

Scripture Reading:

Luke 22: “13 So [the Disciples] went and found it just as [Jesus] had said to them, and they prepared the Passover. 14 When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. 15 Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; 16 for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." 17 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; 18 for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. 21 But behold, the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table. 22 And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!"”

"The Passover is Fulfilled"

Two weeks ago our journey through Luke’s Gospel brought us to the preparations for the final Passover:

- **We reviewed how God had prepared for this time down through all of history**
- **We also saw how Jesus used His disciples and others to make the practical preparations for the meal to take place.**

This week, very appropriately on Easter Sunday, we come to the fulfillment of this final Passover...

- **We will see Jesus instituting the Lord’s Supper which we will celebrate here this morning**
- **We will consider the significance of how Jesus is going to save His people from their sins and how the Supper reminds us of this week after week**
- **And finally, we will consider how we should respond to so great a salvation**

Luke tells us that Jesus had a fervent desire to have this final Passover meal with His disciples.

We know from John’s Gospel that He still had much to teach them and I trust you have taken the opportunity to review chapters 13-17

However, the focus with Matthew, Mark and here in Luke is on the change that takes place at this last Passover meal.

- No longer will God's people have to look forward to the forgiveness of sins
- No longer will the blood of bulls and goats or even lambs be offered to picture the great sacrifice for sin that Jesus would present.
- Jesus has come to Jerusalem at His appointed time to fully atone for the sins of His people: To be THE sacrifice for sin!

Jesus in His suffering and death, which we will study in the coming weeks, fully satisfies the wrath of God that is due US because of our sin

- Our sins are not forgotten or overlooked.
- Our sins are not set aside or hidden
- Our sins are fully forgiven because Jesus, as the Son of God come in the flesh, suffers and gives His life to fully propitiate the wrath of God

The death burial and resurrection of Jesus means that God can be just AND the one who justifies!

The disciples had prepared the Passover meal and everyone gathered expecting the usual event. The Passover proceeds and then Jesus must have surprised them when He took the cup and said, "17 ..."Take this and divide it among yourselves; 18 for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

The earthly ministry of Jesus was coming to an end... He would no longer walk and eat with them as He had for some three years: Things would now be very different than they had been. There was not much time for the disciples to be surprised or ponder what Jesus meant, because He then shifts the entire event with words and actions that had never been experienced at a Passover meal:

19 "And [Jesus] took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 20

Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you."

- With these simple words and actions Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper that has been practiced, rightly and wrongly by the Church for almost 2,000 years!

The Supper is simple and serious:

- Errors have been made on both sides of this truth:

-- Not to be so simple that coke and chips at the beach will constitute a communion service if it 'feels' right

-- Not so serious that only church officials can really understand what is going on burying this simple meal in a host of pomp and circumstance and excluding some members.

Our obligation is to follow the simple commands and example of Jesus:

- **Jesus said to take bread, give thanks and partake**
- **Jesus said to take wine, give thanks and drink**

IF we follow these simple commands we have the promise that Jesus Himself is with us by faith and that our souls are fed and nourished with His own body & blood, just as bread & wine nourish our physical bodies.

- **A truth so simple that our youngest children can begin to understand**
- **A mystery so profound that men have studied its depths for two millennium and have barely scratched the surface of what it truly means!**

Just as Jesus shifted what was said and done from the Passover meal to the Lord's Supper, so He is about to change how God's people respond to His great salvation.

- **In the Old Testament we have an altar where Priests are to make sacrifices that picture the great sacrifice that was to come.**

Jesus has now come at His appointed time to be THAT sacrifice!

- **In the New Covenant, the sacrifice for sin has been made and we now have a Table with provisions given by God and ministers who serve God's people**

A a simple and yet profound shift and the failure to understand what Jesus was doing has caused a host of problems and errors down through Church History. The Roman Catholic and Eastern traditions have gone back to the old sacrificial system having priests administer the sacrifice of Jesus on an altar before God At best a distraction from the simple Supper where Jesus has promised to meet and feed His people and at worst it becomes an accused idolatry as proclaimed by the Heidelberg Catechism.

In Reformed and Evangelical circles the Supper has become distant from God's people in different ways:

- **Reacting to the errors of Rome, the Supper has become only a way to reflect on what Jesus has done and that very infrequently.**
- **To speak of the real presence of Christ the way that John Calvin did often raises some serious eyebrows today.**

And yet Jesus promised that He would be present with us as we follow His simple commands, which Paul repeats in his epistle to the Corinthians:

I Corinthians 11: 23 "For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."

We are NOT to sacrifice Jesus anew on an altar: We are to gather around a table and receive the gifts of God as Jesus feeds His people...

As Pastor Duckett would always remind us here in Sacramento years ago, “The sermon is where we hear the Gospel with the ear-gate and the Table is where we see the Gospel with the eye-gate.”

- **In both places the good news is proclaimed: The Good News that Jesus has come to save His people from their sins.**

In the coming weeks, we will spend a great deal of time considering what happens in the suffering and death of Jesus over the next eighteen hours

- **The penalty for our sins was a very steep price to pay!**

BUT we rejoice here on Easter Sunday and around this Table each and every week because Jesus was raised in power on Sunday morning because His sacrifice was sufficient:

- **The wrath of God had been propitiated; the sins of His people were forgiven!**
- **Jesus then commissioned His disciples to take this good news to all the world, which we continue to do today!**

How should we respond to so great a salvation on this Resurrection Sunday?

- **As always, we should look to the example of our Savior**
- **We see His example as He prepared to eat this final Passover with His disciples and fulfill all the promises made to God’s Covenant people in the Old Testament!**

It is John who gives us this insight in the 13th chapter of his Gospel:

“1 Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. 2 And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, 4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. 5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.”

- **We see three important things that we should take with us this morning as we are commissioned to serve the risen and reigning Savior...**
- **Jesus knew who He was and where He was going!**

As those who Jesus came to redeem we must know who we are and where we are going: In History & eternity!

We must OFTEN review those glorious Epistles like Ephesians, Colossians and Romans, taking in all that Paul teaches us about what it means to be a Saint in Christ's Church!

➤ **Jesus never ignored the reality of sin in this fallen world**

From the beginning of His ministry where the Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan, until the very end where Satan has possessed one of His own disciples we see Jesus trusting His Father and the Scriptures to protect Him!

We must do the same, knowing that our great enemies, the world, our own flesh and the devil are seeking our destruction day & night. We must be sure that we walk in the full armor that God has given us as outlined in Ephesians chapter six.

➤ **And finally we see that Jesus has come to serve and gives us the example of service**

-- **Knowing that He was the Son of God who had come from heaven and was returning to heaven**

-- **Knowing that He was about to defeat death and Satan**

Jesus humbled Himself and served His disciples by washing their feet!

➤ **We must not leave here this morning focused on how proud we are to be Christians who are the very Sons of God destined to reign with our Triune God forever... Even though it is true!**

➤ **We must not leave here this morning with an arrogant pride that we will help Jesus crush Satan underfoot, even though that is what will happen in history!**

No, we must humbly accept these graces that God has given us in His Son Jesus and then we must follow His example...

Setting aside all of our pretenses and certainly our pride...

Looking for ways to serve others...

➤ **Here in the Church**

➤ **In our families**

➤ **In our vocations**

➤ **And to the world at large**

This is how we fulfill the prayer that Jesus lifted up to His Father as He made His way to the Mount of Olives to be betrayed by Judas...

John 17:24 “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. 25 O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. 26 And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

- **And as Peter reminds the Saints in his first epistle, we can follow the example of Jesus only because He has fulfilled the Passover as THE sacrifice for our sin!**

II Peter 2: “21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

Communion Meditation: Luke 10:38

“Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. 39 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. 40 But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." 41 And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. 42 But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”