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JESUS CELEBRATES HOLY COMMUNION



JESUS CELEBRATES THE LAST SUPPER

Mark 14:12-25

On the day on which the Jews slaughtered and ate the Passover lamb, the apostles asked the Lord Jesus, "Where shall we prepare the Passover lamb for you?" Jesus said to two of them, "Go into the city. There you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him, and when he enters a house, tell the head of the household that the master requested you to ask him, 'Where is the room in which I can eat the Passover with My disciples?' He will then show you a large room furnished with cushions. Prepare everything for us there." The disciples went into the city, found everything as Jesus had said, and prepared the lamb.

In the evening, when Jesus sat at table and ate with the twelve apostles, He said, "One among you will betray Me." This made them sad, and one after the other asked, "Am I the one?" Jesus answered, "One of the twelve of you, who dips his bread into the bowl with Me, will betray Me. Although the Son of Man will go His predetermined way, woe to the person who betrays Me. It would have been good if he had never been born."

As they continued to eat, Jesus took bread, thanked His heavenly Father for it, broke it into pieces, and said to His disciples, "Take, eat, this is my body." Then He took the cup of wine, gave thanks for it, handed it to the apostles for them to drink from it, and said, "This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many." And He added that never again would He drink of the fruit of the vine until the day He would drink it anew in God's kingdom.

EXERCISE



Also in Matthew 26:26–28 you can read how Jesus Christ celebrated Holy Communion with His disciples.

The following words are missing in the Bible text. Insert them correctly.

blood – blessed – Jesus – disciples – cup – body – drink – remission

And as they were eating, _____ took bread, _____ and broke it,
and gave it to the _____ and said, “Take, eat; this is My _____
Then He took the _____, and gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, “ _____
from it, all of you. For this is My _____ of the new covenant, which is shed for many
for the _____ of sins.”



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THE PATEN OR THE COMMUNION CHALICE

The vessel out of which we receive the host (i.e., consecrated wafer) during the celebration of Holy Communion is referred to as the paten, communion cup, or chalice. The word 'paten' is derived from Latin. In Latin, *patina* means 'bowl' or 'dish', and particularly with reference to Communion, *patena* means communion dish (i.e., a bowl or dish containing the host or consecrated wafers).

In connection with the introduction of Holy Communion, the Holy Bible refers to the cup (*poterion* in Greek) from which one drank wine. Chalice and cup are also used to translate the Hebrew word *saph*, which denotes a basin, goblet, or bowl, used at Passover. We do not know what the cup looked like from which Jesus had His apostles drink when He introduced Holy Communion. It likely was no different from the vessels which were normally used at that time.

According to our understanding, bread and wine in reality are Jesus Christ's body and blood during Holy Communion. Christ is therefore present 'within, through, and among' the elements of bread and wine. Until sometime in the thirteenth century, Christ's body and blood were given to the Catholic faithful in the form of bread and wine. Due to the exaggerated concern that someone in the congregation might drink clumsily from the cup and spill the precious blood of Christ, the ordinary churchgoer was excluded from this. During the Reformation in the sixteenth century, members of Protestant churches were again permitted to drink from the cup.

Also in the New Apostolic Church, the communion wafers were stored in a paten, separate from the wine, which was kept in a cup, and the entire congregation received both, one after the other, until 1917.

For practical reasons, Chief Apostle Niehaus had the individual communion wafers sprinkled with three drops of wine starting in 1917. At that time, World War I was wreaking havoc in Europe. How were New Apostolic soldiers on the front to be supplied with wine for celebrating Holy Communion? The solution was putting three drops of wine on the communion wafer: now they could easily be posted to the soldiers using the military postal service.

The procedure of sprinkling communion wafers with three drops was continued, so that today there is one communion vessel on the altar for the wafers sprinkled with wine.