

Sermon Series: “The Darkness and The Dawn”—Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN—Holy Thursday, 4/17/2003

Title: “The Cup of Sacrifice”

Text: Luke 22: 7-13 & Matthew 20, 26-31

Intro.: Ills.: The Family Meal—an endangered species

Theme: The Lord’s Supper which we commemorate and celebrate tonight is more than religious ritual; rather it is the family of Christ’s family meal in which we intimately share in Jesus and his death and life within us.

Broken bread for you so that you do not have to be broken

- Elements of Passover meal were a reminder of the broken-ness of the 400 year Egyptian slavery (**Lk22:7-13**)
 1. **Ills.: the meal elements of the Passover**
 2. The bitter herbs to reflect the tears of slavery, oppression, and death at hands of cruel taskmasters
 3. The broken bread to reflect the broken bodies and the flight from Egypt
- Jesus becomes broken for us
 4. Jesus broke bread and passed it around and said, “*This is me—broken for you*” (**Matt. 26: 26**)
 5. To show that he can relate to our brokenness of sin—in diseases, relationships, world all corrupted by sin’s touch
 6. To become the curse for us so that we would not have to bear the permanent spiritual scare of the Law’s curse
 7. *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." Galatians 3:13*

A Lamb to take the place of the lamb

- The Passover lamb was a graphic reminder of a substitution for deliverance
 1. **Ills.: what the lamb and shedding of blood symbolized**
 2. A death had to take place for a rescue to be secured (Egyptian Passover story)
 3. Retelling/reenacting story at every Passover brought a sense of perspective and humbleness to life of a Jew (**Lk22:7**)
 4. Coming to the Lord’s Supper is a humbling event—reminding that you are not as self-contained as you think
 5. The great exchange—the ultimate substitution—has taken place and you mystically/spiritually take part in it
- Jesus became God’s final and complete Lamb of the Passover
 6. The Lord’s Supper is a sealed “covenant” that sin is paid for and God won’t renege (**Matthew 26: 27-28**)
 7. Every time you come to the Lord’s Supper it is with the joy of your forgiveness and salvation

A meal which looks to the past and the future

- A meal which look back to the past
 1. Passover was a joyful celebration for the Jews but always had the cloud of the past slavery hanging as a backdrop
 2. The Lord’s Supper is a solemn reminder of the death on the cross that was ahead and which we look back to
 3. *Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 1Cor.11:26*
- A meal which is a reminder of better times to come
 4. The Passover took on Messianic flavor as the youngest would go to the door at the Elijah cup and open expectantly
 5. Jesus took the Elijah cup indicating that the longed for time had arrived
 6. Jesus puts a future hope of the expectation of the heavenly feast on our celebration of the Lord’s Supper
 7. *I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom." Matthew 26:29*

Family Meal Time Suggestions

- 1-Do not answer the phone (let the answering machine take the calls)
 - 2-If possible have everyone involved in some aspect of the meal preparation and setting of the table.
 - 3-Everyone should sit together until the last one finishes eating.
 - 4-Take a moment to give thanks.
 - 5-Thank the cook and assistants for their efforts
 - 6-Make clearing the table, and cleaning the dishes just as much fun an event
 - 7-Have everyone take turns sharing at least one thing of importance to them.
 - 8-Look and listen, be attentive to others
 - 9-Keep loaded discussions for special meetings time.
 - 10-Keep to positive comments about each member.
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What the Lamb's Shed Blood Symbolized

"The pilgrims entered the Court of Priests from the north side. Each cut the throat of his lamb. The blood was caught in containers of precious metal, passed down the line of priests, and poured out at the altar of burnt offering. Thereby the lives of the innocent victims were given back to God. Carrying their slaughtered lambs, the pilgrims left the Court of the Priests through a gateway on the south side. Then the lambs had to be roasted. This was normally done on pomegranate sticks. When ready, the lambs were served whole, without being cut apart." Erich L. Kiehl,

Elements of the Passover Meal

- 1 whole lamb (unblemished—skinless and gutted)
- 6 servings of bitter herbs, dried and tossed in a scoured bowl
- 3 to 4 loaves of unleavened bread
- 1 large bowl of fruit puree paste for dipping

Luke 22:7-13

⁷Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."

⁹"Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.

¹⁰He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters,

¹¹and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹²He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there."

¹³They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

Matthew 26: 20, 26-31

²⁰When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve.

²⁶While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

²⁷Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."

³⁰When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

³¹Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'