



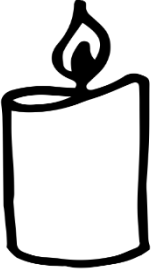
# MAUNDY THURSDAY HOME CHURCH

*The Journey from the Table to the Cross*

Dear Friends in Christ,

This service will take place during your family meal time. You are invited to spend a few hours with your loved ones in your home making a meal together to share with one another as you guide yourselves through this service. During this service you will partake in the Lord's Supper. Know that you can make any bread recipe you feel so moved to use, or simply store-bought will work. Along with this you may choose to serve wine or juice. During your meal please place the bread, juice/wine, at the center of your table so that it may remain a focal point of why it is you gather to eat and worship with one another this night.

I invite you to take turns leading the different sections. The only section that needs to be led by an adult is the communion portion, as it is intended to be led by a spiritual leader of your family, whether that's male or female. If you are navigating this service alone, please read all words as a reminder of God's promises to you. In this time of physical distancing, consider inviting family from afar to gather with you via face-to-face communication such as FaceTime, Skype, or Zoom. May God be with you as you worship together.



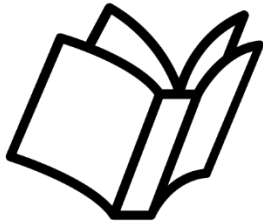
## PREPARING FOR THE MEAL

Before you begin your meal. Light a candle so everyone knows this isn't just any family meal. Something special and holy is about to happen.

**READ ALOUD:** Did you know Jesus' last night with his friends was spent in a place called the Upper Room? That's where they gathered around a table for their meal. They thought it was going to be a meal just like so many other meals they had shared with Jesus, but this one turned out to be unlike any meal they had ever known.

There were two really important things that happened at this meal. It was the first time Jesus took the bread and wine, blessed them, and said, "This is my body" and "This is my blood." Every time we celebrate communion, we're remembering this night when Jesus shared himself with his disciples around the table.

But before Jesus even got to the part where he gave his disciples Holy Communion for the first time, he knelt before them and washed their feet. This was his way of showing them that, like him, they need to love and serve one another in humility. He gave them a new commandment, that they love one another as he loved them. In fact, the word Maundy means commandment.



## READING SCRIPTURE

Before you begin your meal together, read John 13:1-17. You can read it from your Bible or from here. Consider taking turns reading, or choosing parts.

**READ ALOUD:** Before the Festival of Passover, Jesus knew that his time had come to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them fully.

Jesus and his disciples were sharing the evening meal. The devil had already provoked Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew the Father had given everything into his hands and that he had come from God and was returning to God. So he got up from the table and took off his robes. Picking up a linen towel, he tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet,

drying them with the towel he was wearing. When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, *“Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”*

Jesus replied, *“You don’t understand what I’m doing now, but you will understand later.”*

“No!” Peter said. *“You will never wash my feet!”*

Jesus replied, *“Unless I wash you, you won’t have a place with me.”*

Simon Peter said, *“Lord, not only my feet but also my hands and my head!”*

Jesus responded, *“Those who have bathed need only to have their feet washed, because they are completely clean. You disciples are clean, but not every one of you.”* He knew who would betray him. That’s why he said, *“Not every one of you is clean.”*

After he washed the disciples’ feet, he put on his robes and returned to his place at the table. He said to them, *“Do you know what I’ve done for you? You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you speak correctly, because I am. If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other’s feet. I have given you an example: Just as I have done, you also must do. I assure you, servants aren’t greater than their master, nor are those who are sent greater than the one who sent them. Since you know these things, you will be happy if you do them.”*

## WASHING

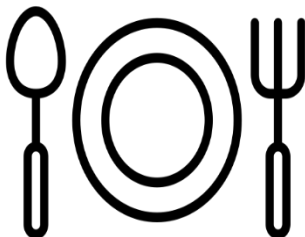


If you’re adventurous and have someone else living with you, pour some water in a basin, get out some towels, and wash one another’s feet. If this makes you too uncomfortable, try washing one another’s hands instead.

## MEAL PRAYER

*Lord Jesus, on this holy night you washed the feet of your friends, and you shared your last meal with them. Bless this meal that we share tonight. Help us to remember that whenever we eat, you are here at the table with us, teaching us to love one another the way you have loved us. Amen*

## ENJOY YOUR MEAL



As you eat together, think about some of the special meals that you have shared with the people you love. What made them memorable? How is this like or different than Holy Communion?



## HOLY COMMUNION

Choose someone who would be considered the leader in the family. This person will read the 'leader' sections while everyone else in the family will respond. Lay out the bread and fill cups of juice for each person.

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

**And also with you.**

L: When our congregation last gathered for Holy Communion, we heard again the story of God's mighty acts and the love shown us in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Now we share this word of life and this bread and cup of blessing, that we may share in these same gifts and be strengthened by the Christian community, even though we gather separately for now.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Let us confess our sins, all that we have done to hurt each other and ourselves, in the presence of God and of one another.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have messed up. With our words and our hands, we have not been kind to others or to our own selves. We are afraid of running out, so we take more than we need. We are afraid of what could happen, so we forget that you are with us all the time to give us peace. We spend the night with worry instead of prayer. Forgive us again and fill us up with your abundant mercy.**

L: God is rich in mercy and love. No matter how much you mess up every day, God's love never runs out. Just as God's love is for you, so is the meal set before us. You are forgiven and ready to feast at the table, in the name of the one who died to set you free from the power of your sin, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

## LORD'S PRAYER

### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

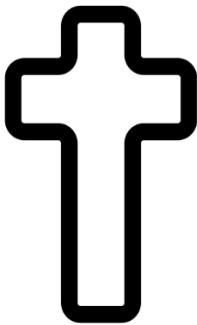
Share the bread with each person, saying,

*"The body of Christ, given for you."*

Share the wine or grape juice with each person, saying,

*"The blood of Christ, shed for you."*

### STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR



**READ ALOUD:** When we come together to worship in our church building during Holy Week, we end our time together with the stripping of the altar. As we hear a song sung or scripture read, all the sacred ornaments are removed: candles, bible, altar book, communion ware, linens and paraments. When it is finished, the altar is completely bare. It reminds us of the bareness of life without the hope of Christ that we have through his resurrection.

### DO A "STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR" IN YOUR OWN HOME

- Gather any faith related items you may have in your house - statues, religious art and symbols that can be easily removed.
- Pack them away somewhere, in a storage bin or a bag. (You might also cover any large items with a cloth.)
- Remove all items from your dining table so it's completely empty and thoroughly wash it so it is both cleared and cleaned.
- Leave your table bare until Easter morning.

**READ ALOUD:** Matthew 26: 36-46—Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane. He said to the disciples, “Stay here while I go and pray over there.” When he took Peter and Zebedee’s two sons, he began to feel sad and anxious. Then he said to them, “I’m very sad. It’s as if I’m dying. Stay here and keep alert with me.” Then he went a short distance farther and fell on his face and prayed, “My Father, if it’s possible, take this cup of suffering away from me. However—not what I want but what you want.” He came back to the disciples and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, “Couldn’t you stay alert one hour with me? Stay alert and pray so that you won’t give in to temptation. The spirit is eager, but the flesh is weak.” A second time he went away and prayed, “My Father, if it’s not possible that this cup be taken away unless I drink it, then let it be what you want.”

Again he came and found them sleeping Their eyes were heavy with sleep. But he left them and again went and prayed the same words for the third time. Then he came to his disciples and said to them, “Will you sleep and rest all night? Look, the time has come for the Human One to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up. Let’s go. Look, here comes my betrayer.”

*\*\*A Note to Parents: On Saturday night when everyone has gone to bed, unpack and uncover the religious items and decorate your dining room table with Easter joy so your family can awaken to a day of celebration! \*\**