

LENTEN FAITH SHARING

Week Two



Week Two – Mark 14:12-26

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread and after blessing it, he broke it and gave it to them and said, “Take and eat this is my body. “

Begin with **Centering Prayer**.

Sit comfortably with eyes closed.

Begin to slowly breathe in through your nose and out through your mouth.

As you slowly breathe in, image God breathing breath into your center.

As you breathe out through your mouth, let it be a moment of letting go of your anxieties, worries, anger, hatred, frustrations.

Repeat this practice several times.

1. Choose a Sacred Word or Mantra as a symbol of your intention to consent to God’s presence and action within.

Whenever you become aware of distractions, sounds, thoughts of other things, simply return to the Lord with Centering or your prayer word/s.

(Repeat this exercise three to four times, trusting that you are sitting in God’s Holy presence by yourself and with your Share group)

While sitting in silence, open your life to become aware of the presence of God with you personally and with the Share Group.

Ask God to Abide in you and lead your heart to abide in Him.

2. **Lectio Divina** – Choose a Reader. The Leader leads the Lectio Divina

Read **Mark 14: 12-26** slowly, while pausing between paragraphs for silence.

Invite participants to rest in silence for a few moments.

Invite them to savor a word, a phrase or a feeling that rises in them. Reflect on this quietly.

The Leader, after some time of silence can invite participants to share this **word** or phrase aloud.

The Reading is slowly read a second time by the Reader.

Pause for silent reflection.

The leader invites participants to share their experience using the Reflection commentary.

Commentary

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke place the Last Supper on the eve of Passover and thus present it as a Passover meal. The Last Supper is also connected with the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is a festival recalling the departure of the Israelites from Egypt. As the Passover story is shared and connected with each new generation of Jews, to the departure of the Israelites from Egypt by night and their liberation from slavery in Egypt, so the Story of the Eucharist and the experience of the Last Supper connects followers of

Jesus with his liberating victory over death and sin. Jesus transformed the Passover supper into the Redemptive story of his death on the Cross and his resurrection from the dead.

The Last Supper takes place within the setting of both unity and betrayal. Jesus predicts that the twelve will waver in their faith and even abandon him, despite their declarations to the contrary. The disciples exhibit unity with the traditions of Israel and their bond with Jesus in the way they prepare for the Passover meal. Still the meal takes place amidst his prediction of betrayal, denial, and the plot to kill Jesus. It must have hurt Jesus deeply to say: "One of you will betray me." "It is one of the twelve dipping the bread into the bowl with me." Even to this day, we hear the words of the Apostles: "Surely, it is not I?" This phrase causes us to pause and examine our own lives.

In verses 22-24, we have the words of institution of the Eucharist with Jesus giving his life for all. The words and actions of Jesus over the bread and wine transform the Last Supper from the final meal to a sacrament of self-sacrificing love being outpoured.

Jesus says: "*This is my blood of the Covenant which is poured out for many.*" These words spoken by Jesus are a clear citation from the Covenant that God makes with Moses when he splattered the blood of the sacrifice on the altar and on the people. The blood expressed the sharing of the people in the life of the victim, and the sacrificed lamb which sanctioned the bond between God and his people. Jesus, however, gives his very self, his very own body and blood, as the complete covenantal sacrifice. In the Old Testament, the animal sacrifices were neither divine nor human, but now the covenant is ratified in the blood of Jesus who is both human and divine. Jesus is the perfect sacrifice poured out for many,

Jesus says: "*I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the Kingdom of God.*" These words emphasize the Last Supper and every subsequent Eucharist as an anticipation of the future joys of the Kingdom.

Reflection responses

1. What in the reading stirred your heart?
2. Does this Scripture story take on meaning for your life?
3. Did the story help you make connections to the Eucharist?

4. What did you find enlightening?

5. Does this Gospel message challenge you to forgive before receiving the Eucharist?

Action – Connect with the disconnected.

How or what will you do to share your experience of Eucharist through the Scriptures and worship with someone who is not participating in the Eucharist?

Can you gently and lovingly, and without judgment, ask another what prevents them from coming to experience the Eucharist?

Listen! Listen! Listen! The Holy Spirit will provide the words you should speak.

Mark 14: 12 - 26

12 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?”

13 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.

14 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?”’”

15 Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Make the preparations for us there.”

16 The disciples then went off, entered the city, and found it just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover.

17 When it was evening, he came with the Twelve.

18 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.”

19 They began to be distressed and to say to him, one by one, “Surely it is not I?”

20 He said to them, “One of the Twelve, the one who dips with me into the dish.

21 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.”

22 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.”

23 Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

24 He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many.

25 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.”

26 Then, after singing a hymn,^{*} they went out to the Mount of Olives.