

Passover 2025- CgiOttawa

Good evening. The Passover service allows us the opportunity to remember, to review, and to recommit to the **central** aspect of our salvation. As Luke put it, “**our** Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” It also serves to focus on the larger aspect of salvation, that for **all mankind**. To quote: “a **great joy** which will be to **all people**” referring to Jesus Christ.

Tonight we are mindful of the **relationship** that we have with our Father in heaven through Jesus Christ. All of these things we will see within the Passover service itself. The author of Hebrews provides us with quite a good focus to begin with when quoting from Psalms at this particular point when he asks the question:

Hebrews 2:6-9 ... **What is man that You are mindful of him?**

That’s a wonderful question for us to consider throughout the entirety of this Passover service this evening. **What are we** that God would be mindful of us?

6 ...Or the son of man that You take care of him?

7 You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands.

8 You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. (*We see a present situation projecting forward into a future situation.*)

9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

This is written in Psalm 8, where man is contrasted to the heavens, the stars, and the moon. It is just an amazing potential that man has which generates the question, “What is man that you are mindful of him?” But the **potential**, of course, has **yet** to be realized. But we **do** see Christ and the full implications of **His** death. And we know that Christ’s life and death allows us to see a magnificent future.

We see Jesus Christ, made as a physical human, a little lower than the angels as it says. The One who was the Word, was with God, and was God, came as a human and suffered death for us personally and for all of mankind. It is through Jesus Christ that we can know that we are the sons of God and we know the Father as a personal Father. Realizing we have the potential to be eternal members of the God family and that with Christ we will have all things put in subjection. Our future is so great it is almost incomprehensible. But it all hinges on what we are going to do here tonight by way of a memorial of Jesus Christ’s death.

Tonight we focus on **the key that makes this all possible**, a Savior. By saying, ‘a Savior’ we imply the need for a Savior. In the book of Romans, Paul begins this particular epistle where it says:

Romans 1:3-6 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, (*He was born a man.*)

4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

5 Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,

6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;

And if you consider all that is contained in these few verses it is a beautiful summation of the gospel that Paul refers to in verse 16: “the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation.” The gospel encompasses the reason that Jesus Christ came to this earth and died and the potential that it provides for all mankind. It’s a very neat bundle in these few verses of what the gospel really is.

That Jesus Christ was the Son of God, takes the central core of the gospel directly to the Father. We cannot discuss the Son without bringing the Father’s role into all of this. We do look very specifically tonight on what Jesus Christ did, but it brings us into the relationship with the Father which is always in our view as we discuss this. Christ was man and He was God. He died and was resurrected. And that same power will resurrect those to whom Christ’s sacrifice has been applied.

That Jesus Christ was the Son of God takes the central core of the gospel directly to the Father. Romans 5, we see that Jesus Christ’s sacrifice was a reconciling sacrifice desperately needed by man but provided through Christ.

Romans 5:6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

There’s nothing that we did to earn the death of Jesus Christ. It was an act of love done willingly by Jesus Christ on our behalf while we were still sinners.

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

(We are in a “reconciled” situation at the moment but it’s leading to real life, permanent life.)

11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received (*the atonement, or*) the reconciliation.

This is how we become sons of God. We have been reconciled to the Father through Jesus Christ. A wonderful, unbelievable position for a human being to be in at this time. In John 14:6

there is a discussion going on in which Christ is preparing the disciples for the fact that He would be leaving them. That He's going to go through the crucifixion and the resurrection. He will be leaving them. Thomas did not quite get the point Christ was making so Thomas said, "Where You are going, how can we know the way?" Christ answered him directly.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Of course, no one comes to Christ except through the Father. They work in unison. The Father brings us to Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ applies the sacrifice, the forgiveness of sins, and we then can know the Father. "No one comes to the Father except through Me." It's a wonderful chain of events.

This service tonight is a memorial of the way this situation works. It lifts the symbolism of the Old Testament Passover up onto a new and completely different spiritual level. The fulfillment of the lamb from the Old Testament Passover is Christ – the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. And we read in Luke 22 the events that were leading up to this final Passover that Christ was going to have with His disciples.

Luke 22:1-16 Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover.

(Tonight begins the first of the Holy Day Season for the year, Unleavened Bread.)

2 And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him, for they feared the people.

3 Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve.

4 So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them.

5 And they were glad, and agreed to give him money.

6 So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude. The events of the night are put in place by Satan's entering into Judas and putting it into his heart to betray Jesus Christ,

7 Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed.

8 And He sent Peter & John, saying, "Go & prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat.

9 So they said to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare?"

10 And He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters.

11 Then you shall say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"'

12 Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready."

13 So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover.

This was probably the third or fourth Passover that they were keeping with Jesus Christ. They were quite familiar with the procedure, the preparation of the lamb, and the meal. That's what they were getting ready for.

14 When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him.

15 Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;

16 for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

The Passover took on the spiritual significance of what Christ was about to do in offering Himself as a sacrifice. Participation in the Kingdom of God requires what the symbols of bread and wine are going to now come to represent. Appropriately, our recognition of all this begins with an act of humility. If we look at Philippians 2:7, it tells us about Jesus Christ where it says:

Philippians 2:7-8 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

(We are well aware of His humanness at this point but He was still God.)

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Jesus Christ humbled Himself. It means exactly what you understand the word to mean. He abased Himself, He brought Himself low to come in the flesh so that His fleshly sacrifice could be made, that the body could be broken and the blood could be shed. In our relationship with God we are admonished to do a very similar thing. Peter admonishes us to "humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God." That is something that is required of us as human beings, to humble ourselves under God's hand. This point is driven home by Christ's example of washing the disciples feet. It was something that must have been quite significant to them to have their Master bend down before them and wash their feet. That is something they would not have been expecting, perhaps, or used to.

We see in John 13 where this was introduced to the Passover service. That had not been done prior to this point in time. Remember that this is an example that Jesus Christ is leaving for them and for us that He had already set by humbling Himself. He was God, He was with God. He gave up that position to become a sinless sacrifice for the benefit of all mankind.

John 13:1-17 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

2 And supper being ended, (Or could be translated during supper) the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him,

3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God,

4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself.

5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

6 Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"

This is an astounding act on Christ's part. It caught them a little by surprise. He's saying, "What are you doing washing my feet?"

7 Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."

8 Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."

(There's greater symbolism here that Christ understood but Peter didn't.)

9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!"

10 Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." (Referring to Judas Iscariot.)

11 For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean."

12 So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?"

13 You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am.

14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

16 Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.

17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

It's not just a matter of doing them. It's a matter of the symbolism of what it really means. Here again, you see the Father is being brought into the picture when Jesus Christ said, "He who is sent is not greater than He who sent Him." We are brought into the Elohim family relationship in the way we relate to each other. We are to love each other; we are to lay down our lives for the brethren as Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. It's an incredible, symbolic act that we will take part in now and we will just pause at this point in time to wash each other's feet.

... Footwashing Instructions

... After Footwashing...

During the supper, after Jesus Christ had washed their feet, Christ turned the attention to the bread and the wine which would have been available at this meal that had been prepared. Luke records that after dividing the wine amongst the disciples He took bread, He gave thanks, and He broke it saying "this is My body..."

We are told from scripture that all have sinned and that the wages of sin is death. That is just a fact. All have sinned and the penalty for sin is death. Thus we are all under the death penalty. And mankind in general, at this point is under the death penalty.

However, Christ took that penalty to Himself “For He made Him who knew no sin, to be sin.” The breaking of the bread was the breaking of His body which had become sin on our account.

1 Corinthians 11:23-24 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

It is through Christ’s broken body, that the human condition can be healed. I say the human condition because it’s a very large concept. It’s not a narrow concept from what is taking place with the breaking of His body. We need to look at Isaiah 53 which gives us perhaps the most graphic description of what took place with the breaking of Jesus Christ’s body. We just have to use some imagination to imagine exactly what was taking place.

Isaiah 53:3-6 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.& we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, & we did not esteem Him

(That is Jesus Christ as a man walking on this earth. He was not recognized for what He was as the Son of God.)

4 Surely He has borne our griefs *(which can also be translated sicknesses)* And carried our sorrows *(or our pains)*; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions,

It can be translated “pierced through”. He was scourged prior to His crucifixion in a horrible way to inflict death on a human being and beyond, really my understanding to be able to describe it effectively. Christ was scourged where the skin was literally ripped from His body by the thongs of the implement that was used.

5 ...He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

This is an incredible plan that the Father and Jesus Christ envisaged and then brought to pass, brought into practice. A way to bring mankind back into a relationship with the Father.

Isaiah 52:14 ...So His visage was marred more than any man,...

It was just an incredible suffering that Jesus Christ submitted His body to. His body was being broken.

Isaiah 53:10-12 ...When You make His soul an offering for sin...

(That’s what His body had become, sin. It was being offered.)

11 ... For He shall bear their iniquities.

12 ... And He bore the sin of many...

Jesus Christ stood in our stead. We had to die because we had sinned. That was just the way God's law operated. But Jesus Christ said, "I will take your place. I will die in your stead. And then through Me you will have the way, the truth and life." 1 Peter 2 gives us a larger picture of what is taking place as far as healing is concerned.

1 Peter 2:21-25 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth";

23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness — by whose stripes you were healed.

(Then it brings back into play Isaiah 53:6.)

25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

The healing of the human condition is both the physical healing of the body and a spiritual healing of the mind. James wrote that the prayer of faith will save the sick and if he has committed sins he will be forgiven. Through being anointed and applying Jesus Christ's sacrifice for the sins of an individual, that individual can be healed. We know that Christ healed people physically. In Matthew 8 we are told that "He cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who are sick.

Broken laws, sin, leads to sick bodies. Christ took those sicknesses upon Himself. We can place our lives in God's hands with complete confidence and complete faith that we have a Healer. Broken laws lead to an "incurably sick" mind as the way Jeremiah put it. Through Christ we can have a healing of the mind. Physical healing reinforces the healing of relationships that have been severed by sin. That's really what is key here in terms of the sheep being brought back into the fold. The healing of a broken relationship.

Hebrews 10:5-10 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.

(This is the transition that is taking place at this last Passover service with the disciples.)

6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure.

7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come — In the volume of the book it is written of Me — To do Your will, O God.'

8 Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them"(which are offered according to the law),

9 then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second.

The sacrificial system pointed to the ultimate sacrifice, that of Jesus Christ. And that is what is being referred to.

10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

This is an absolute reality for us and it's a great hope we have for all of mankind. One day all mankind will be able to sit and go through these scriptures with the understanding that we are doing tonight. In that last Passover in Luke 22, He has already washed the disciple's feet. He has distributed the wine and so we see in verse 19, and after He divided the wine amongst themselves:

Luke 22:19 And He took bread, *(that was there present at the meal)* gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

At the Passover service once a year this is exactly what we do. He now turns His attention to the new covenant as we'll read in a moment, the new covenant of the New Testament symbols of the bread and the wine. Here He has taken the bread and He has broken it and He said, "This is My body, and this is given for you." We will now take some bread in remembrance of Christ's broken body. Let us pray.

... Prayer, Breaking Bread & passing it out

Jesus Christ then took the cup:

Luke 22:20- 22 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

21 But behold, the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table.

22 And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!"

They began to talk amongst themselves. But Jesus Christ said, this small amount of wine that they were all going to consume then, and we will here in a moment, was the new covenant in His blood which was shed for you. There was blood in the old covenant involved from the animal sacrifices that ratified the old covenant. Blood is also needed to ratify the new covenant:

Hebrews 9:16-22 For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

17 For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.

18 Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without blood.

19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people,

20 saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you."

21 Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry.

22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

Christ was about to fulfill the intent of the sacrificial system. And blood was a very important part of the Old Testament sacrificial system:

Hebrews 9:11-15 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,

14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Tonight we do remember that we are in a covenant relationship with God, a covenant we entered into at baptism, an irrevocable covenant. God will fulfill very faithfully His part of the covenant. We are fulfilling ours. And we need to remember tonight as we take a small amount of wine that Christ's blood ratifies that new covenant that God made with us. That in its fulfillment will give us eternal life in the God family.

Hebrews 9:28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

Tonight we are thinking of God's wonderful and awesome plan of salvation of which we are participants. We are living within that system now, actively participating in this plan of salvation.

Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

And you were probably told as you came up out of that baptismal pool when you had put the old man to death in the pool, that all of your sins had been forgiven at that point in time. The slate was clean because Jesus Christ's sacrifice had been applied to you. And that's an ongoing process; we can always go to God in repentance, being forgiven of sin, and keep growing in grace and knowledge.

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

We were once sheep going astray, but we now have returned to the Shepherd. We have redemption and we have forgiveness. So, per Christ's instructions in 1 Corinthians 11: 25:

1 Corinthians 11:25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

So we will go ahead at this time and ask God's blessing on the wine and then we will take a small amount of wine, each one of us as we remember Christ's blood was shed for each of us individually.

Pray over the wine - Distribute it

It is our tradition (in Ottawa) at the end of a Passover service to "share" the reading of the words that Jesus Christ spoke at that last Passover supper to His disciples before Judas Iscariot betrayed Him. They're very important words, very familiar to us. We read them every Passover because built into them is what was on Christ's mind. He was focused. He knew what was about to happen. These words are not just incidental. They're not just a social chit chat. They're very meaningful words in terms of what His sacrifice accomplishes for each one of us. And as we read them there's one theme that clearly emerges very powerfully. That is the oneness of God and the fact that we, as human beings, can be brought into that oneness relationship with God. Incredible! Having read about the footwashing service (in the first part of John 13...), we begin now in John 13:31.

Scripture Reading

John 13:31-35 So, when he had gone out, (*Judas Iscariot had gone out.*) Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him.

32 If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately.

33 Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' so now I say to you.

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

This comes after the footwashing in which they had just participated.

John 14:1-31 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

4 And where I go you know, and the way you know." *(That's when)*

5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" *(Christ responds.)*

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. *(Except through the broken body and the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Verse 12)*

12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever —

17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees *[it]* nor knows *[it]*; but you know *[this Spirit]*, for *[it]* dwells with you and will be in you.

18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

19 "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.

20 At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

(There's that unity factor again.)

21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?"

23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

25 "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you.

26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, *[that Spirit]* will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

(He said a lot of things that they had not fully understood. But they will when they receive the Holy Spirit.)

27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

28 You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I.

29 "And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe.

30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.

31 But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here.

(Then He says in chapter 15)

John 15:1-26 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.

10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

17 These things I command you, that you love one another.

(There's the unity angle again being played out through all of this.)

18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.

19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

21 But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.

22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.

23 He who hates Me hates My Father also.

24 If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father.

25 But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'

26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth [which] proceeds from the Father, [it] will testify of Me.

(Chapter 16:12)

John 16:12-16 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

13 However, when... the Spirit of truth, has come, [it] will guide you into all truth;

Many things that He had told them will suddenly take on a real, deep, true sense; they'll begin to understand many things that He had taught them.

13 ...for [it] will not speak on [its] own authority, but whatever [it] hears [it] will speak; and [it] will tell you things to come.

14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

16 "A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father."

(Dropping down to verse 32):

John 16:32-33 Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.

33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

In John 17, Jesus Christ is praying with intense focus. Keep in mind what I said about the theme of the unity of these people who are going to come under Jesus Christ's sacrifice and are reconciled and brought into a justified relationship with the Father.

John 17:1-26 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,

2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

6 "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

7 Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You.

8 For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

9 "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.

10 And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.

11 Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.

12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

13 But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

20 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;

21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:

23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

24 "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

25 O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me.

26 And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

There are some remarkable thoughts in those chapters... and we may want to take some time to review them in the next week or so over the Days of Unleavened Bread.

At this point in time they sung a hymn:

Matthew 26:30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

We will conclude the Passover service by singing of David's repentance in Psalm 51, which you will find on the next page. And ... after we have sung this hymn ... we shall quietly depart to our homes.

In Thy Loving Kindness, Lord

1. In Thy lov - ing kind - ness, Lord, be mer - ci - ful to me;
 2. 'Gainst Thee on - ly have I sinned, done e - vil in Thy sight,
 3. From Thy gra - cious pres - ence, Lord, O cast me not a - way;
 4. Sac - ri - fice dost Thou not want, else would I give it Thee;

In com - pas - sion great, blot out all in - iq - ui - ty.
 That Thou speak - ing may be just, and in judg - ing right.
 And Thy Ho - ly Spir - it take not from me, I pray.
 And with of - fer - ing shalt Thou not de - light - ed be.

Wash me thor - ough - ly from sin; from all guilt cleanse Thou me:
 My in - iq - ui - ties blot out, my sin hide from Thy view;
 Joy which Thy sal - va - tion brings a - gain to me re - store;
 For a bro - ken spir - it is to God a sac - ri - fice;

For trans - ges - sions I con - fess; sins I ev - er see.
 And in me a clean heart make, spir - it right re - new.
 With Thy Spir - it free to Thou keep me ev - er - more.
 And a bro - ken, con - trite heart, Thou wilt not de - spise.