

Celebrating Holy Week



The Lord's Supper, by Sandra Brese Rice

I have given you an example. You should do as I have done for you. ~John 13:15 NIV

Every year, people of Jewish faith celebrate special events with family and friends. One of these events is a dinner called Passover. During Passover, people gather for a special meal to remember when the angel of death passed over the homes of those who lived during the time of Moses. (see Exodus 12) This was during the time when God led His people to freedom from slavery and Egyptian rule.

When Jesus was celebrating His last Passover on earth with His disciples, Jesus gave a new meaning to this special meal. Jesus took the bread and the wine used for the meal, said a prayer of thanks to God, and gave them to His disciples. Jesus told them the bread was His body and the wine was His blood. Jesus said we should eat the bread and drink the wine to remember Him.

Then He took a cup. He gave thanks and handed it to them. He said, "All of you drink from it. This is My blood of the covenant. It is poured out to forgive the sins of many people. Here is what I tell you. From now on, I won't drink wine with you again until the day I drink it with you in My Father's kingdom." —Matthew 26:27-29 NIV

On Maundy Thursday, and each time we receive Holy Communion, we remember how Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins. We remember the free gift of forgiveness. We are reminded that we do not get forgiveness or a home in heaven by doing things to make God happy. It is only through the death of Jesus and His resurrection that we are forgiven and can go to heaven.

Jesus died and rose so we may have forgiveness and eternal life.

PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, thank You for saving us.

Thank You for our home in heaven.

Thank You for these free gifts that only come from You.

In Your name we pray. Amen.

