

9 April 2020, Maundy Thursday  
Devotional

Holy Week: Jesus in Jerusalem

“The Christ of Passover”

Luke 22:14-20 (NRSV)

*The Institution of the Lord's Supper*

*(Mt 26:20-30; Mk 14:17-26; Jn 13:21-30)*

<sup>14</sup> “When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. <sup>15</sup> He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; <sup>16</sup> for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” <sup>17</sup> Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves; <sup>18</sup> for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” <sup>9</sup> Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” <sup>20</sup> And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

Maundy Thursday is the great celebration of Jesus' last supper with His disciples.

Merriam-Webster's dictionary gives to us the definition of Maundy,

“Middle English *maunde*, from Old French *mandé*, from Latin *mandatum* command, order; from the words spoken by Jesus to his disciples after washing their feet at the Last Supper, “a new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another” (John 13:34 Authorized Version).”

Jesus commands us to love one another and to care for one another in ways that demonstrate His love. We can care for one another by praying, connecting, encouraging and supporting one another.

The Passover was provided by the Lord to protect the Hebrew people before they left Egypt. The Hebrew people were commanded by God to eat together as a remembrance of what the Lord had done in freeing them from captivity. Jesus is eating the Passover meal with them on Maundy Thursday to proclaim to His disciples that He is the Passover Lamb. His sacrifice is the final sacrifice for sin. Jesus gave His life so that death would pass over us and we would live in abundant life now and forever.

In this account, Jesus takes up a cup and after giving thanks says, <sup>17b</sup> "Take this and divide it among yourselves; <sup>18</sup> for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." After this, Jesus takes a loaf of bread, give thanks, broke it and said, <sup>19b</sup> "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Then He did the same with the cup and said, <sup>20b</sup> "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

The first cup was about the disciples sharing it among themselves and that Jesus would not drink of the fruit of the vine until He comes again. Notice when He first picked up a cup it was "a cup". The second time He picked up a cup, it was "the cup". This second cup Jesus says is His blood shed as the new covenant. This is the final covenant of a saving and life-giving relationship between a person and God. No longer does sin divide us from God because His blood brought us back to Himself.

We proclaim, each time we celebrate communion, that the Lord is the final sacrifice for sin and that accepting Him by God's grace through faith restores our relationship with God. There is no longer anything or anyone between us and the Lord. Maundy Thursday prepares us for Good Friday and Easter Sunday where we boldly proclaim, 'He is Risen', death no longer holds Him or us.

blessings,

Pastor Tom

for further reading:

*Mt 26:20-30, Mk 14:17-26, Jn 13:21-30*