

Holy Thursday – 2023

Thursday, April 6 at 11 am & 7 pm



His Final Steps...

Led to the Upper Room

Text: Mark 14:12-26 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: *Today begins four days in a row of Divine Services at Bethlehem:*

- **Holy Thursday:** Preparing and eating the Passover meal and instituting the NT Passover meal.
- **Good Friday:** Jesus' grueling work to win our salvation!
- **Holy Saturday – Vigil of Easter:** The first glimpse of Jesus' resurrection.
- **The Resurrection of our Lord – Easter Sunday:** ▶First Jesus' body was gone, ▶then a run to the tomb, ▶then circumstantial evidence, ▶then two angels, and ▶then Mary met Jesus!

I hope you join us and receive God's blessings each day!

1. **Preparing for the Passover Meal:**

- a. **Three-in-one:** ¹² **On the first day of Unleavened Bread** [which began at sunset on Wednesday and continued through sunset on Thursday], **when the Passover lamb was being sacrificed, His disciples said to [Jesus], "Where do You want us to go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?"** // The Passover meal connects back to Moses and the tenth plague (**Exodus chapters 11-12**), and included ▶an unblemished lamb, ▶unleavened bread,

and †bitter herbs. Jesus and His disciples ate the Passover meal, *which was also Jesus' last supper* – before He laid down His life. It was also during the Passover meal that Jesus instituted *the Lord's Supper*.

- b. Jesus knows everything: ¹³ **And [Jesus] sent two of His disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him; ¹⁴ and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher says, “Where is My guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?”” ¹⁵ “And he himself will show you a large upper room furnished *and* ready; prepare for us there.”** // Just like the donkey situation on Palm Sunday, Jesus knew about ✓the man, ✓the pitcher, ✓the house owner, and ✓the furnished upper room. So, let us †be honest with Jesus, †heartily confess our sins, †fully trust in Him, and †radically honor Him in our daily lives!
- c. Meal preparation: ¹⁶ **The disciples went out and came to the city, and found *it* just as He had told them; and they prepared the Passover.** // Dr. Kretzmann wrote: “They went to Jerusalem, purchased a lamb that met the requirements of the law, and took this up to the Temple one hour after the evening sacrifice, when all the priests were busy with the Passover sacrifices. One of [Jesus' disciples] killed the lamb himself, its blood being caught by one of the officiating priests to be poured out at the foot of the altar. They then took the lamb to the house which had been designated by Jesus and made arrangements to have it roasted and all the other dishes of the Passover meal prepared.... With sunset the Feast of Passover began...”

2. **While Eating the Passover Meal:**

- a. Jesus identified His betrayer: ¹⁷ **When it was evening He came with the twelve.** ¹⁸ **As they were reclining at the table and eating** [that is, during the eating of the Passover meal], **Jesus said, “Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me-- one who is eating with Me.”** ¹⁹ **They began to be grieved** [sad, sorrowful, distressed] **and to say to [Jesus] one by one, “Surely not I?”** ²⁰ **And He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who dips with Me in the bowl.** // Jesus, the host, was most likely seated at the head of the table, with one person on his right and one on his left. It is likely that those three were all dipping in the same bowl. Think about going to a Mexican restaurant with a small group: multiple bowls of chips and salsa are placed on the table; then those seated near a bowl of salsa are all dipping in that same bowl. Jesus’ words indicated that He knew His betrayer, but His disciples did not readily understand that it was Judas Iscariot.
- b. Woe to that man: ²¹ **For the Son of Man is to go just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.”** // In other words, **disaster will come upon the man!** When Judas heard Jesus, he should have 😞been cut to the heart, 😞been overwhelmed with sorrow, and 😞cancelled his plan to betray, **but** ✓desiring the money and ✓being controlled by Satan, Judas rejected the ❤very strong and ❤very loving warning of Jesus. Let us also be ♦bold and ♦loving to warn others who are currently rejecting Jesus!

- c. **Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper:** ²² **While they were eating, He took *some* [unleavened] bread, and after a blessing He broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, and said, "Take *it*; this is My body."** ²³ **And when He had taken a cup *and* given thanks, He gave *it* to them, and they all drank from it.** ²⁴ **And He said to them, "This is My blood of the covenant [My last will and testament], which is poured out for many. //** With those words, Jesus established the New Covenant, *the New Testament*, which God made with the world – that through Jesus' body given and blood shed, *forgiveness and salvation have come to all people*, even though only some will receive Jesus and the eternal benefits of His work.
- d. ²⁵ **Truly I say to you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."** // Let us look forward to the great wedding feast of the Lamb and His Bride, the Church!
- e. ²⁶ **After singing a hymn [possibly Psalm 113 - 118], they went out to the Mount of Olives. //** The location of the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed and was arrested. *This true love story continues tomorrow!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for leaving us with baptism, *which is greater than circumcision*, and the Lord's Supper, *which is greater than the Passover meal*. Grow our gratitude for Your great sacrifice and our desire to receive Your precious gifts!

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