

Doctrine of the Lord's Supper

Instituted

1. On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus instituted in the Upper Room what is called the Lord's Supper.

A Perverted Act of Betrayal

- *Luke 22:1 Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover. 2 And the chief priests and scribes sought how they might kill him; for they feared the people. 3 Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve. 4 And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray him unto them. 5 And they were glad, and covenanted to give him money. 6 And he promised, and sought opportunity to betray him unto them in the absence of the multitude.*

A Precious Act of Preparation

- *Luke 22:7 Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the Passover must be killed. 8 And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the Passover, that we may eat. 9 And they said unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare? 10 And he said unto them, Behold, when ye are entered into the city, there shall a man meet you, bearing a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he entereth in. 11 And ye shall say unto the good man of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guest chamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples? 12 And he shall shew you a large upper room furnished: there make ready. 13 And they went, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the Passover. 14 And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. 15 And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: 16 For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. 17 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: 18 For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. 19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. 20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you. 21 But, behold, the hand of him that betrayeth me is with me on the table. 22 And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed!*
2. While Judas was making plans with the religious leaders of Israel to betray Jesus, the other disciples were preparing the Passover Meal. Jesus was ready to enter into His humiliation. The "hour had come."
 3. Throughout the ministry of Christ, multiple references are made to the "hour", meaning a special period of time.
 - *John 2:4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come.*

- *John 7:30 Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come.*
 - *John 8:20 These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come.*
 - *John 13:1 Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.*
4. There is a twofold reference to this hour.
 - There is a dark and ghastly side to the hour that involved betrayal, arrest, mockery, scourging, crucifixion, and death.
 - There is a glory to the hour because Jesus will be glorified.
 5. The hour of crisis is at hand at the Passover Meal. Jesus has less than 24 hours before being crucified. This is His last night on earth with His disciples. Jesus longs to have a final fellowship meal with them.
 6. This celebration was important to the Jewish people because the Passover commemorated the Lord's deliverance of His people from the plagues of Egypt.
 7. The Passover referenced a historical event whereby God delivered Israel from bondage in the Land of Egypt.

Exodus 12:1 And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, 2 This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. 3 Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: 4 And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. 5 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: 6 And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. 7 And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. 8 And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. 9 Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. 10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. 11 And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord's Passover. 12 For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord.

13 And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. 14 And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.

8. As the Passover was a memorial to the Jews, the Lord's Supper was to be a memorial to Christians. Jesus said, "*this do in remembrance of me.*"
 - *Luke 22:19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.*
9. Because Christ was the Paschal Lamb, He had the right, and the authority, to change the liturgy of the Passover to make it about Himself.
10. By doing this, in the Upper Room, the Church was born as Jesus instituted the New Covenant, which was ratified by blood.
11. The New Covenant was ratified the following afternoon of the Passover in the body of Christ as His blood was shed.
12. The meaning of the elements was changed during the Last Supper.
 - The meaning of the bread (matzah) was changed from referring to a hasty departure, to speak of the body of Christ. *Luke 22:19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.*
 - The meaning of the cup of blessing was changed to speak of the blood of Christ. *Luke 22:20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you.*
 - The timing of the celebration of Passover was changed from once a year to a weekly celebration.
13. The Last Supper instituted a new sacramentalization of space and time.
14. In Biblical terms, there is a sacramentalization of space and time. There are many instances in Scripture where a sacred meaning is given to events, and to time.
 - When Moses was called by God, he suddenly stood on holy ground because God was present. *Exodus 3:5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.*
 - When Noah landed on Ararat, he built an altar to remember where God had delivered him, and his family. *Genesis 8:20 And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.*

- When Jacob saw his vision of the angels ascending and descending into heaven, he built an altar to the Lord. *Genesis 28:16 And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not. 17 And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. 18 And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. 19 And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first.*
- When Joshua defeated the king of Ai, he built an altar unto the Lord God. *Joshua 8:30 Then Joshua built an altar unto the Lord God of Israel in mount Ebal.*

15. Even today there are special places people mark to evoke memories. It is not uncommon to see along roadsides a memorial to a victim of a tragic accident.

16. In the Bible there were not only special places, but special times. The Sacred Festivals instituted by the Law of Moses set aside special times. The Sabbath was among the most sacred time.

- *Exodus 20:8 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.*

17. There are sacred days in the calendar of the Church.

- Christmas
- Feast of Pentecost
- Good Friday
- Easter

18. Some Christians have scruples against celebrating Christmas, and Easter because they were not officially instituted by Christ, and because of their pagan heritage.

19. In defense of the Christians celebrating former pagan holidays, it should be noted that the Christian did not celebrate these pagan holidays, but sought to redeem them for the glory of God, and the good of mankind.

20. Christians celebrates Christmas, and Easter, and other religious days, because of a desire to have sacred time.

21. Jesus wanted His disciples to remember Him. In particular, Jesus wanted the breaking of His body, and the pouring out of His blood to be remembered in the sacred memorial of the Lord's Supper. The Cross is the universal sign of hope.

22. The church has honored the request of the Lord. For the past two thousand years, all over the world, every hour of every day, finds people remembering the Lord, and His redemptive work.

23. While the Lord's Supper is a memorial of the past, there is a present reality as well.