

Maundy Thursday Worship Guide

This guide is designed to walk you through the major events leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection, as recorded by Matthew. It is not an in depth study, but a time in discussion, meditation on scripture, and prayer for families or individuals. While it is possible to read each of these passages in a relatively short period of time, we recommend a slower pace, with time spent in prayer and discussion. The suggested prayer topics and discussion questions are provided as a catalyst for further prayer and discussion. They are not designed to examine every detail, but to help us reflect together on Jesus' love and humility. Let these passages speak to you and inspire worship of our risen savior, just as it did for the first witnesses of the resurrection!

Matthew 21:1-11 | Jesus Arrives in Jerusalem

Spend a few moments in prayer, that God would lead you through the reading of scripture and prepare your heart to receive the gospel with joy.

Matthew 21:12-17 | Jesus Cleanses the Temple

What are the responses to Jesus in this passage? Why do some praise him while others are indignant? How does Jesus answer that question?

Matthew 26:26-30 | The Lord's Supper

Spend a few moments reflecting on Jesus' willing sacrifice. How does he demonstrate his love for us in the Lord's Supper?

Matthew 26:36-46 | Jesus' Prayer in the Garden

What is the significance of Jesus' sorrow?

Matthew 26:46-56 | Jesus is Arrested

Why would someone who had been following Jesus for years betray him? How does Jesus respond to Judas? How do the other disciples hold up under pressure?

Matthew 26:69-75 | Peter Denies Jesus

Why was Peter afraid to be associated with Jesus? Spend a few moments in prayer for our own public displays of faith.

Matthew 27:11-14 | Jesus' Trial

What is Jesus' demeanor while on trial? What does this reveal about him?

Matthew 27:27-31 | Jesus is Mocked

How does Jesus' humiliation play a role in the story? What does it reveal about Jesus' love? How does God take the wickedness of these actions and give them new meaning?

Matthew 27:33-44 | The Crucifixion

Spend a few moments in prayer, reflecting on Jesus' sacrificial love for you.

Matthew 27:45-46 | Jesus Cries Out

What does this darkness signify? What do Jesus' words reveal about his spiritual anguish versus his physical anguish?

Matthew 27:50-51 | The Death of Jesus

What is significant about the fact that Jesus "yielded up" (ESV) his spirit?

Matthew 28:1-9 | The Resurrection

Spend time in prayer reflecting on the "fear and great joy" experienced by women upon hearing the news of the resurrection.

Lastly, pray a prayer of worship before Jesus, our risen savior, whose willing sacrifice is the atoning sacrifice for our sin, and whose resurrection is the assurance of our salvation!