

# Holy Tuesday

It's now Holy Tuesday, and we're continuing our journey with Jesus through the events of Holy Week. Jesus continues to teach, preach, and show his followers what the kingdom of God looks like. The Pharisees, because they fear how much the people love Jesus and look to him as a prophet, look for ways to trip him up and attempt to get him to say the wrong thing. As they ask him many questions, Jesus speaks in parables and teaches us what it should look like to be his followers.

**READ:** Matthew 21:23-46

**REFLECT:** The Pharisees were the powerful religious and legal experts in the Jewish community. Jesus' message was one of radical inclusivity and acceptance, and some of his teachings pushed against the status quo that kept the Pharisees in power. They were questioning Jesus' teachings; they didn't like how he was speaking about the kingdom of heaven as if he had authority to do so. Jesus' message of equality is a challenge to power still today. In what ways are the religious getting it wrong today? How might the church be a better witness to what matters most?

**PRAY:** Merciful God, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to show us a different way to live — the way of deep humility and obedience. You've called us to love one another, and to work together with one heart and mind. Give us courage to follow faithfully, with integrity, with actions that bear witness to the words we speak, and with worship that overflows into our daily tasks and relationships, so that our lives will bring glory and honor to you. Amen.