

The Jefferson Spirit

Sundays at 9:00AM

Pastor Mark Jarema

April 5, 2025



The Table of Grace

Mark 14:12–26 depicts the Last Supper, where Jesus shares a final meal with His disciples before His crucifixion. He transforms the Passover meal, offering bread as His body and wine as His blood, establishing a new covenant. Despite knowing of His betrayal, Jesus continues to show love and grace, inviting His disciples into a deeper understanding of His mission and sacrifice.

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:12-26 (NIV)

The Last Supper

¹² On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

¹³ So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴ Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹⁵ He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

¹⁶ The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷ When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. ¹⁸ While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me."

¹⁹ They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely you don't mean me?"

²⁰ "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. ²¹ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

²² While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body."

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

²⁴ "This is my blood of the ^[a] covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. ²⁵ "Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

²⁶ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Interesting facts about Mark 14:12-26 :

- **The Passover Context:** The Last Supper took place during the Jewish Passover festival, a time when Jews commemorated their deliverance from slavery in Egypt. Jesus redefined the meaning of the Passover meal, shifting its focus from the Exodus to His impending sacrifice.

- **The Mysterious Man with the Water Jar:** Jesus sends two disciples to follow a man carrying a jar of water to prepare for the meal. This detail is unique to Mark's Gospel, and scholars believe the man may have been a pre-arranged sign to help the disciples find the right location for the meal.

- **Jesus' Foreknowledge of Betrayal:** During the meal, Jesus openly speaks of His impending betrayal, revealing that one of the twelve will betray Him. This moment adds to the tension, showing Jesus' awareness of the painful events that lie ahead.

- **Institution of Communion:** Mark 14:22-24 is where Jesus institutes the practice of communion (or the Eucharist), offering bread and wine as symbols of His body and blood, establishing a new covenant for His followers. This has become a central practice in Christian worship.



●**Judas' Role:** Despite knowing Judas would betray Him, Jesus shares the meal with him, emphasizing His love even for those who would betray Him. This moment highlights Jesus' willingness to offer grace even in the face of imminent betrayal.

●**The New Covenant:** Jesus declares that His blood, which will be shed for many, establishes a "new covenant." This signifies a shift from the old covenant of the Law to the new covenant of grace, which would be fulfilled through His sacrifice.

●**The Symbolism of Bread and Wine:** The bread (His body) and the wine (His blood) are rich with symbolism. The bread represents Jesus' physical sacrifice, and the wine signifies the forgiveness of sins through His blood.

●**The Song of Praise:** After the meal, Jesus and His disciples sing a hymn (Mark 14:26), which is likely a part of the traditional Passover liturgy. This moment of worship highlights the connection between the old covenant and the new one being established by Jesus.

touched became unclean—including Jesus' cloak! Yet, instead of becoming unclean, Jesus made her whole.

Here are key connections between Mark 14:12–26 and the Old Testament:

1. **Passover Feast (Exodus 12:1-28):** The Last Supper takes place during the Passover, a key event in the Old Testament where the Israelites commemorate their deliverance from slavery in Egypt. Jesus reinterprets the Passover meal, symbolizing His sacrifice as the true "Lamb of God" whose blood will save humanity, just as the lamb's blood in Exodus protected the Israelites from the plague.
2. **The Blood of the Covenant (Exodus 24:8):** Jesus refers to His blood as the "blood of the covenant" in Mark 14:24, echoing the phrase used by Moses when he sprinkled blood on the people to seal the covenant between God and Israel (Exodus 24:8). This connection points to Jesus establishing a new covenant between God and humanity through His sacrifice.
3. **The Suffering Servant (Isaiah 53:3-7):** Jesus' sacrificial death is foreshadowed by the prophecy of the suffering servant in Isaiah 53, where the servant is described as one who will suffer for the sins of others. Jesus, as the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy, offers His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, just as the suffering servant was pierced for our transgressions.
4. **The Passover Lamb (Exodus 12:46; Isaiah 53:7):** Jesus is symbolized as the "Lamb" during the Last Supper. In Exodus 12:46, the Passover lamb is to be eaten without breaking any bones, a detail that is fulfilled in Jesus' death, where none of His bones are broken (John 19:36). Jesus is the ultimate Passover Lamb, whose sacrifice redeems humanity.
5. **The New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34):** Jesus' words about the "new covenant" (Mark 14:24) directly tie into God's promise of a new covenant in Jeremiah 31:31-34, where God promises to write His law on the hearts of His people and forgive their sins. Jesus inaugurates this new covenant with His own blood, offering a deeper, more intimate relationship with God.
6. **The Song After the Meal (Psalm 113-118):** After the Last Supper, Jesus and His disciples sing a hymn (Mark 14:26), likely part of the **Hallel** (Psalms 113–118), which is sung during Passover celebrations. These psalms reflect themes of praise for God's deliverance, which connects with Jesus' role as the one who brings ultimate deliverance through His sacrifice.
7. **The Betrayal (Psalm 41:9):** In Mark 14:18, Jesus announces that one of His disciples will betray Him, a reference to Psalm 41:9, which says, "Even my close friend, whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me." This foreshadows Judas' betrayal and the fulfillment of the scripture in Jesus' life.
8. **The Son of Man (Daniel 7:13-14):** Jesus refers to Himself as the "Son of Man" (Mark 14:21), a title drawn from Daniel 7:13-14, where the "Son of Man" is given authority, glory, and a kingdom by God. Jesus' use of this title underscores His divine authority and messianic role, even as He prepares to face suffering and death.

Fun Quiz: Table of Grace (Mark 14:12-26)

1. What Jewish festival was being celebrated during the Last Supper?

- a) Feast of Tabernacles
- b) Passover
- c) Pentecost
- d) Yom Kippur

2. What did Jesus instruct His disciples to find in the city to prepare for the meal?

- a) A house with a red door
- b) A man carrying a jar of water
- c) A specific lamb for sacrifice
- d) A room with a candle in the window

3. In Mark 14:18, Jesus tells His disciples that one of them will betray Him. How do they respond?

- a) They deny it completely
- b) They all ask, "Is it I?"
- c) They argue about who it will be
- d) They ask Jesus to forgive the betrayer

4. During the Last Supper, what does Jesus say the bread represents?

- a) His body
- b) The bread of life
- c) The new covenant
- d) The forgiveness of sins

5. What does Jesus say the wine represents?

- a) His blood, shed for the forgiveness of sins
- b) The cup of judgment
- c) His tears for humanity
- d) The joy of eternal life

6. Which Old Testament figure is referenced in Mark 14:24 when Jesus speaks about the "blood of the covenant"?

- a) Moses
- b) David
- c) Isaiah
- d) Jeremiah

7. After the meal, what do Jesus and His disciples do together?

- a) Pray
- b) Sing a hymn
- c) Read the Torah
- d) Leave immediately

8. Which Psalm is likely sung by Jesus and the disciples after the Last Supper?

- a) Psalm 23
- b) Psalm 51
- c) Psalms 113-118 (The Hallel)
- d) Psalm 119

9. What did Jesus predict would happen to His disciples later that night?

- a) They would be victorious
- b) They would deny Him
- c) They would all be healed
- d) They would fight the Roman soldiers

10. Who is the disciple that would later betray Jesus?

- a) John
- b) Peter
- c) Judas
- d) Thomas

Answer Key:

- 1. b) Passover
- 2. b) A man carrying a jar of water
- 3. b) They all ask, "Is it I?"
- 4. a) His body
- 5. a) His blood, shed for the forgiveness of sins
- 6. a) Moses
- 7. b) Sing a hymn
- 8. c) Psalms 113-118 (The Hallel)
- 9. b) They would deny Him
- 10. c) Judas

Order of Worship

Welcome

Opening Prayer

*Call to Worship (Congregation)

Leader:

Come, let us gather at the table of grace.

Jesus, our Savior, invites us to share in His love and sacrifice.

People:

We come with hearts full of gratitude,

Ready to receive the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

Leader:

On the night He was betrayed, Jesus broke the bread,

Saying, "This is My body, given for you."

He poured the cup, saying, "This is My blood, poured out for many."

People:

We come to remember His sacrifice,

To give thanks for His love that knows no bounds.

Leader:

As we worship, let us open our hearts to His presence.

Let His grace fill us, transform us, and lead us forward in faith.

People:

We come, Lord, ready to be renewed.

Fill us with Your Spirit, and strengthen us in Your love.

Leader:

Let us worship with joy and reverence,

For at this table, we are made whole.

In the name of Jesus, we come.

All:

Amen.

Children's Message

***Here o my Lord I see thee, p.623 UMC Hymnal**

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:12-26

Sermon: Table of Grace

Offertory

***Doxology - p.95 UMC Hymnal**

One bread one body, p.620 UMC Hymnal

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor:

"The Lord be with you."

Congregation:

"And also with you."

Pastor:

"Lift up your hearts."

Congregation:

"We lift them up to the Lord."

Pastor:

"Let us give thanks to the Lord our God."

Congregation:

"It is right to give our thanks and praise."

Pastor:

"It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. We give you thanks for your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, who took upon himself our sin and suffering, offering us new life and hope."

"On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: 'Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to his disciples, and said: 'Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us."

Communion

Announcements

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Become to us the living bread, p.630 UMC Hymnal**

*Sending Forth

Postlude

Upcoming Events:

April 6 - Holy Communion

April 6 - 4pm Chili Cook Off and Bake Sale fundraiser to be held at Jefferson Ruritan. Bake goods are needed for our bake sale and auction. Proceeds will go to general fund and children's ministries.

April 12 - 9am Prayer Meeting at JUMC

April 13 - 10am Birthday Celebration

April 17- 7pm Maundy Thursday Service -Pastor Amy preaching at Jefferson UMC

April 18 - 7pm Good Friday Service

April 20 - 6:30am - Easter Sunrise Service outside at the Myers Farm at 3514 Jefferson Pike, Jefferson

April 20 - 9am Easter Service in the sanctuary

May 10 - 9am Prayer Meeting at JUMC

May 17 - 3-5 Paint Day

Prayer Requests:

Jessica Trimble asks for prayers for the family of Joell Dickey, who passed away last week.

Doris Branch asks for prayers for the family of Louise Braddy, who passed away last week and for Kevin Anderson who passed away this week.

Jessica and Doris are asking for prayers for Kennedy as she has oral surgery next Wednesday, April 10th at the University of Maryland Hospital in Baltimore.



Sermon Insights

Sermon Lesson:

In Mark 14:12-26, Jesus shares a transformative meal with His disciples during the Passover, reinterpreting the traditional meal to point to His impending sacrifice. He offers the bread as His body and the wine as His blood, establishing a new covenant of grace and forgiveness. Despite knowing the betrayal that is about to unfold, Jesus shows love and grace, inviting His disciples into a deeper understanding of His mission. This passage serves as a powerful reminder of Jesus' unwavering commitment to humanity and the significance of His sacrifice, which invites all believers into a new, intimate relationship with God.

Application:

1. Jesus Meets Us Where We Are

Application: Just as Jesus met His disciples where they were, we can be assured that He meets us in the midst of our everyday lives. Whether we're feeling uncertain, overwhelmed, or broken, Jesus is ready to enter into our situations, offering His presence, love, and grace. We don't need to be perfect or have everything figured out to approach Him—He invites us to come just as we are. In our moments of struggle, let's embrace the truth that Jesus is near, offering peace and understanding right where we are.

2. His Grace is Bigger Than Our Failures

Application: Jesus' sacrifice reminds us that no matter our past mistakes or shortcomings, His grace is sufficient to cover all. When we feel weighed down by guilt or regret, we can look to the Last Supper as a reminder that Jesus' love is not dependent on our perfection. It is a free gift, poured out for us. Let's live in the freedom of His grace, knowing that it's not about our ability to measure up but about accepting His love and forgiveness, and sharing that grace with others.

3. We Are Called to Share His Love with Others

Application: After receiving Jesus' grace and love, we are called to share it with the world around us. Just as Jesus instituted communion as a way for His disciples to remember His sacrifice, we are invited to live out that remembrance by reflecting His love in our actions and relationships. In our daily lives, whether through kindness, forgiveness, or service, we can actively demonstrate the love and grace we've received. Our lives should be a testimony to others of the transformative power of Jesus' sacrifice, showing them His love through our actions.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, Mark 14:12-26 invites us to experience the depth of Jesus' love and sacrifice, reminding us that He meets us exactly where we are, offers grace greater than our failures, and calls us to live out His love in the world. As we reflect on the Last Supper, we are challenged to accept His invitation to the table with open hearts, knowing that we are never too far gone for His grace. May we leave today not only grateful for His sacrifice but also committed to sharing His love and grace with others, living as a testimony to His redemptive work in our lives.