

Luke 22: 17-20: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” 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.” 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.”

On Maundy Thursday we remember and celebrate our Lord’s Last Supper. **Jesus gathered His disciples to celebrate Passover—the celebration of the Jews liberation from slavery.** The Last Supper is comprised of a simple meal—the cup of wine and the bread. This not only was Christ’s last meal on earth with his disciples before his death, but it also prefigures the sacrificial giving of his body and blood which would happen soon thereafter. We are called to partake of the Eucharist to remember Christ’s death and to celebrate his resurrection. The Eucharist brings us together. It unifies us. We glorify Christ in the Eucharist.

After we partake of the Eucharist we do not stay at the table, but rather we go out to share the power of forgiveness and to live out acts of love and generosity. We share this bread and cup with those who do not know this redemptive grace.



Prayer:

Holy God, Holy Immortal One:

We are reminded today of Christ's unending love and forgiveness given to us in the bread and the wine. As we go about our day and week help us to show forth your love which you shared with all your disciples in the Last Supper. Your nourishment in the Eucharist feeds us and encourages us to live with vitality and hope.

As St. Francis said "Go out and preach the gospel and, if you must, use words.

Amen.

Linda Stormes