

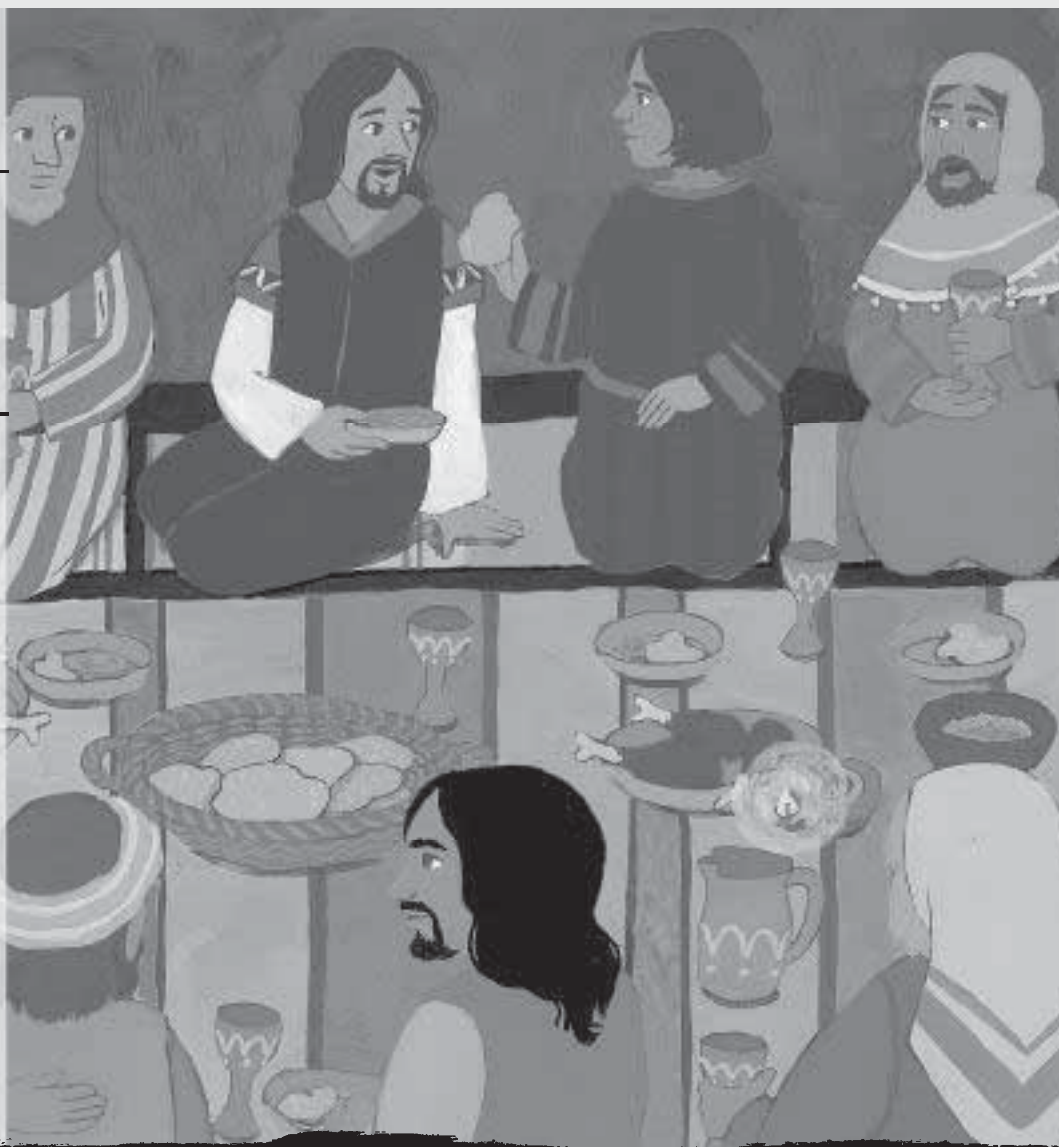
## JESUS CELEBRATES HOLY COMMUNION

### Objective

The children understand the meaning of Holy Communion.

### Contents

- The introduction of Holy Communion (Mark 14:12-25).
- The celebration of Holy Communion: the Lord's Prayer, the forgiveness of sins, and receiving the body and blood of Jesus.



## Introductory Remarks

### 1 The Introduction of Holy Communion

The Gospels report about the introduction of Holy Communion by Jesus Christ. From these, the following sequence of events can be put together.

- Jesus shared the Passover meal with the twelve Apostles as was customary at that time (cf. Luke 22:7–15). It consisted of a lamb without blemish, unleavened bread, and a dip made of bitter herbs. This was accompanied by wine.
- Jesus foretold that one of the Apostles would betray him (cf. John 13:21).
- Each of them felt spoken to and asked, “Is it I?” (cf. Mark 14:19).
- Jesus warned the betrayer (cf. Matthew 26:24).
- Also Judas said (insincerely), “Master, is it I?” Turning to him, Jesus answered, “Thou hast said” (cf. Matthew 26:25).
- John wanted to find out from Jesus who the betrayer was. Jesus answered, “He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it” (cf. John 13:26).
- While they were eating, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, broke the bread and gave it to the Apostles, saying, “Take, eat; this is my body.” And he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to the Twelve, saying, “Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (cf. Matthew 26:26–28). This was the introduction of the Holy Communion.
- Jesus added, “I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom” (Matthew 26:29).
- Afterwards, Jesus dipped a piece of bread into the dish. He gave it to Judas Iscariot. As soon as Judas had received it, Satan entered him (cf. John 13:26–27).
- Jesus said to Judas, “Do quickly what you have to do” (cf. John 13:27).
- After he had taken the piece of bread, Judas went out. And it was night (cf. John 13:30).

## Lesson Plan

### Lead-In

Workbook, Theme Picture,  
Discussion

## 2 | Comments about partaking of Holy Communion (1 Corinthians 11:27–29)

It is necessary to partake of Holy Communion respectfully. Partaking unworthily (i.e., thoughtlessly and with indifference) indicates disdain for Christ's sacrifice. Through it one becomes indebted and is deprived of the blessing connected to Holy Communion.

Talk about the theme picture with the children. Afterwards show them a communion cup and wafer.

At the same time, discuss the following:

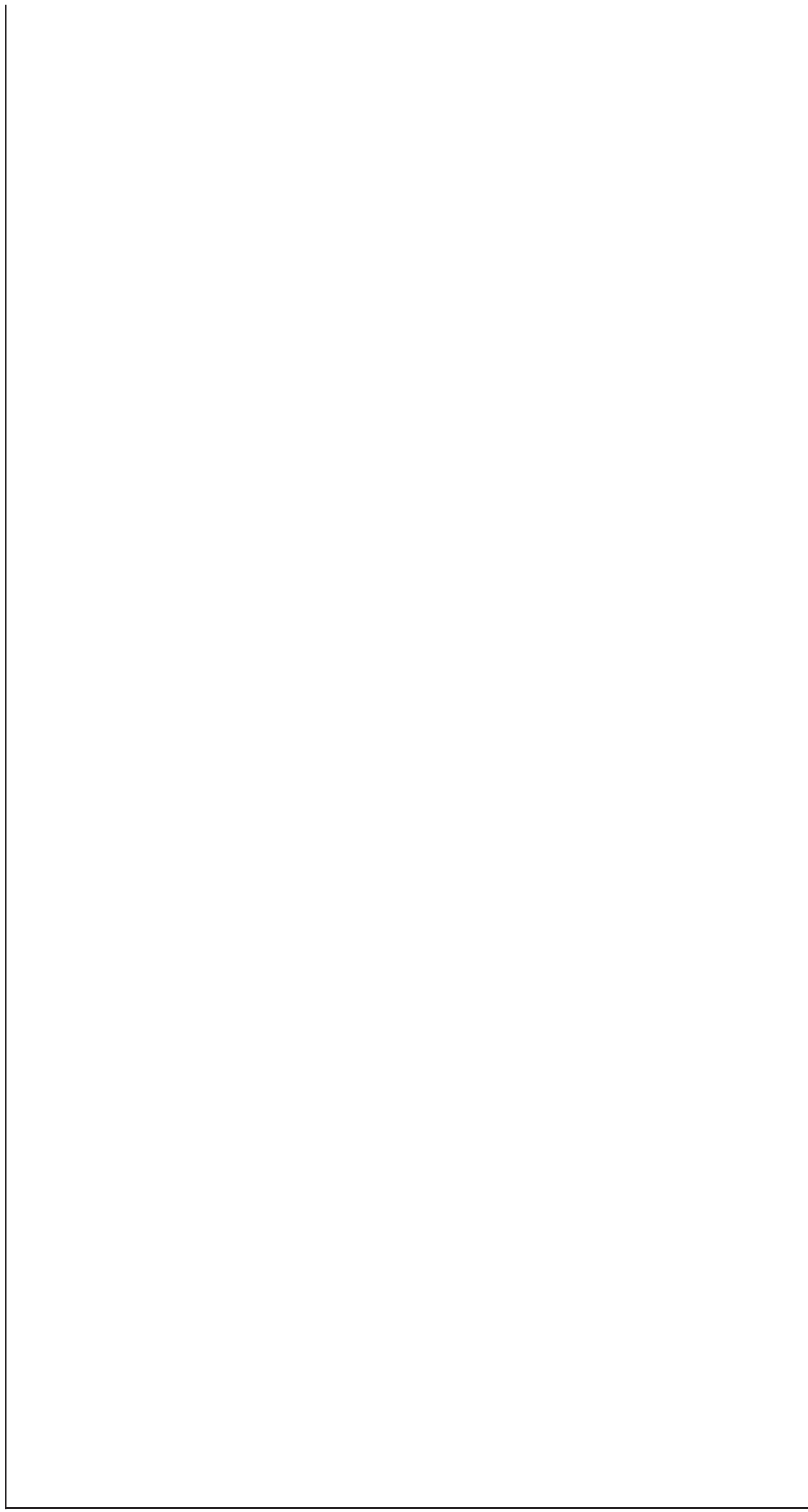
- A wafer consists of flour and water. It is unleavened bread with drops of wine on it. Formerly, Holy Communion was also celebrated with bread and wine in our church, as is still customary in many Christian denominations. For practical reasons, this was changed by Chief Apostle Niehaus in 1917.
- The letters A and Ω are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. In Revelation it says with reference to Jesus Christ, *"I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last"* (Revelation 22:13).

Then the children relate what they know about the sequence of events at Holy Communion.

- We pray the Lord's Prayer.
- The absolution is proclaimed.
- The peace of the Risen One is laid into our soul.
- The wafers are consecrated, i.e., they are made into the body and blood of Jesus.
- The Priest dispenses Holy Communion with the words, "The body and blood of Jesus given for you."
- The recipient says, "Amen", thereby expressing that he/she believes everything connected with Holy Communion.

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## Implementation

### Workbook, Text, Discussion

When the Lord Jesus introduced Holy Communion, he was having the Passover meal with his disciples, the 12 Apostles. Regarding this, read the first section of the text.

Jesus celebrated Passover with his disciples as was customary among the people of Israel.

### Question Prompt

What can the feast of Passover be traced back to?

### Discussion

- The Israelites ate the first Passover meal on the evening before their departure out of Egypt. Per family, a lamb without blemish was slaughtered and eaten together with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Nothing was to be left over. The door posts of the house were painted with the lamb's blood so that the angel, who was to kill all the firstborn, would pass the house by (cf. Exodus 12:1–28).
- After they had conquered the land of Canaan, the Israelites celebrated Passover once a year in remembrance of their being freed from Egyptian slavery (cf. Joshua 5:10–11; 2 Chronicles 8:13; Ezra 6:19–22). At Passover, which Jesus celebrated with his disciples prior to his sacrifice, he introduced Holy Communion and referred to the bread as his body, and the wine as his blood which is shed for many for the forgiveness of their sins. Henceforth Holy Communion was to be celebrated in remembrance of his sacrificial death until his return (cf. 1 Corinthians 11:26).

### Workbook, Exercise

The children work on the exercise individually.

### Discussion

Elaborate on the following with the children:

- Before Holy Communion is dispensed, bread and wine are consecrated, i.e., they are made into the body and blood of Jesus with the words, "I now consecrate bread and wine for the Holy Communion and lay thereupon the once brought and eternally valid sacrifice of Jesus Christ, in the words: This is my body broken and given into death for you, my blood shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. As often as you partake thereof, do so in remembrance of me."
- When we receive the Holy Communion, we take in the body and blood of Jesus. However, it only has the effect intended by the Lord if we partake of it worthily.

**Bible**

Regarding this, a child reads

1 Corinthians 11:27–29:

*“Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.”*

**Question Prompt**

How do we partake of Holy Communion worthily?

- We are aware that Jesus gave his life as a fully valid sacrifice in order to reconcile us, who are sinners, with God.
- We have repented of our sins and received forgiveness.
- We have assimilated God’s word and are willing to change whatever does not please the dear God.
- We also take the great significance of Holy Communion into account in our outward disposition.

■ Holy Communion is a sacrament. It guarantees us a long-term relationship with Jesus Christ and eternal life. To this, a child reads

**Bible**

John 6:53–54, 56–57:

*“Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day... He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.”*

- Holy Communion is the only sacrament that is dispensed again and again. It is necessary to continually partake of Holy Communion because powers of the Son of God lay concealed within it, which enable us to overcome and contribute to the maturity of the soul.
- When we celebrate Holy Communion we remember the sacrifice Jesus Christ brought upon the cross. However, we do not celebrate Holy Communion solely in remembrance of him, but in the knowledge that thereby we have fellowship with him, and in the awareness that he will come again to take his own unto himself.