Maundy Thursday

The angels of God guard us through this day and night
and quieten the powers of darkness.
The Spirit of God be our guide to lead us to peace and glory.
Oh God, you are steadfast in your love and infinite mercy; you welcome sinners and invite them to be your guests. We confess our sins, trusting in you to forgive us:
We have yielded to temptation and sinned. *Lord have mercy.*
We have turned from our neighbours in their need.
Christ have mercy.
We have resisted your word in our hearts. *Lord have mercy.*

Silence

In the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit we give thanks for sins forgiven.

Reading

They gathered in an upper room to share a meal. During supper, Jesus got up, laid aside his outer robe, tied a towel around his waist, poured water into a bowl and began to wash the dust off their feet and dry them with the towel. Peter tried to stop him, because he did not understand.

God, lover of all, taking people as they come, kneeling and healing, touching where others turn away.
If we are too proud to own up to our brokenness, if we keep hidden what needs to be refreshed, how can you care for us?
And yet, when we are ready to move from distance to involvement, from intent to touch, then you will wash the feet that tire on rocky roads; you will care and heal beyond our expectation. *(Wild Goose - Iona)*
Later, Jesus took a loaf of bread, said a prayer of blessing over it, broke it, handed the pieces to his friends and said, 'Take, eat this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'
(you may like to light a candle)
Then he took a cup of wine, said a prayer of thanks and handed it round. 'This is my blood, my very life', he said, 'poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins'.
(you may light another candle).
Later, Judas, called Iscariot, left, and it was night. After the meal Jesus and his friends sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives. They came to a place called Gethsemane and, taking three of his friends, Jesus went to pray.
It is here that Jesus is arrested; as for his friends, they all forsake him and flee. *(blow out the candles).*

Prayer

Lord, you call us to watch with you on this line between dream and waking, sense and madness, garden and spoil - heap; touch our weary eyes with tears to see you are the wrestling place between God and fallen flesh, through Jesus Christ, the passion of God. Amen.