

MAY 2025 PRAYER SERVICE

Prayer Service for Overall Review of “*On the Road to Emmaus*” Study Topic

The Focus is on Luke 22:14-20

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TIME FOR SCRIPTURE:

Luke 22:14-20 describes the **Last Supper**, where **Jesus** instituted the **Eucharist**. In this passage, **Jesus** shares a final **Passover** meal with **His apostles**, institutes the **Eucharist** by offering **His body and blood** under the appearance of **bread and wine**, and commands them to continue this practice in **His memory**. The **Catechism of the Catholic Church** explains that the **Eucharist** is a sacrifice of **thanksgiving to the Father**, a memorial of **Christ's Passover**, and the **source and summit of Christian life**.

To complement **Luke 22:14-20**, which recounts the **Last Supper**, here are some related passages from the Bible:

- **Matthew 26:17-29** This passage describes the preparations for the **Passover meal** and the **institution of the Eucharist**, mirroring the events in **Luke**. It includes **Jesus'** prediction of betrayal and the words of **institution for the Eucharist**.
- **Mark 14:12-26** Similar to **Matthew and Luke**, **Mark's Gospel** also narrates the setting up of the **Passover and Jesus'** actions of taking bread and wine, blessing them, and declaring them as his body and blood.
- **1 Corinthians 11:23-26** Paul's account emphasizes the tradition he received about the **Lord's Supper**, highlighting that **Jesus** instituted it on the night he was betrayed. It also stresses the importance of remembering Jesus' death through this act until he comes again.

These passages offer additional perspectives on the Last Supper, enriching the understanding of its significance.

Luke 22:14-20

When the hour came, he took his place at table with the apostles. He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for, I tell you, I shall not eat it [again] until there is fulfillment in the kingdom of God.” Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and said, “Take this and share it among yourselves; for I tell you [that] from this time on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me.” And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you.”

Matthew 26:17-29

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples approached Jesus and said, “Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?” He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The teacher says, “My appointed time draws near; in your house I shall celebrate the Passover with my disciples.”’” The disciples then did as Jesus had ordered,

and prepared the Passover.

When it was evening, he reclined at table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, "Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me." Deeply distressed at this, they began to say to him one after another, "Surely it is not I, Lord?" He said in reply, "He who has dipped his hand into the dish with me is the one who will betray me. The Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born." Then Judas, his betrayer, said in reply, "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" He answered, "You have said so."

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it with you new in the kingdom of my Father."

Mark 14:12-26

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of water. Follow him. Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"'" Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Make the preparations for us there." The disciples then went off, entered the city, and found it just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover.

When it was evening, he came with the Twelve. And as they reclined at table and were eating, Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." They began to be distressed and to say to him, one by one, "Surely it is not I?" He said to them, "One of the Twelve, the one who dips with me into the dish. For the Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born."

While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many. Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

A TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION:

SHARED PRAYER ON SCRIPTURAL TEXT:

The intent is reflection in the form of a prayer, not discussion.

PRAYER INTENTIONS:

- Pass card or cross, so people can pass gracefully and the team knows when the prayer is complete.
- The team should respond at the end of each person's turn, for example, "Lord, hear our prayer".

LITURGICAL PRAYER:

Several Psalms complement **Luke 22:14-20**, which recounts the **Last Supper** and the **institution of the Eucharist**. Here are a few options with explanations:

Psalm 50: This psalm speaks of sacrifice and covenant. **Verse 5** states, "***Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!***" This relates to the new covenant established by **Jesus** in **Luke 22:20** through the sacrifice of his body and blood. Additionally, **Psalm 50** emphasizes offering thanksgiving to God, which aligns with Jesus giving thanks before instituting the Eucharist.

Psalm 92: This psalm is about giving thanks to the Lord and singing praises. **Verse 1** says, "***It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praise to your name, Most High.***" This mirrors the gratitude and worship inherent in **the Eucharist**, as **Jesus** gave thanks before offering the bread and wine.

Psalm 100: This psalm calls for joyful worship and thanksgiving to the Lord. **Verse 4** reads, "***Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.***" This reflects **the spirit of the Eucharist**, where **Catholics** enter communion with God through thanksgiving and praise.

Psalm 92

Response: *It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praise to your name, Most High.*

*To proclaim your love at daybreak,
your faithfulness in the night,
With the ten-stringed harp,
with melody upon the lyre.
For you make me jubilant, LORD, by your deeds;
at the works of your hands I shout for joy.*

Response: *It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praise to your name, Most High.*

*How great are your works, LORD!
How profound your designs!
A senseless person cannot know this;
a fool cannot comprehend.
Though the wicked flourish like grass
and all sinners thrive,*

*They are destined for eternal destruction;
but you, LORD, are forever on high.*

Response: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praise to your name, Most High.

*You have given me the strength of a wild ox;
you have poured rich oil upon me.
My eyes look with glee on my wicked enemies;
my ears shall hear what happens to my wicked foes.
The just shall flourish like the palm tree,
shall grow like a cedar of Lebanon.*

Response: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praise to your name, Most High.

*Planted in the house of the LORD,
they shall flourish in the courts of our God.
They shall bear fruit even in old age,
they will stay fresh and green,
To proclaim: "The LORD is just;
my rock, in whom there is no wrong."*

Response: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praise to your name, Most High.

CONCLUSION OF PRAYER TIME:

All: Lord Jesus Christ, you instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper, a testament to your boundless love. As we remember this sacred meal, we are mindful of your eagerness to share the Passover with your apostles, knowing the suffering that lay ahead. You took the bread, gave thanks, broke it, and offered it as your body, given for us. Likewise, you took the cup, gave thanks, and presented it as the new covenant in your blood, shed for our salvation.

We offer you our gratitude and praise, entering your gates with thanksgiving and your courts with praise. May we, your faithful ones, continually offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, bound by the covenant sealed in your blood. Grant us the grace to approach your altar joyfully, singing praises to your name, O Most High.

As we partake in this Holy Sacrament, may we be filled with your presence and united in your love, proclaiming your death until you come again. Through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

DEEP POOLING:

This is a time to share on more serious matters or when the input of the group is requested. This will not necessarily happen at all meetings.

SHARING ON THE ENDEAVORS:

We join teams in order to enlist the help of others in growing closer to God. The "endeavors" are practices which we voluntarily assume. They have been found to be a means of drawing us closer as a couple and in furthering our spiritual growth. By sharing on the endeavors at the team meeting we seek help and encouragement from our teammates in our journey.