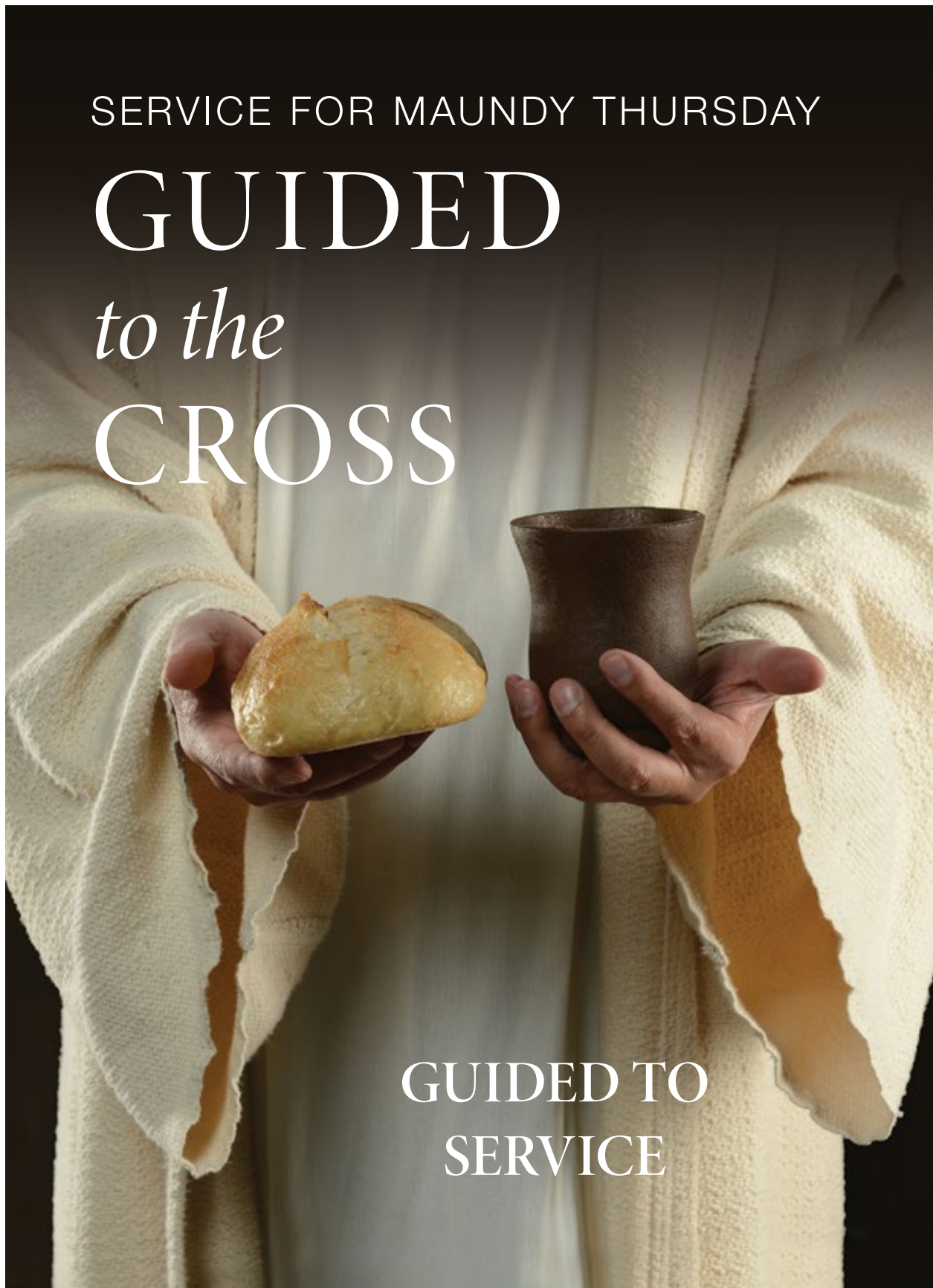


SERVICE FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY

GUIDED

to the

CROSS



GUIDED TO
SERVICE

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GUIDED *to the* CROSS

GUIDED TO SERVICE

COMPLETE SCRIPT FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** is shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points:

[shutterstock.com/image-photo/jesus-jug-water-towel-on-neutral-115396537](https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/jesus-jug-water-towel-on-neutral-115396537)

- This **Theme Verse** is read aloud by the pastor at the start of the service or is read silently by the congregation before the service begins:

*Now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive,
so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit. Romans 7:6*

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Gethsemane 77 77 77, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

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;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, 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.

Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid his breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.

- The **Invocation and Call to Worship** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P On the night before he died, Jesus spoke to his disciples about many things—the betrayal and denial to come, the promised gift of the Holy Spirit and the peace that he alone can give: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid” (John 14:27).

C **Jesus our Savior, grant us your peace.**

P Jesus told his disciples that he was the true vine and that, abiding in him, they would bear fruit in works of love. He gave them a new commandment: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another” (John 13:34).

C **Jesus our Savior, teach us to love one another as you love us.**

P On that same night of his betrayal, the night he would be abandoned by his disciples, Jesus

gave them a lesson in love and service. The Lord of all took up a towel and a basin of water and washed his disciples' feet. The next day he would lay down his life for them, for us, for all people. As Jesus had said of himself, "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

C **Jesus our Savior, set your cross before us to guide us in the way of service.**

- The **Confession and Forgiveness** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C **Almighty God, we have not followed our Savior in the way of love and service. We seek to serve ourselves. We want to fulfill our own selfish desires and turn away from the needs of others. Have mercy on us, and forgive us.**

P God sent his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to serve and save us. On the cross, Jesus shed his blood to cleanse us from sin. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C **Lead us, Jesus, to walk in your steps in the way of love and service.**

- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

P Lord and Savior, you are the Suffering Servant foretold by the prophet Isaiah. You did not come to be served but to serve. You have commanded us to love one another. You did not only give the command but followed it in your own life and in your redeeming death. You, the Master and Teacher, washed your disciples' feet. To wash us clean from sin, you suffered and died on the cross as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world. Lead us by the power of the Holy Spirit to follow your example in our lives. Teach us to serve others in love. Amen.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune O Du Liebe Meiner Liebe 87 87 D, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Jesus, refuge of the weary,
Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary,
Savior from the world above:
Often have your eyes, offended,
Gazed upon the sinner's fall;
Yet upon the cross extended,
You have borne the pain of all.

Jesus, may our hearts be burning
With more fervent love for you;
May our eyes be ever turning
To behold your cross anew
Till in glory, parted never
From the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever,
Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

- The **Children's Sermon** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

Needed: soap and hand towel

Ⓟ When you have been playing outside, or maybe when you have helped in the garden, and it is time for lunch, what will you need to do with these? (*Show the soap and towel. Let children answer.*) It is important to make sure our hands are clean, to wash away dirt and germs, before we eat. In Bible times, people often did another kind of washing up before a meal. In those days, people walked barefoot or in sandals on dusty dirt roads. When they were invited to someone's home for dinner, a servant would usually take a towel and water and wash the guests' feet. It was helpful for the guests, but it was a dirty job for the servant!

On the night before he died on the cross, Jesus taught his disciples about love and about helping and serving others. Before they had their meal, Jesus picked up a towel and a bowl of water and washed his disciples' feet. The disciples were surprised! That was a job for a servant, not for their Lord and Teacher! But Jesus told them that if he, their Lord and Teacher, washed their feet, they should wash each other's feet. That was one way to serve each other and show their love and care for each other.

Jesus showed us how to love and serve others. Today, we do not usually wash our feet before a meal, but we have other ways to help and serve people. Maybe you can wash the dishes or take out the trash, even if it isn't your turn. You can help a brother or sister do their chores. What else could you do to serve others at home or at school? (*Let children answer.*) On the day after Jesus washed the disciples' feet, he died on the cross for them and for us. Our sins are forgiven, and we can share Jesus' love with our words and acts of kindness.

Let's pray: Jesus, you came to serve and save us. Help us to love and serve others. Amen.

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Isaiah 61:1-3, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives,

and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

- The **Epistle Reading**, Romans 7:4-6, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

- The **First Gospel Reading**, John 13:3-5, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

- The **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune In Babilone 87 87 D, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Son of God, eternal Savior,
Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
Hallows all our human race,
You our Head, who, throned in glory,
For your own will ever plead:
Fill us with your love and pity,
Heal our wrongs, and help our need.

As you, Lord, have lived for others,
So may we for others live.
Freely have your gifts been granted;
Freely may your servants give.
Yours the gold and yours the silver,
Yours the wealth of land and sea;
We but stewards of your bounty
Held in solemn trust will be.

- The **Sermon** is delivered by the pastor:

☐ Grace, mercy and peace to you, my dear Christian friends. Welcome to Maundy Thursday. Welcome to the night before we are guided to the cross of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Water and a basin, bread and wine—these are the primary elements of this evening. What do they have in common? They are used by our Lord in acts of service toward his disciples in special and unique ways.

Think of the scene in the Upper Room with Jesus and his disciples gathered together to celebrate the Passover in what they assume will be the traditional manner. But right from the start, the disciples see that this will be no ordinary night. Jesus bends down and takes a basin of water and a towel and asks the disciples to sit down so that he can wash their feet. This is not something ordinarily done by the host of a meal. It is a task reserved for the lowliest of servants. The disciples are taken aback. It is Peter, of course, who speaks up in disbelief. Listen to this exchange, recorded in John 13:6-10: Peter asks, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.” Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.”

The washing of feet has many aspects to uncover. First, it is something that Jesus indicates as necessary at this moment. It is something that has a greater meaning to our lives and something that ties us more directly to Jesus. When Peter boldly declares that Jesus wash his head and hands, too, we sort of scoff, but Jesus points to the fact that it is the feet that need the most cleaning, because feet are prone to getting more dusty on the road as the people of that day walked everywhere. The disciples’ feet are made clean of dirt so that they can walk the road before them, and the implication here is that their hearts are clean of the filth of sin as they walk ahead—except for Judas, who is internally unclean because of his impending act of betrayal already determined in his heart.

After he has completed the washing of his disciples’ feet, Jesus opens up a little more about