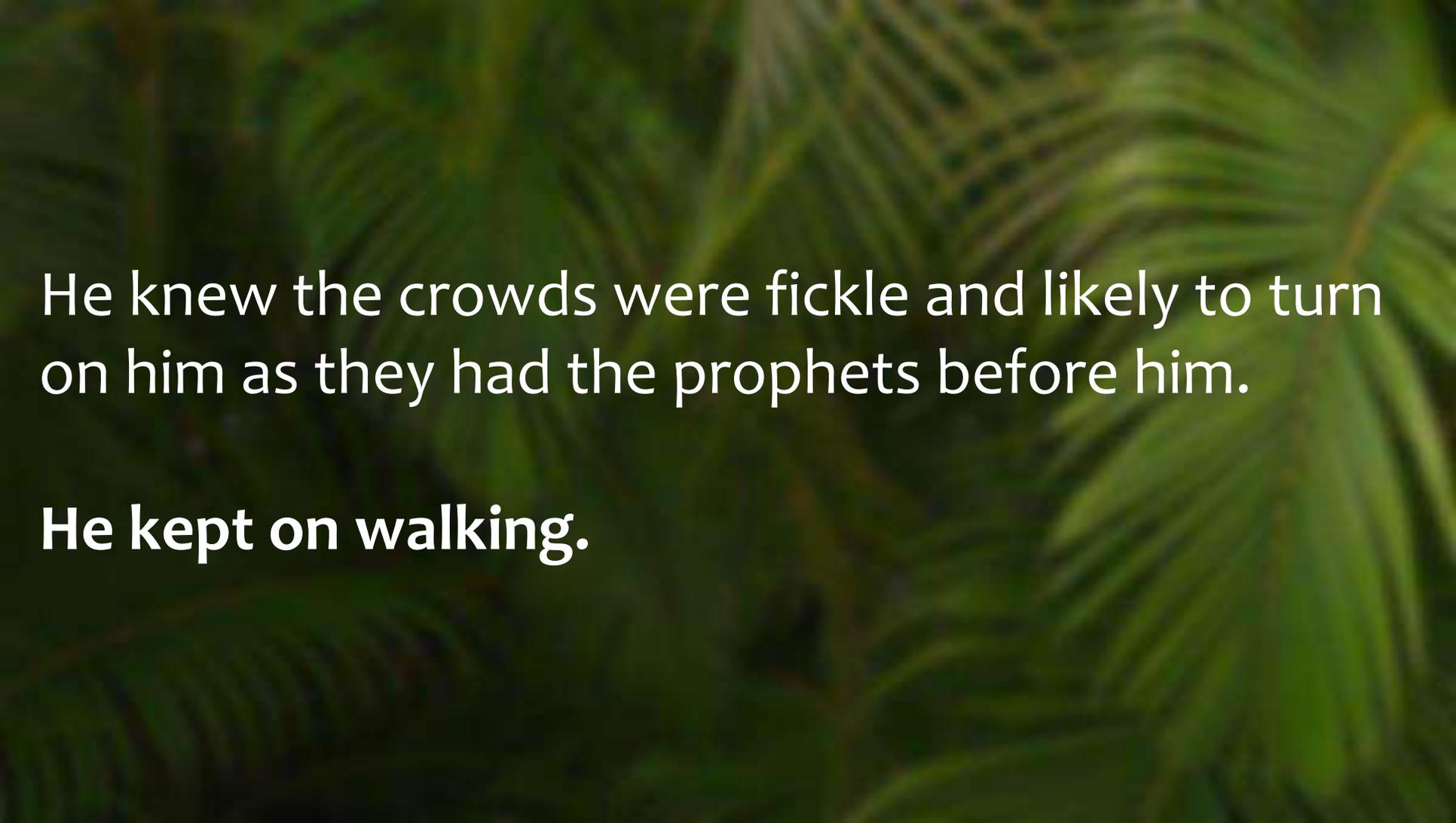
He knew that he would be betrayed to death by one of his friends and companions on the road.

He kept on walking.



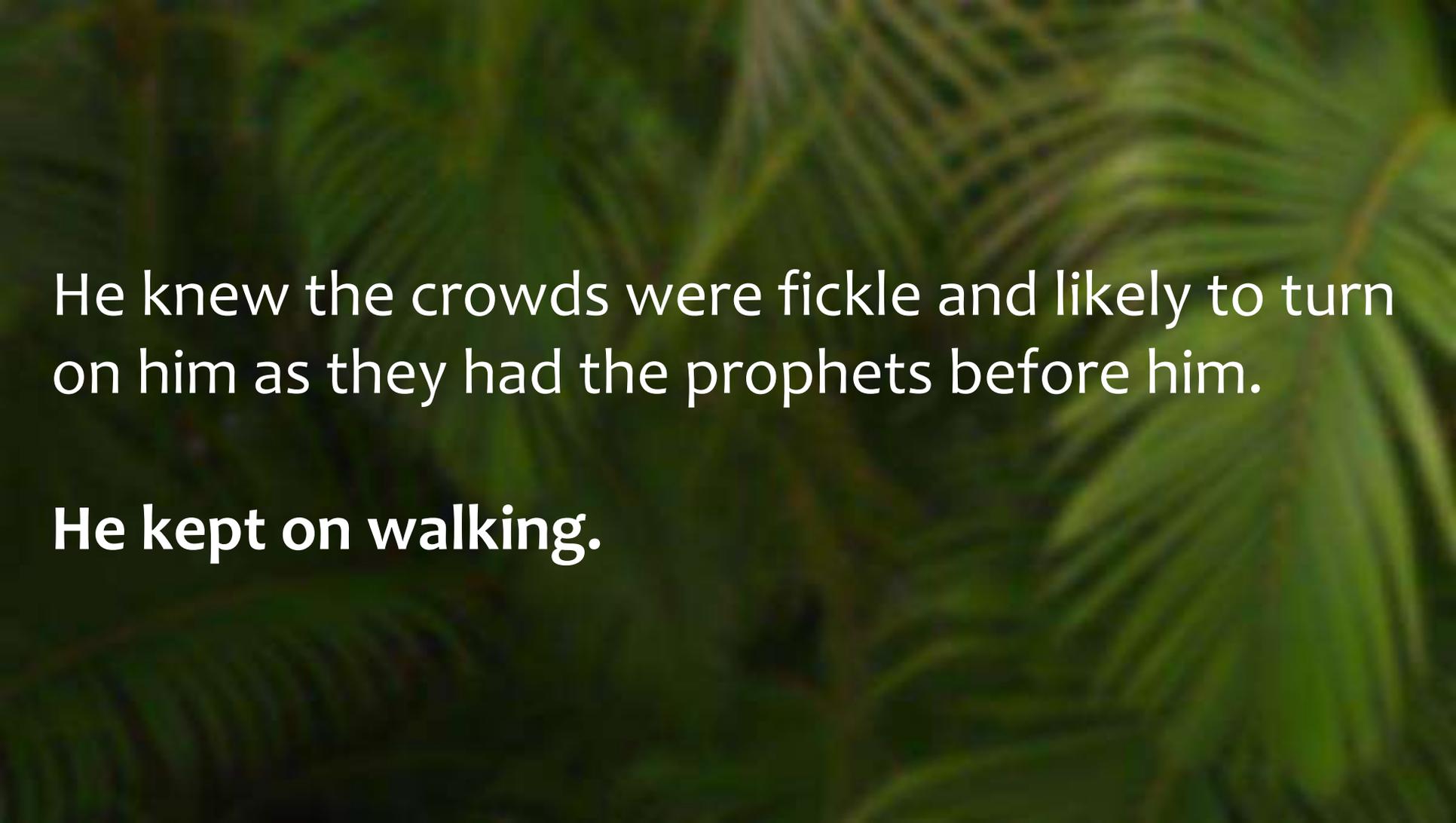
He knew that he would be falsely tried by a corrupt and unjust legal system.

He kept on walking.



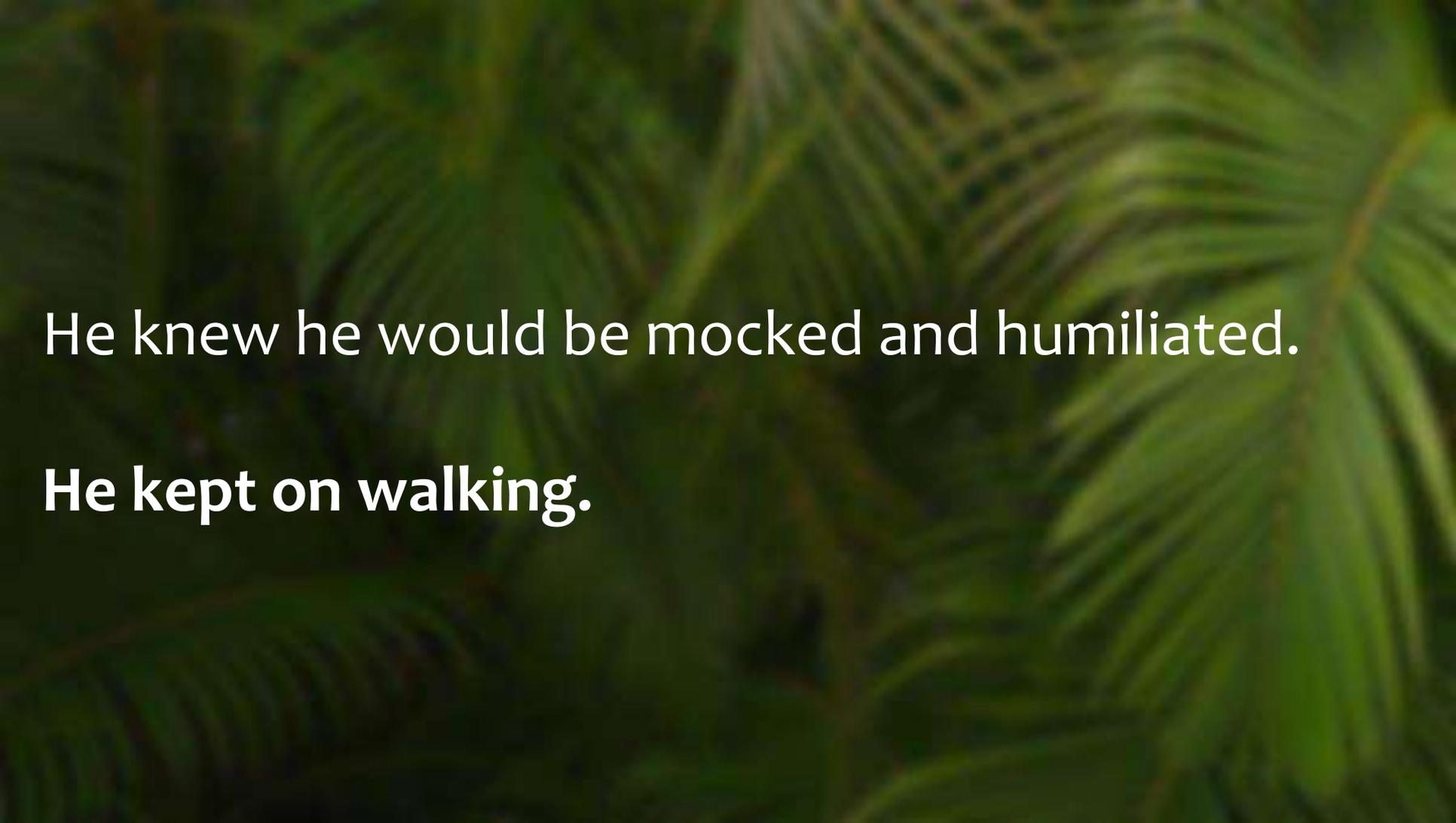
He knew the crowds were fickle and likely to turn on him as they had the prophets before him.

He kept on walking.



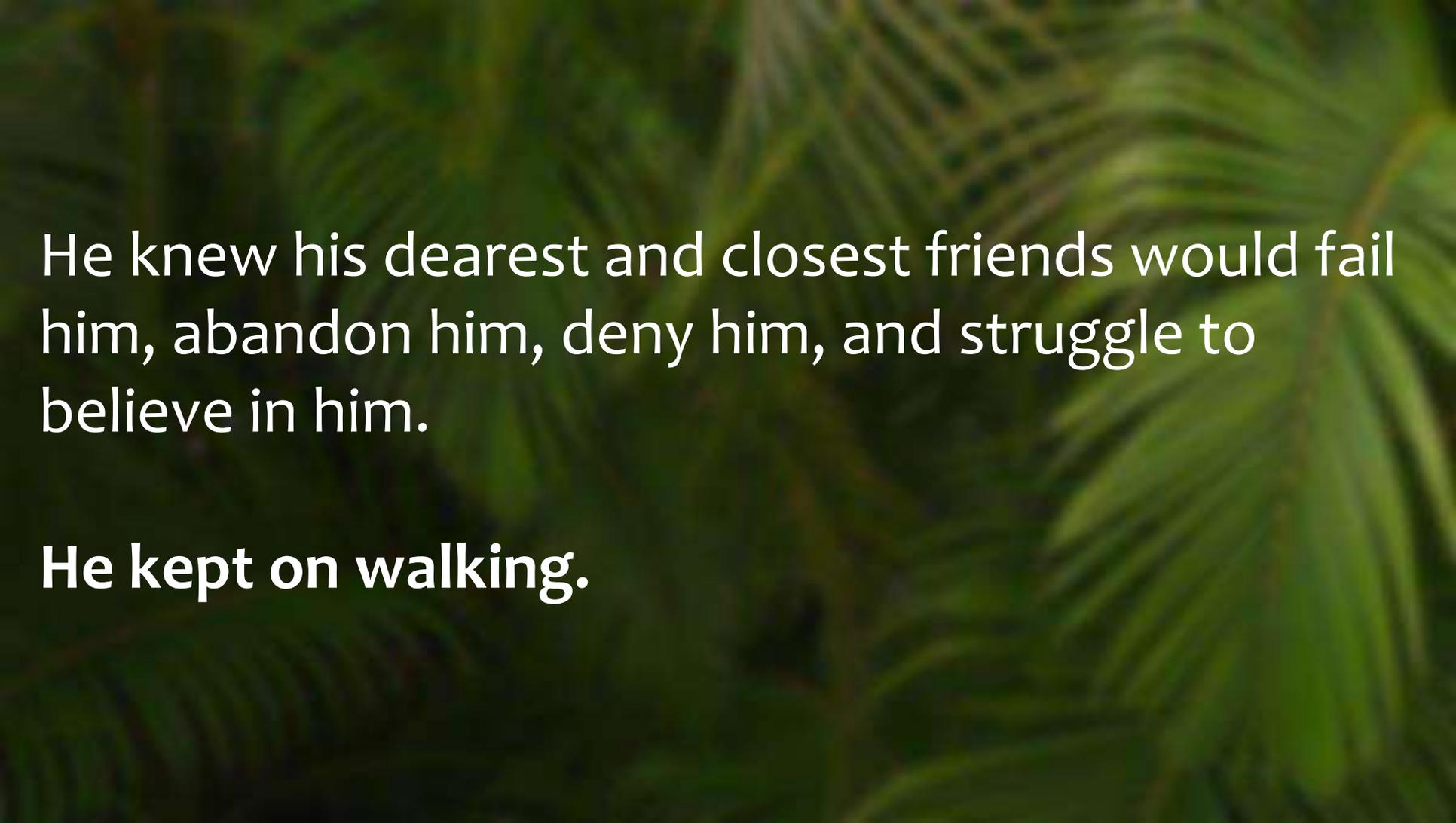
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He kept on walking.



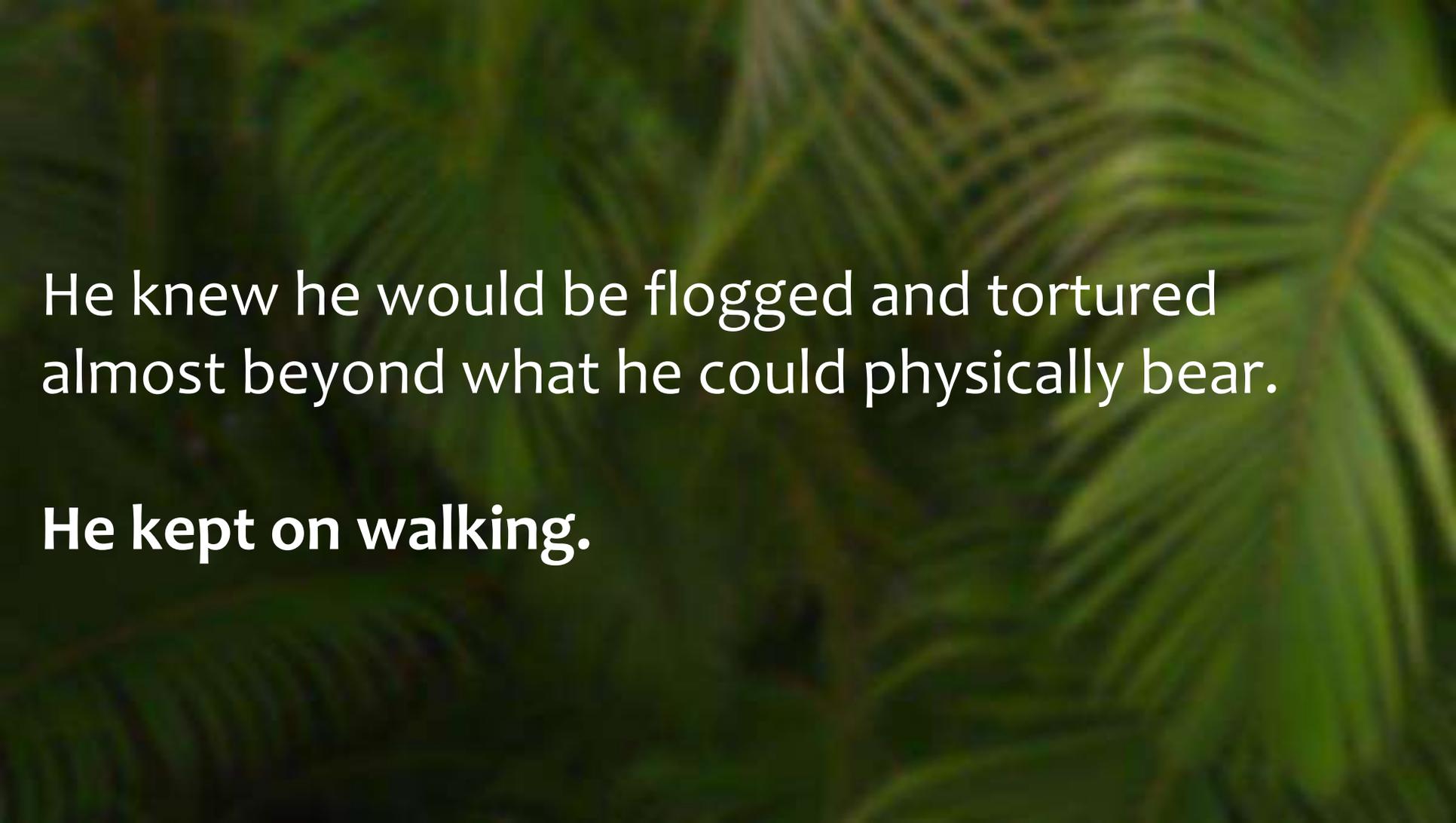
He knew he would be mocked and humiliated.

He kept on walking.

The background of the image is a close-up, blurred photograph of green fern fronds. The leaves are layered and create a sense of depth and texture, with varying shades of green from dark to light. The overall effect is a soft, naturalistic backdrop for the text.

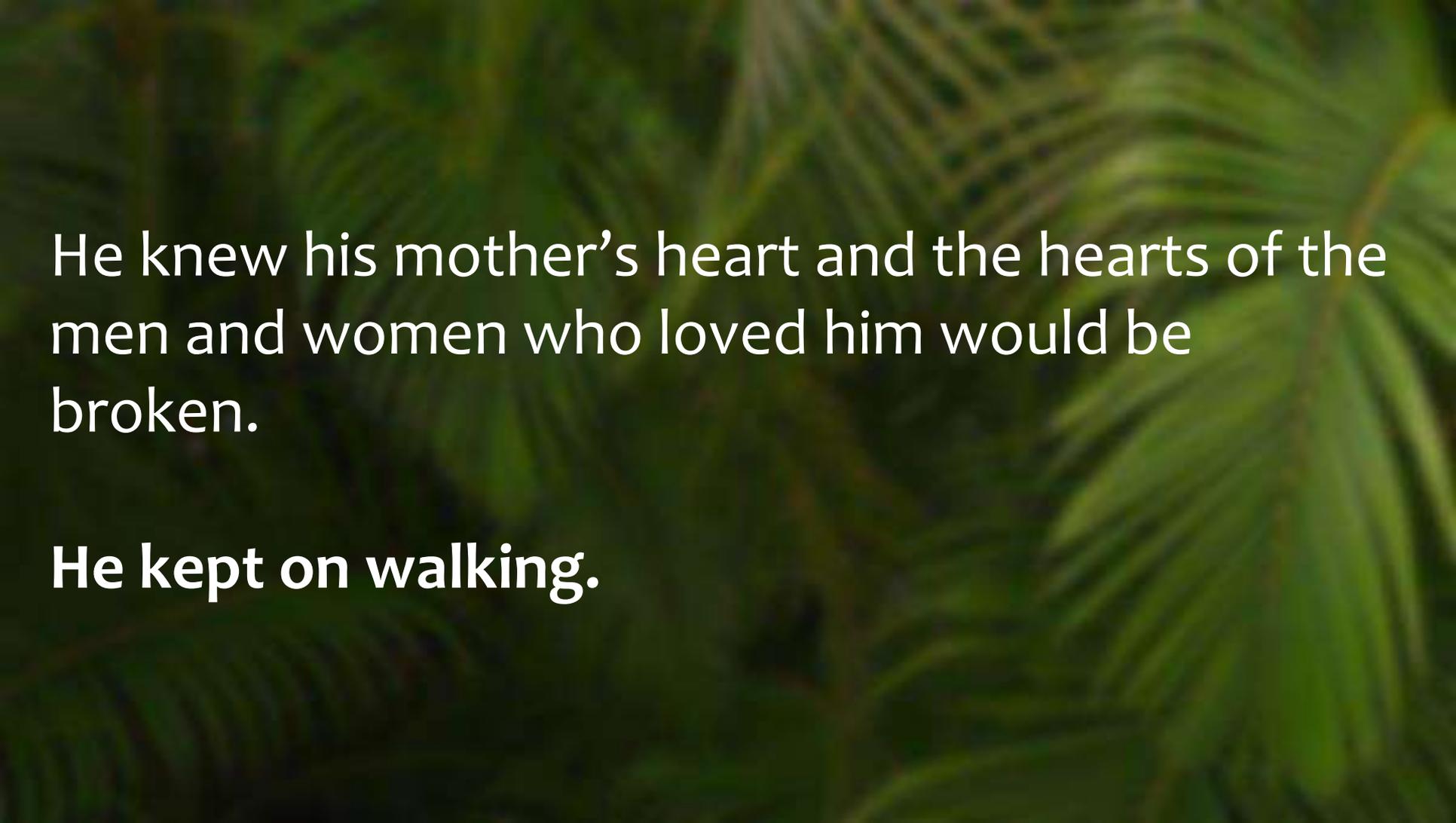
He knew his dearest and closest friends would fail him, abandon him, deny him, and struggle to believe in him.

He kept on walking.



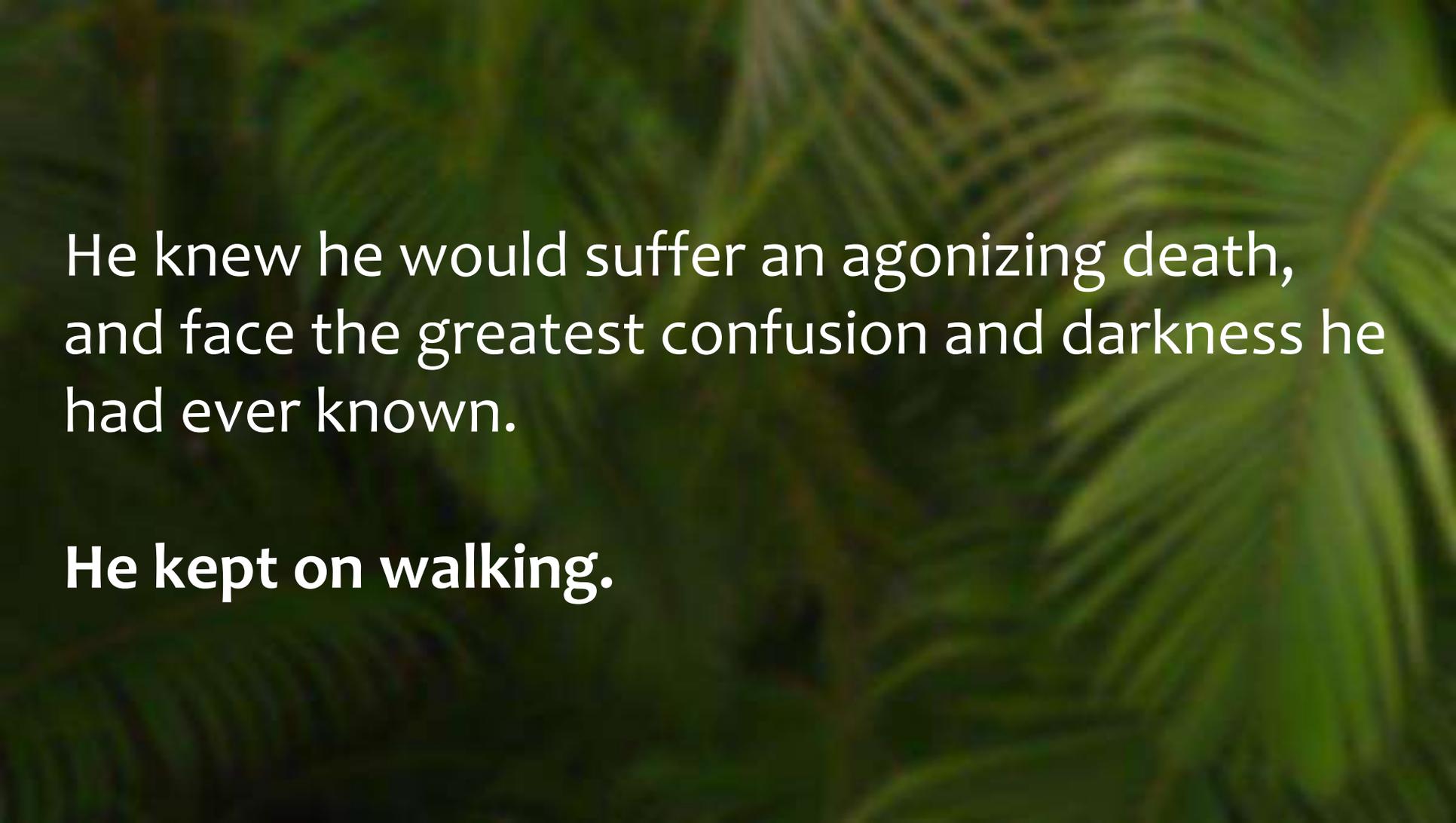
He knew he would be flogged and tortured almost beyond what he could physically bear.

He kept on walking.

The background of the image is a blurred, close-up shot of green leaves, likely from a fern or similar plant, creating a textured, organic pattern. The colors range from dark forest green to lighter, almost yellowish-green highlights where the light hits the leaves.

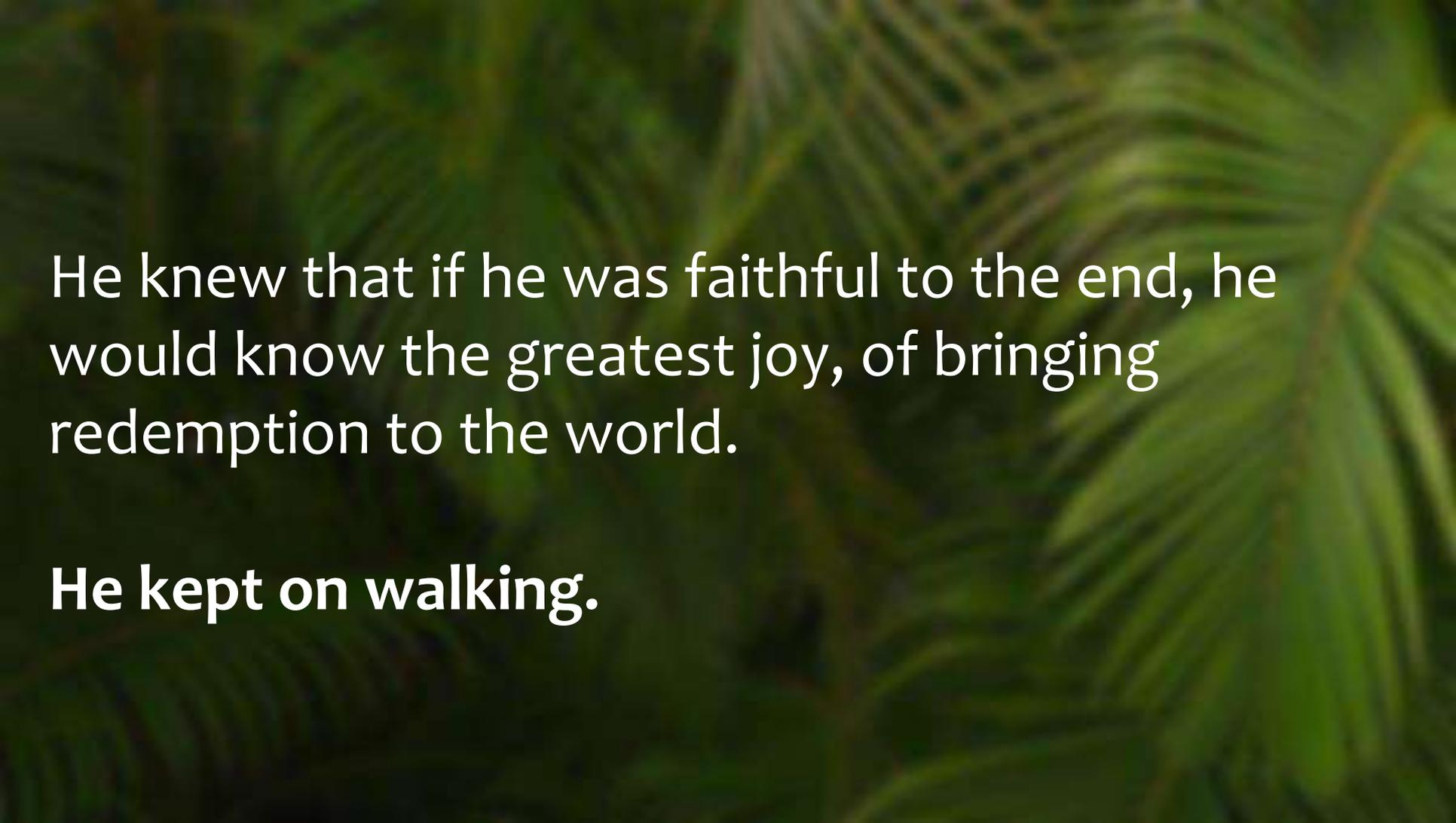
He knew his mother's heart and the hearts of the men and women who loved him would be broken.

He kept on walking.

The background of the image is a close-up, blurred photograph of green fern fronds. The leaves are layered and create a sense of depth and texture, with varying shades of green from dark to light. The overall effect is a soft, naturalistic backdrop.

He knew he would suffer an agonizing death,
and face the greatest confusion and darkness he
had ever known.

He kept on walking.



He knew that if he was faithful to the end, he would know the greatest joy, of bringing redemption to the world.

He kept on walking.

He knew that when all of it was through, he would return to the One from whom he came, the One who is Perfect Love.

He kept on walking

When I think of Jesus,
and his Way of the
Cross, I believe that with
each step, he was
identifying more deeply
with us, with all of us,
especially the most
broken parts of
ourselves, and our
communities.



He was identifying with all the pain and suffering and despair of a really messed up, broken, sinful and lost humanity. He was identifying with all the oppressed and downtrodden ones.



And he invites us to pick up our cross and take this path, the Way of the Cross. He invites us to walk in solidarity with others who are forced to walk a path of suffering, humiliation and death.



He invites us to know our own weakness and brokenness and not be afraid to keep walking.



HYMN

All Glory, Laud, and Honor



All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children made sweet
hosannas ring.

You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming, the King
and Blessed One.

All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children made sweet
hosannas ring.

The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you
went;
our praise and prayer and anthems before
you we present.

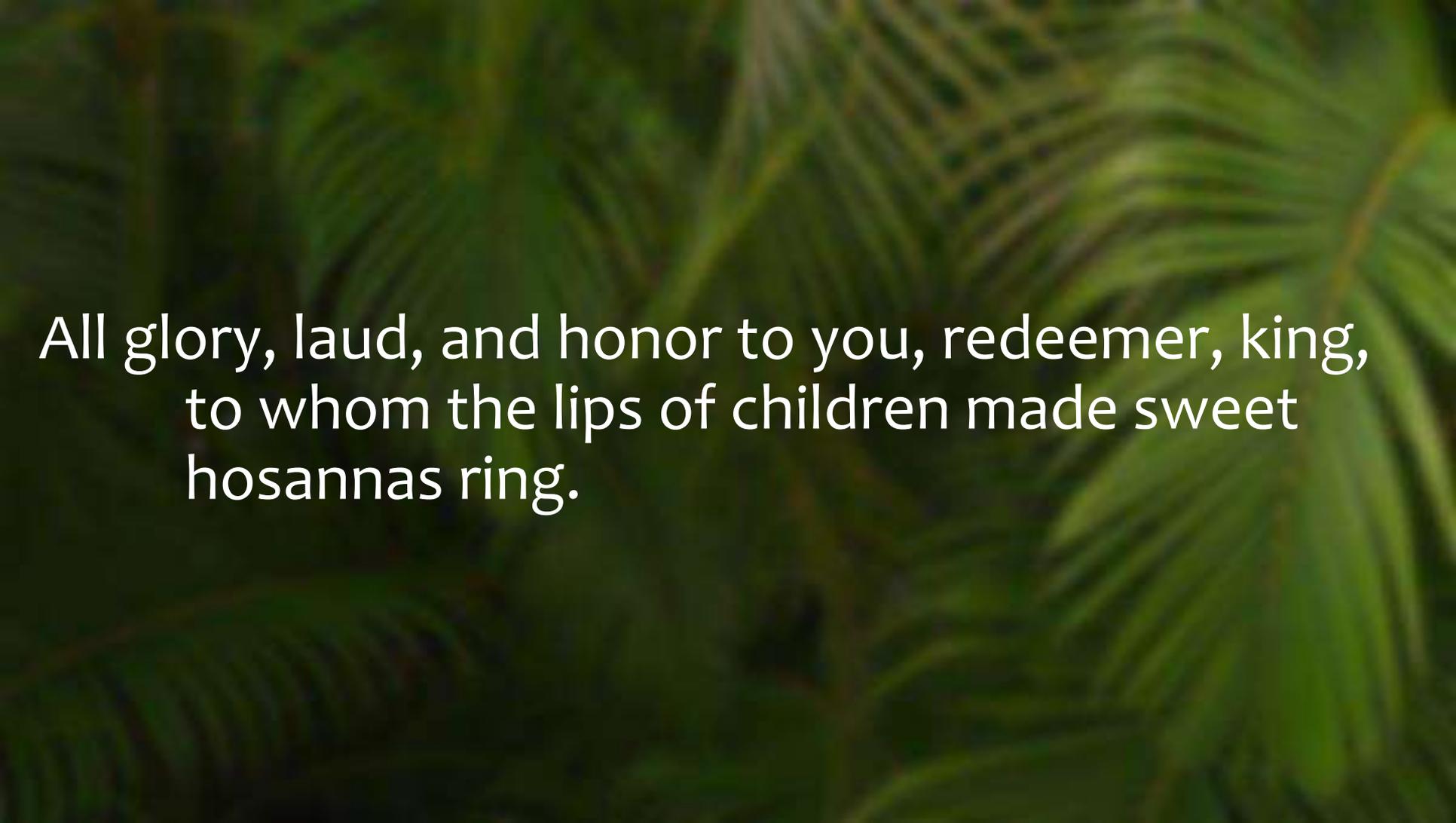
All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children made sweet
hosannas ring.

To you, before your passion, they sang their
hymns of praise.

To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise.

All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,
To whom the lips of children made sweet
hosannas ring.

Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we
bring,
great author of all goodness, O good and
gracious King.



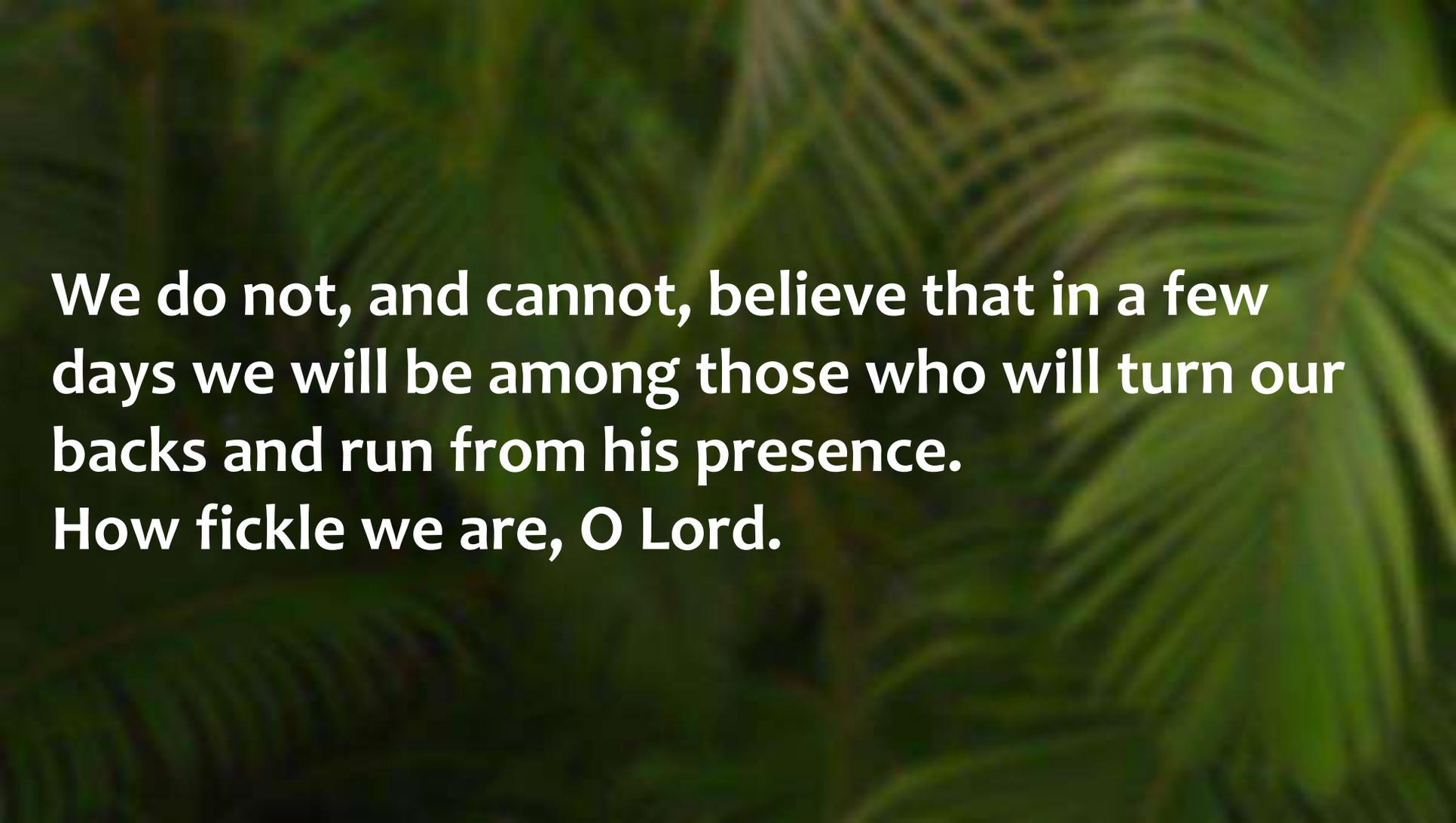
All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children made sweet
hosannas ring.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Patient God,
we confess that we love a parade. We are very happy to see banners waving and hear people shouting their praises. Our hearts thrill to the spectacle. But we fail to see the sadness on the face of the Savior; our shouts block out his sorrow. He comes to us as King, and we expect that royal treatment will follow.

The background of the image consists of a dense, out-of-focus pattern of green fern fronds. The leaves are various shades of green, from dark forest green to a lighter, more vibrant green, creating a textured, organic backdrop. The text is overlaid on this background in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

**We do not, and cannot, believe that in a few days we will be among those who will turn our backs and run from his presence.
How fickle we are, O Lord.**

Yet you continually forgive us and call us to turn our lives around--to see the needs of others, to reach out in trust and faith, to be willing to witness to your good news of saving love. Heal our hearts and give us courage for the days ahead; for we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Written by Nancy Townley, in the Abingdon Worship Annual.

FIRST READING

Zechariah 9:9-10

Rejoice, O people of Zion!

Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem!

Look, your king is coming to you.

He is righteous and victorious,
yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—
riding on a donkey's colt.

10 I will remove the battle chariots from Israel
and the warhorses from Jerusalem.

I will destroy all the weapons used in battle,
and your king will bring peace to the nations.
His realm will stretch from sea to sea
and from the Euphrates River to the ends of
the earth.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

2 Kings 9:12b-13

So Jehu told them, “He said to me, ‘This is what the Lord says: I have anointed you to be king over Israel.’”

Then they quickly spread out their cloaks on the bare steps and blew the ram’s horn, shouting, “Jehu is king!”

The word of the Lord.

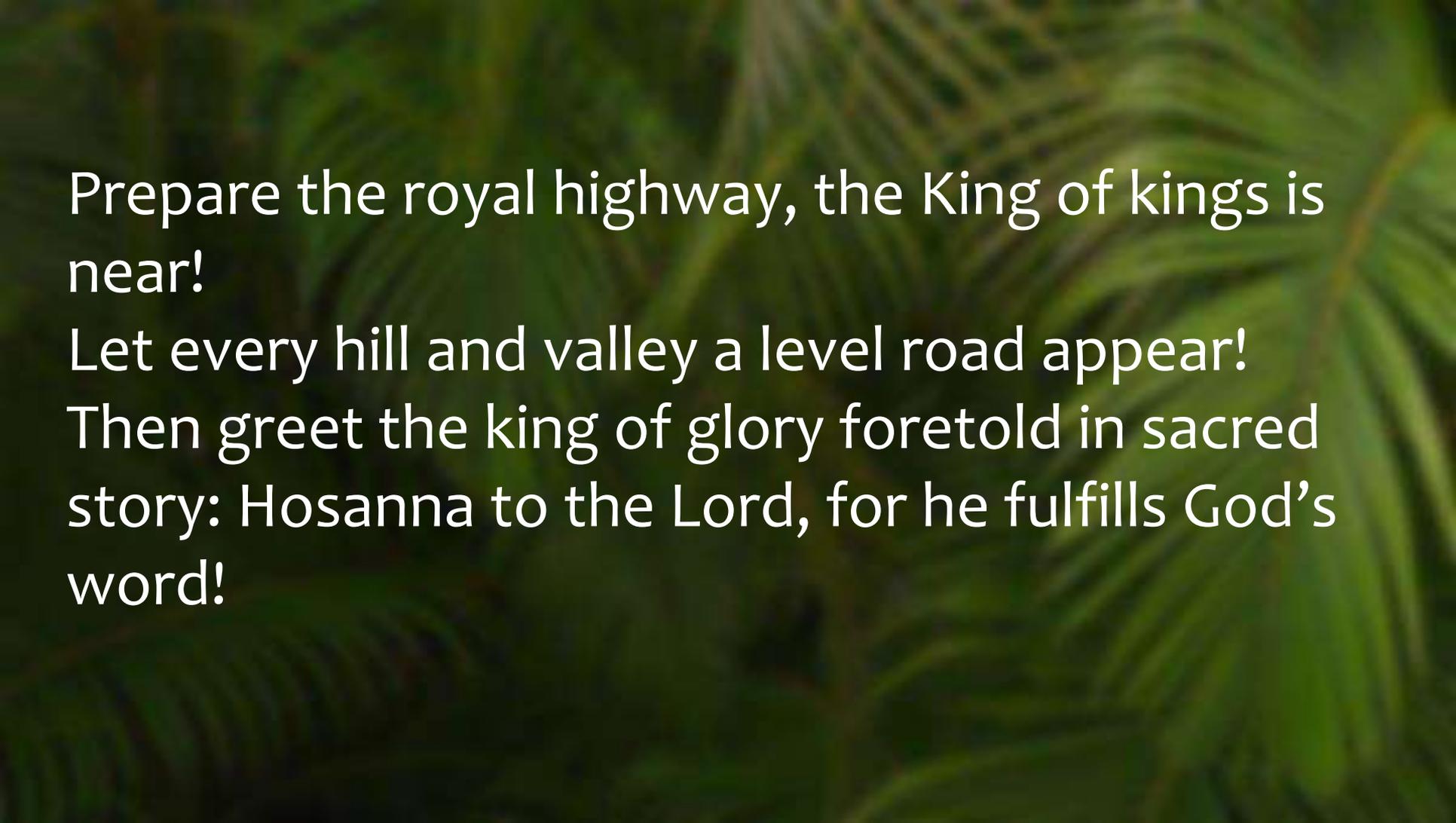
Thanks be to God.

The background of the image is a dense, out-of-focus pattern of green fern fronds. The leaves are various shades of green, from dark forest green to a lighter, almost yellowish-green, creating a textured and organic backdrop. The lighting is soft, highlighting the intricate vein patterns of the ferns.

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY
Prepare the Royal Highway

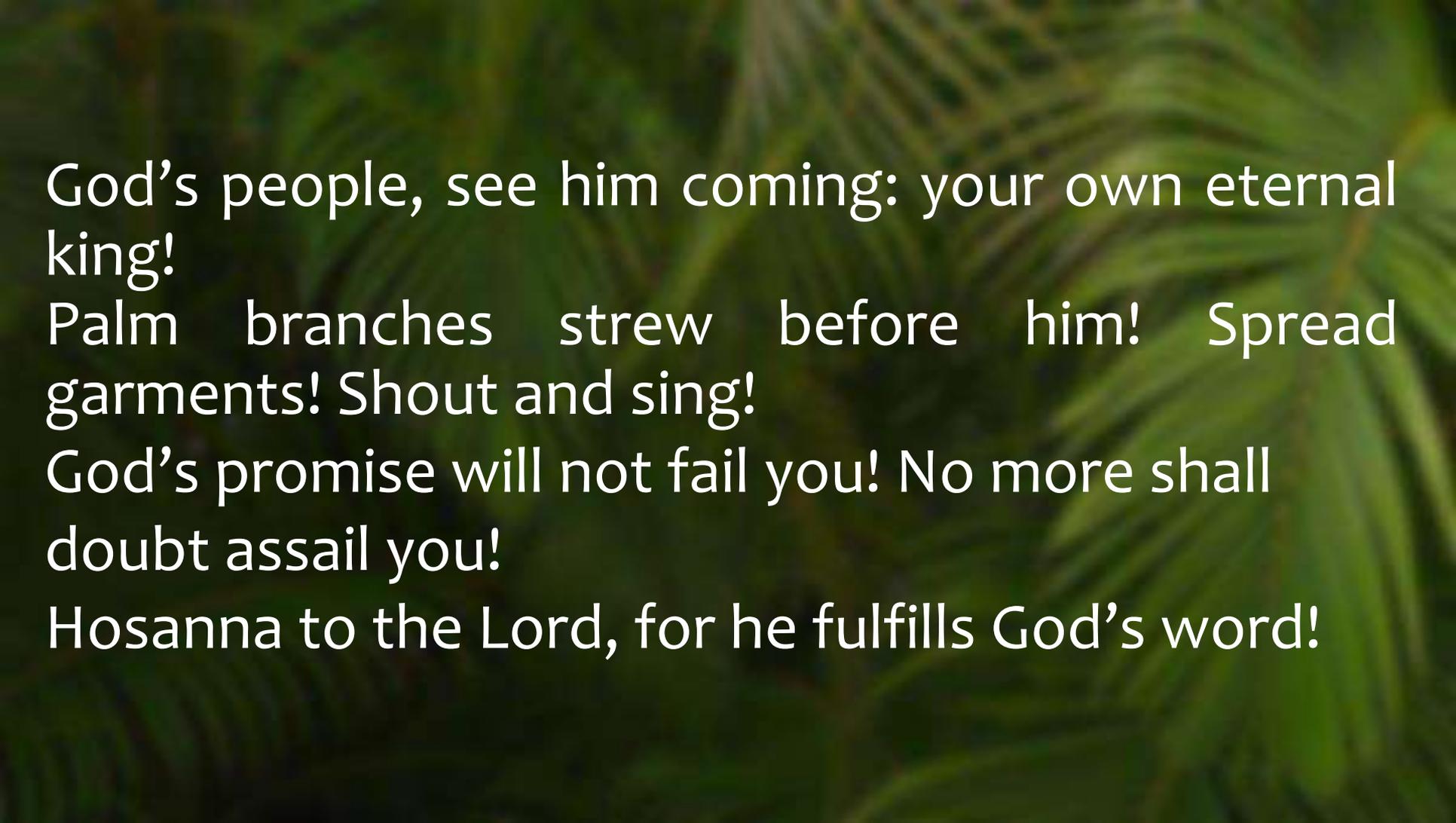




Prepare the royal highway, the King of kings is near!

Let every hill and valley a level road appear!

Then greet the king of glory foretold in sacred story: Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!



God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!

Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!

God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n
above.

His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth,
and love.

So let your praise be sounding for kindness so
abounding:

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen
and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

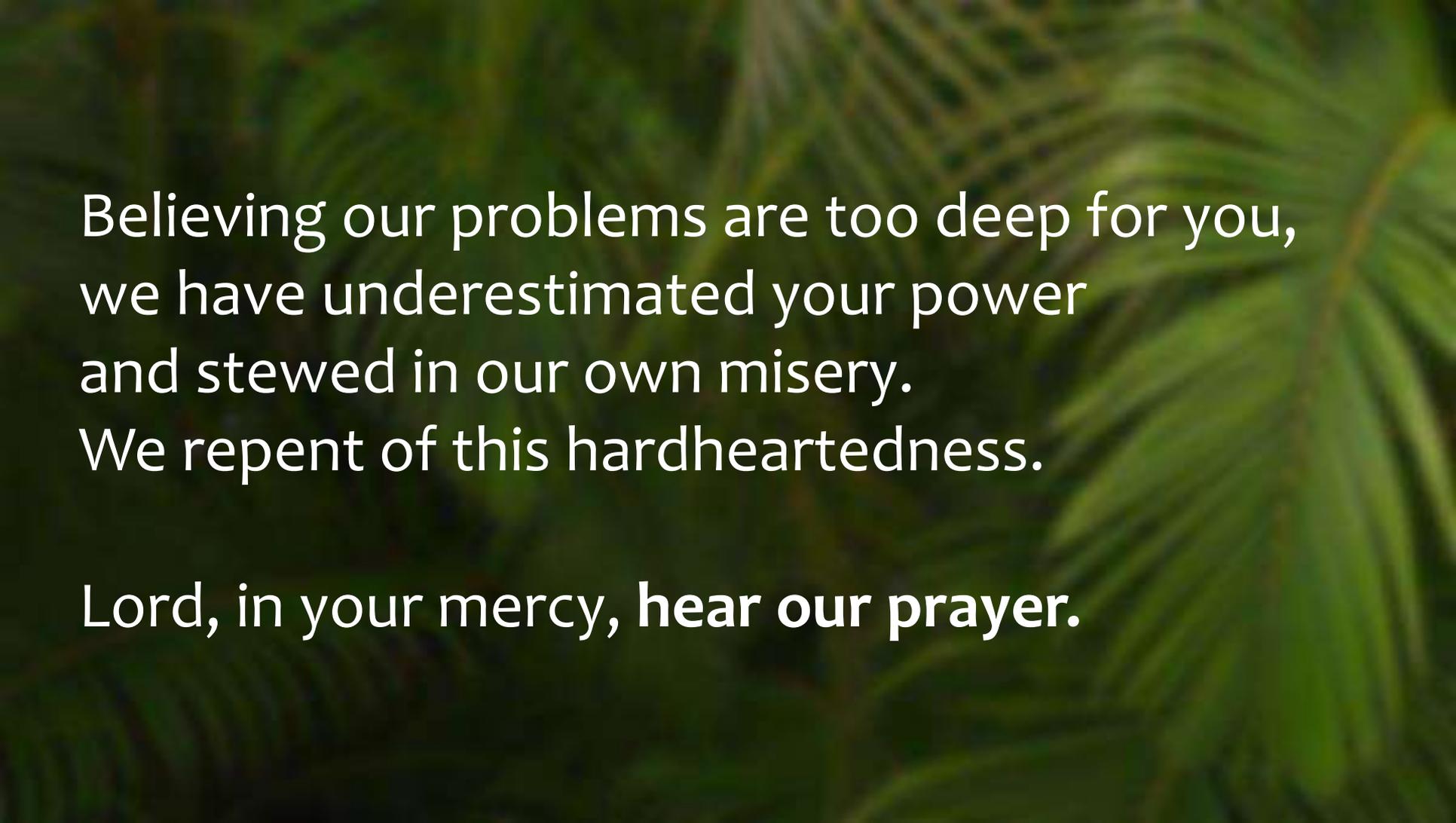
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our lives this week, we turned away from your triumphal entry.

The words in our heads and on our lips have been, “Can’t,” “Won’t,” “Never,” “Impossible.”

The background of the image is a blurred, close-up view of green leaves, likely from a fern or similar plant, creating a textured, natural backdrop. The text is overlaid on this background in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

Believing our problems are too deep for you,
we have underestimated your power
and stewed in our own misery.

We repent of this hardheartedness.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Too often we pray only for ourselves and our own needs. In spite of us, you walk a road straight to the heart of us. You heal us, help us, hold us. We gobble your comfort greedily and run away, never returning to say “Thank you”. Help us to be thankful for your presence in our lives.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

You place people in our road who are in desperate need of your good news, and we have walked by on the other side. Or we've said, "We'll help them tomorrow, when we have more time or more money or more something." Help us to be your hands and feet in this world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

God of grace, we long to be dear disciples,
washing each other's feet.

We long to be faithful companions, awake in the
darkest hour.

We long to follow in your footsteps, even if they
lead to crosses on a barren hillside.

These are the desires of our hearts.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We lift up to you in prayer today all those who need prayers for healing in some way: Susan Siverhus, Dale Norman, Amber Morton, Sharla Kruger, Verna Siverhus, Theresa Prins, Bev Anderson, the family of Jon Mitlyng as they grieve his death,

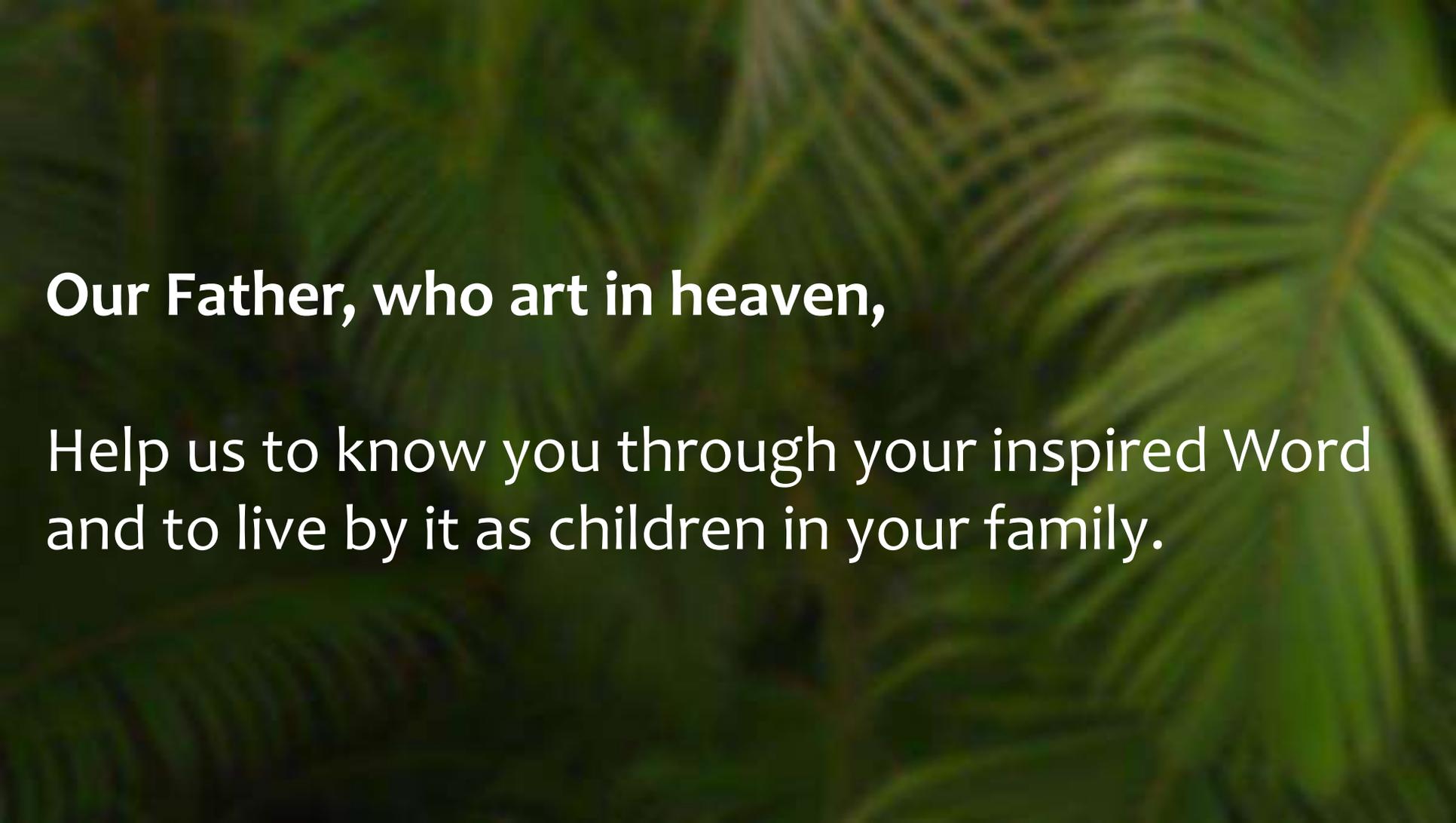
Don Sears, Karen Mohagen, Fred Blom, Aaron Dolen, Tom Fossell, Arlys Tilberg, Ruby Flickinger, Olivia Baldwin, Carol Johnson, Lorraine Miller, Myrtle Starbeck, and Iona Rigge.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

RESPONSIVE LORD'S PRAYER

(based on Matthew 6: 9-13)

O God, through Jesus' sacrifice
you have restored us as your forgiven children.
In his name we pray:



Our Father, who art in heaven,

Help us to know you through your inspired Word
and to live by it as children in your family.



Hallowed be thy name.

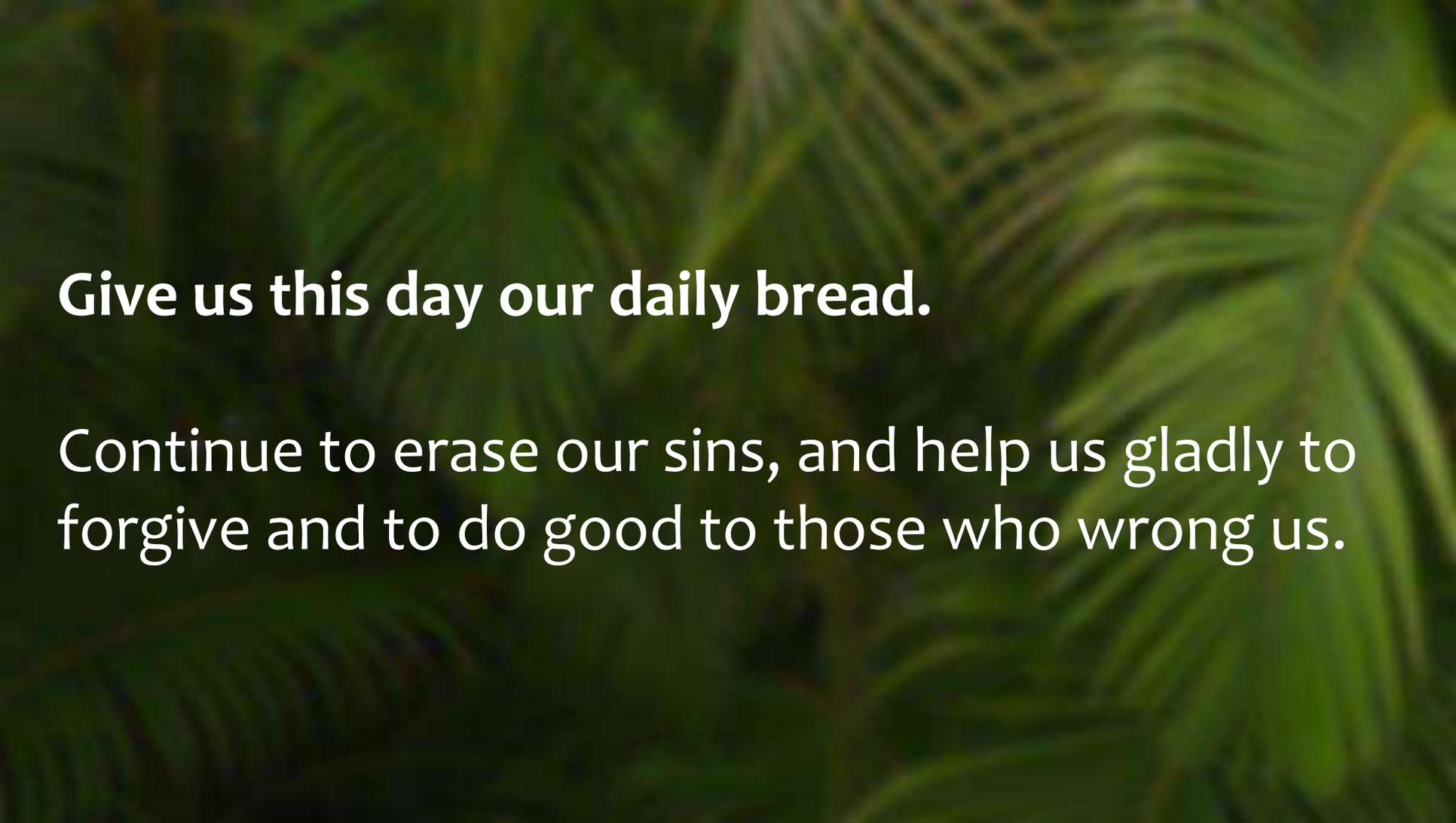
Give us your Holy Spirit to rule in our hearts,
and use us to extend your kingdom of grace to
others.

Thy kingdom come.

Make us zealous to carry out your will as gladly as
the angels do,
and to conform our will to yours.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Merciful Lord, since you are the provider of all things necessary for our bodies; fill us with trust.



Give us this day our daily bread.

Continue to erase our sins, and help us gladly to forgive and to do good to those who wrong us.

**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

We know the devil seeks to destroy our souls and the world lures us to ruin by appealing to the desires of our flesh. Guard us from the poison of misbelief and the trap of unrepented sin.

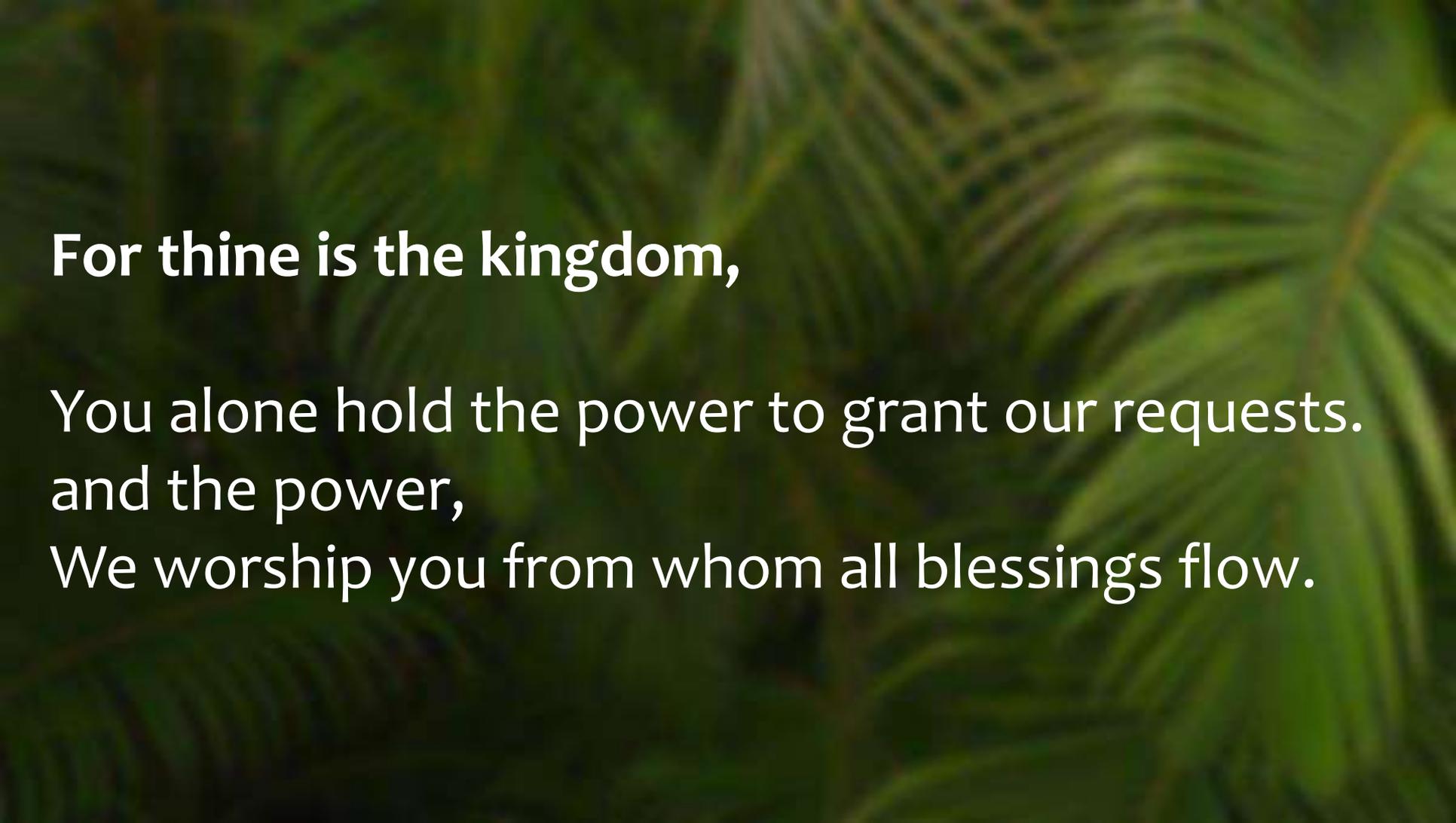
And lead us not into temptation.

Keep safe our bodies and souls, our property and honor, and above all send the Holy Spirit to preserve our faith in Christ which leads to life everlasting.



But deliver us from evil.

For all these petitions we look to you
as King of Kings and Lord of your church.



For thine is the kingdom,

You alone hold the power to grant our requests.
and the power,

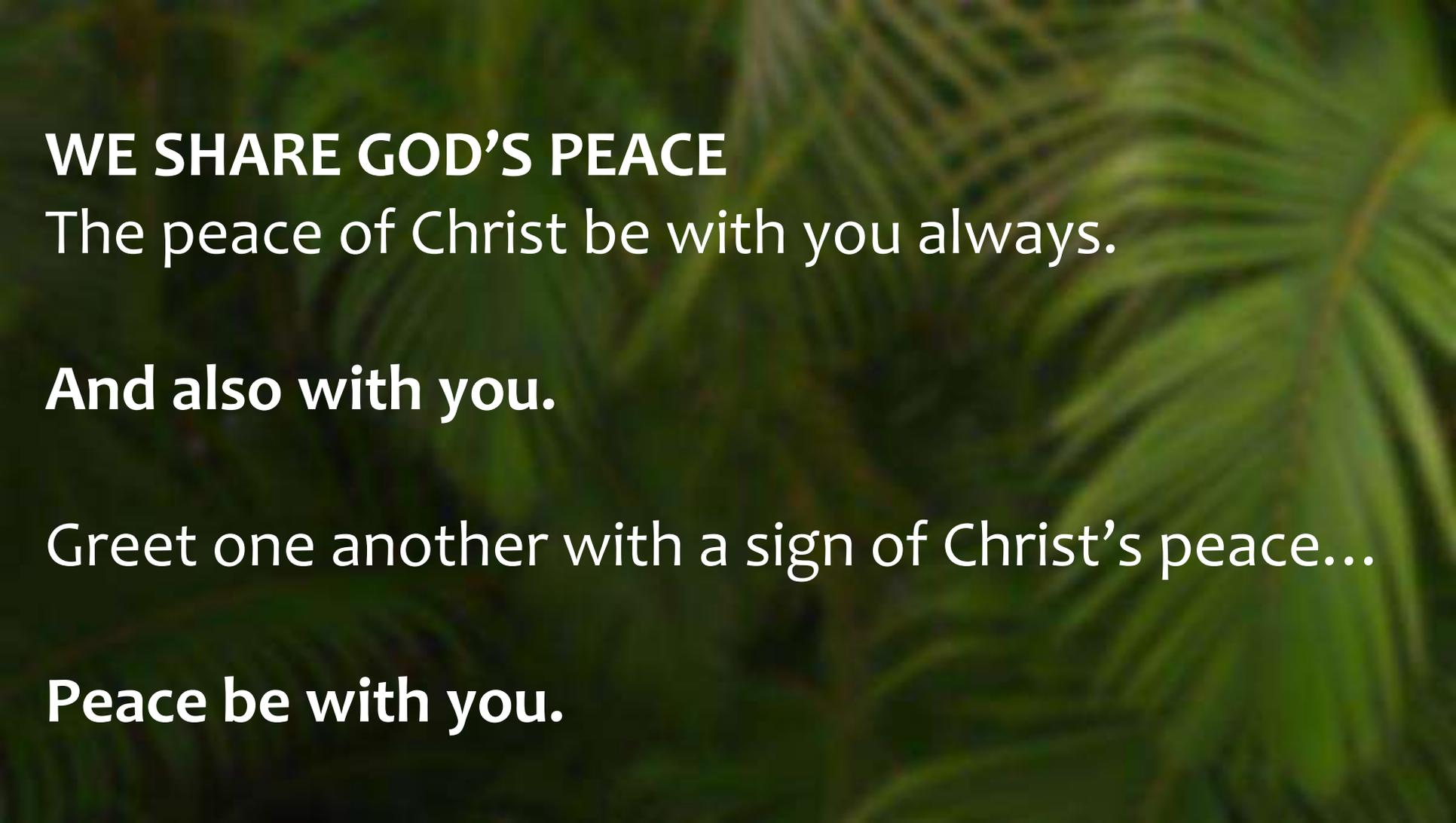
We worship you from whom all blessings flow.

... and the glory, forever and ever.

Relying on Jesus, who cancelled our sins
and made us acceptable in your sight,
we pray with confidence:

Amen. It shall be so.

Posted on the [Worship Ideas You Can Use](#) website.



WE SHARE GOD'S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace...

Peace be with you.

HOLY WEEK LITANY

Today we have cheered you on as our champion
and hailed you as our hero.

**Forgive us tomorrow when our enthusiasm
waned.**

Today we have entrusted you to rescue us from our pitiful circumstances.

Forgive us on Tuesday when we decide we can take care of ourselves.

Today we have made you the centerpiece of our very existence.

Forgive us on Wednesday when we forget to remember who you are.

Today we have called out to you loudly by name.

Forgive us on Thursday when we pretend that we've never met you.

Today we have stared at you with the star struck eyes of fans and groupies.

Forgive us on Friday when we avert our eyes because it's too painful to see you on the cross.

Today we have expressed our unexpressed
hopefulness in the future you have in store for
us.

**Forgive us on Saturday when we believe all is
lost.**

Today we have been boldly certain of the earthly ways you will redeem us.

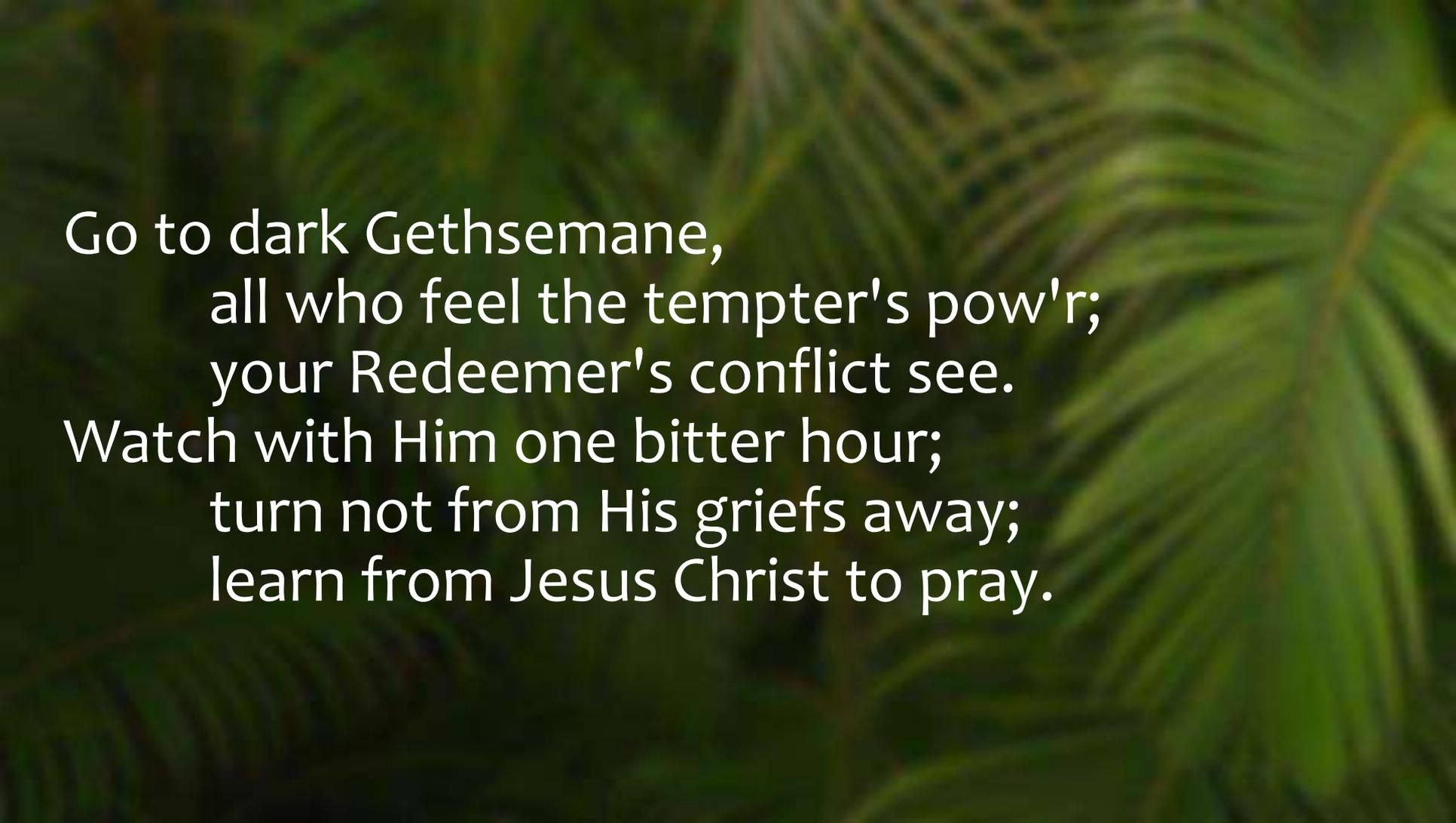
Restore us on Sunday when we are startled and awed by your rising.

Written by Rev. Christine Sobania Johnson, a pastor at East Hills Moravian Church in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

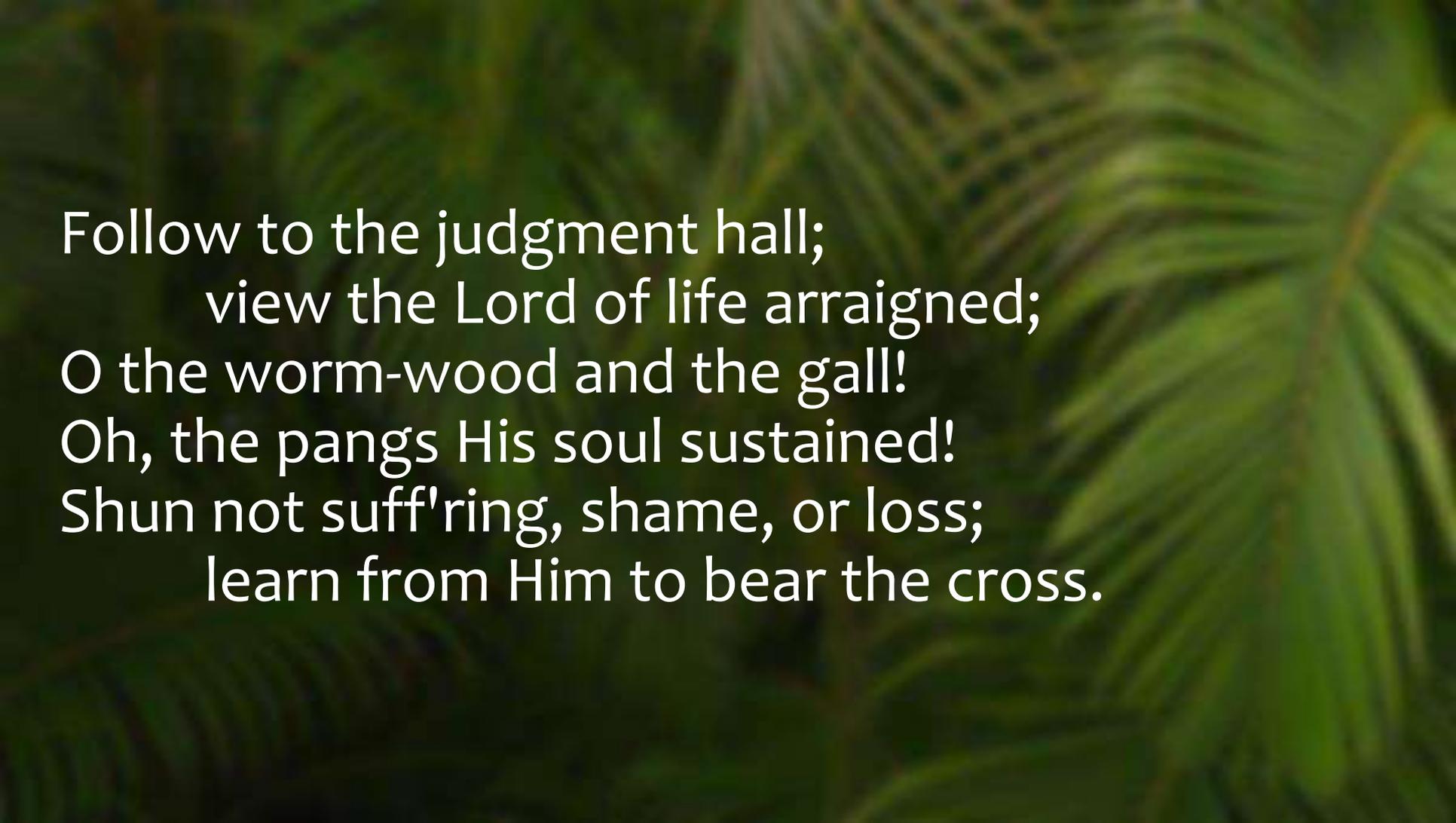
SENDING HYMN

Go to Dark Gethsemane (verses 1-3)

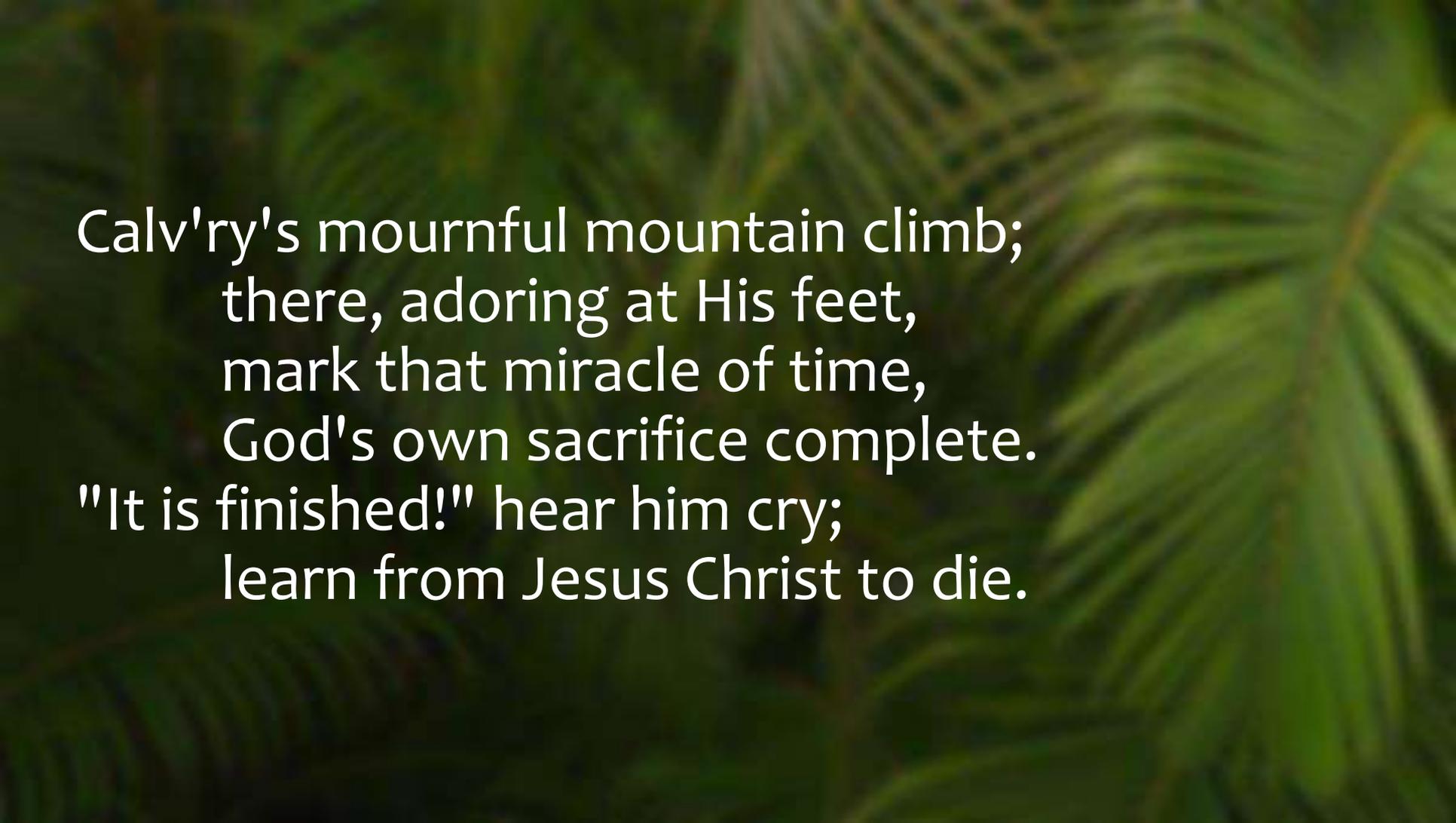




Go to dark Gethsemane,
all who feel the tempter's pow'r;
your Redeemer's conflict see.
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
turn not from His griefs away;
learn from Jesus Christ to pray.



Follow to the judgment hall;
 view the Lord of life arraigned;
O the worm-wood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
 learn from Him to bear the cross.



Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
there, adoring at His feet,
mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry;
learn from Jesus Christ to die.

BENEDICTION/DISMISSAL

My brothers and sisters,

as we enter into this holy week,

let us keep our eyes on Jesus.

He will show us where we need to go.

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.



*Do not fear,
for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name,
you are mine... .
... For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior...
... Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth,
do you not perceive it?*

from Isaiah 43

Pastor Matt Philaya
Salem Lutheran Church
Montevideo, Minnesota

Pastor Matt Danielson
Our Saviours of Baxter
and Saron Lutheran Church
Montevideo, Minnesota

Music pre-recorded by
Diane Schulte

*Please join us again for worship
Wednesday at 6PM
Good Friday at 6PM
Easter Sunday at 10AM*

For more information go to slcmonte.org or to the Baxter and Saron Facebook pages.