

## Palm Sunday

### "What makes Communion so special?"

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. <sup>8</sup>Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." <sup>9</sup>"Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked. <sup>10</sup>He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, <sup>11</sup>and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' <sup>12</sup>He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there." <sup>13</sup>They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover. <sup>14</sup>When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup>For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." <sup>17</sup>After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. <sup>18</sup>For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." <sup>19</sup>And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." <sup>20</sup>In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." – **Luke 22:7-20**

The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father." – **John 10:17-18**

### The Passover in the Old Testament:

The Passover meal originated in Egypt when Israel was in bondage to them.

God sent ten plagues to Egypt with God's repeated message to Pharaoh, "Let my people go".

The tenth plague caused every firstborn son in Egypt to die including cattle.

God would protect his people by instituting the Passover.

God instructed His people to take a young lamb or goat without blemish and kill it.

They were to place the blood of the animal on the sides and tops of the door frames of their homes.

- God would "pass over" every home that had the blood applied to the door post of their homes.
- The Israelites were to keep this feast as a memorial for future generations.

"This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD -a lasting ordinance. <sup>15</sup>For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel. – **Exodus 12:14-15**

### How was Passover celebrated?

- ❖ Passover was celebrated on the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan (March/April) the day began at sunset.
- ❖ For the evening the lamb was brought to the temple for sacrifice.
- ❖ The entire family would participate in the meal.
- ❖ During the Passover meal four cups of red wine were served.
- ❖ The four cups were used to describe the deliverance from Egypt.

"Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. <sup>7</sup>I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. – **Exodus 6:6-7**

- "I will bring you out of Egypt."
  - "I will free you from being slaves."
  - "I will redeem you."
  - "I will take you as my own people."
- ❖ The meal began with a blessing after which the first cup was taken
  - ❖ The second cup of wine was taken and it was at this time two of the unleavened cakes were broken.
  - ❖ The third cup was given and a blessing over the meal was given.
  - ❖ It was during this third cup that Jesus instituted the "Holy Communion".
  - ❖ The fourth cup coincided with singing and ending with two short prayers.
  - ❖ The significance of Passover marked the birth of a nation.

### The fulfillment of the Passover in Jesus Christ:

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! – **John 1:29**

When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" – **John 1:36**

- The original Passover delivered the Israelites from destruction and brought them into a new life.
  - Through Christ we are delivered from sin and introduced into a new life.
- The lamb at Passover was to be without blemish.
  - Jesus was also our perfect sacrifice.

but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. – **I Peter 1:19**

- The Passover lamb could not allow its bones to be broken.
- None of Jesus' bones were broken.

"It must be eaten inside one house; take none of the meat outside the house. Do not break any of the bones. – **Exodus 12:46**

he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken. – **Psalms 34:20**

But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup>Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. <sup>35</sup>The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. <sup>36</sup>These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," – **John 19:33-36**

- It was through the poured out blood of the lamb the Israelites were saved.
- It was through Christ "poured out blood" that we are saved.

Jesus' death inaugurated a New Covenant and a New Era.

The first Passover looked forward not only to deliverance but to the promised land.

By taking Communion, we recognize the freedom that comes through Christ's blood and also look forward to His return.