

MAUNDY THURSDAY DIY WORSHIP TOOLKIT

Maundy Thursday invites us into the Upper Room—into intimacy, vulnerability, and love. We remember the Last Supper, Jesus’ commandment to love one another, and the radical act of footwashing. This toolkit offers a simple, participatory order of worship to mark this holy night.

PREPARATION

Gather the following items before you begin:

- A candle and matches or lighter
- A bowl of water and a towel (for optional hand or foot washing)
- Bread and juice/wine (for communion)
- Bible or printed Scripture passages (see below)
- Quiet background music (instrumental or reflective optional)
- A simple table or space for gathering
- Paper and pen (optional for reflection)

ORDER OF WORSHIP

1. Opening: Light and Silence

Light a candle. Begin in silence, breathing deeply.
Say aloud or listen to:

“Jesus, Light of the world, you entered the darkness of betrayal with love still on your lips. Be present with us now.”

2. Scripture Readings

You may read all or assign them to different voices.

- Exodus 12:1–14 — *The first Passover*
- John 13:1–17, 31b–35 — *Jesus washes the disciples’ feet and gives a new commandment*
- 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 — *Institution of the Lord’s Supper*

3. Reflection or Conversation

Use these prompts for personal journaling or shared discussion:

- What does “love one another” look like in this moment of your life?
- How do you experience Christ’s presence at your table?
- Is there someone you are being invited to forgive—or serve—in a new way?

4. Hand/Foot Washing (Optional Ritual)

Read: John 13:12–15 again.

Invite participants to wash one another’s hands or feet. Or, wash your own hands slowly,

prayerfully.
Pray:

“Jesus, as you humbled yourself in service, teach us to love with humility, to serve without fear, and to receive love without shame.”

5. Holy Communion

“On the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread...”

Use 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 or your preferred Eucharistic words.

Break bread, share juice or wine. If communion isn’t appropriate in your tradition, consider a “Love Feast”—sharing simple food with thanksgiving and prayer.

6. Prayers of Intercession

Offer prayers for:

- The Church, scattered and gathered
- The world, especially places of violence or disaster
- The lonely, the betrayed, the weary
- Yourself and your community

You may conclude with this:

“God of covenant and communion, bind us together in your love. Let this table stretch beyond walls and miles, that we might know ourselves united in Christ. Amen.”

7. Stripping the Table (Optional)

Slowly clear the table or space. Blow out the candle. End in silence.

OPTIONAL ADD-ONS

- **Music Suggestions:**
 - “Stay with Me” (Taizé)
 - “Ubi Caritas”
 - “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”
 - Instrumental piano or acoustic playlist
- **Art/Visuals:** Set the space with a cross, purple cloth, or bowl and towel as symbols.
- **Blessing to End:**

*“May Christ, who knelt in service, go with you into this night.
May you love as you have been loved.
And may the shadows of this evening hold the promise of resurrection.”*