



## The Last Supper

15th Confirmation Class Handout

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**Luke 22:1** The Feast of Unleavened Bread, also called Passover, drew near. 2 The high priests and religion scholars were looking for a way to do away with Jesus but, fearful of the people, they were also looking for a way to cover their tracks. 3 That's when Satan entered Judas, the one called Iscariot. He was one of the Twelve. 4 Leaving the others, he conferred with the high priests and the Temple guards about how he might betray Jesus to them. 5 They couldn't believe their good luck and agreed to pay him well. 6 Judas gave them his word and started looking for a way to betray Jesus, but out of sight of the crowd. 7 Then the Day of Unleavened Bread arrived (that's the day the Passover lamb is butchered).

14 When it was time, Jesus sat down, all the apostles with him, 15 and said, "You've no idea how much I have looked forward to eating this Passover meal with you before I enter my time of suffering. 16 It's the last one I'll eat until we all eat it together in the kingdom of God."

17 Taking the cup, he blessed it, then said, "Take this and pass it among you. 18 As for me, I'll not drink wine again until the kingdom of God arrives." 19 Taking bread, he blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, given for you. Eat it in my memory."

20 He did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant written in my blood, blood poured out for you."

21 "Do you realize that the hand of the one who is betraying me is at this moment on this table? 22 It's true that the Son of Man is going down a path already marked out - no surprises there. But for the one who turns him in, the one who turns traitor to the Son of Man, this is doomsday for him."

23 They immediately became suspicious of each other and began quizzing one another, wondering who might be about to do this. 24 Within minutes they were bickering over who of them would end up the greatest.

25 But Jesus intervened: "Kings like to throw their weight around and people in authority like to give themselves fancy titles. 26 It's not going to be that way with you. Let the senior among you become like the junior; let the leader act the part of the servant"

31 "Simon, stay on your toes. Satan has tried his best to separate all of you from me, like chaff from wheat. 32 Simon, I've prayed for you in particular that you not give in or give out. When you have come through the time of testing, turn to your companions and give them a fresh start." 33 Peter said, "Master, I'm ready for anything with you. I'd go to jail for you. I'd die for you!" 34 Jesus said, "I'm sorry to have to tell you this, Peter, but before the rooster crows you will have three times denied that you know me."

**NOTES:** The Last Supper is one of the two sacraments of the UCC – more commonly referred to as “Communion.” Notice that the original Last Supper is book-ended with betrayals and in the middle of it, the disciples accuse each other of betrayal: <sarcasm> A true family meal! </sarcasm>

Notice that when Jesus says (at the Passover meal), “This is my body and blood,” he’s linking himself to the lamb of the Passover meal. He’s saying that his body and blood will symbolize a new way in which we are “set free” from the things that enslave us.

Also, notice that Jesus takes, blesses, breaks and gives the bread, just like in the feeding of the thousands.

**CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK:** Jesus while in the midst of unfaithful and arguing disciples is thankful to have a meal with them. To be able to give thanks in such circumstances ((or “in all circumstances” as the apostle Paul puts it) takes practice. One way to practice is to review then give thanks after the fact. At the end of two different days this week, write down what you received during the day (good and bad) and give thanks to God for the ways you understand God was with you during those times.