

**April 9, 2020**  
**The Lord's Supper**  
*Maundy Thursday Service*

Scripture reading: Luke 22:14-20

Text: “*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.’*”

*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 22:19-20).*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My first serious experience with Christianity was when I did Confirmation at the age of 14 back in Hungary. However, I accepted Jesus as my Savior and Lord when I was 17, during my high school years. There was a time period in my life when I did not understand why there were so much poverty and suffering in this world. I had especially one question in my mind: “*What is the truth?*”

During that time I went to a Sunday worship service. It was a Holy Communion Sunday. I cannot recall what the pastor preached in his sermon, but when I went out to partake in the Lord's Supper and was on the way back to my seat I realized that I am a sinner, and that Jesus died for me on the cross. I also understood that the truth is Jesus Christ.

It was the mysterious and marvelous work of the Holy Spirit in me. I began to study the Bible and pray on a daily basis. From that day on, when I accepted Jesus into my heart, the Lord's Supper became very important and a great blessing in my life.

In our Scripture reading we also heard about the Lord's Supper. The Bible describes it as the *Last Supper*. At this very special event Jesus Christ shared meal with His disciples and led them in the ancient observance of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Passover. Jesus, the Master and Teacher, used this special event to plant an important memory in His disciples' hearts and minds.

On that special night Jesus and the twelve disciples reclined at the table. It was an important time right before that day Jesus was crucified. Here we find the reason why this supper is called the *Last Supper* with His disciples. So Jesus said this to them, “*I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer*” (v.15). It was Jesus' heart desire to spend time with His followers before His sufferings. He knew what would happen

to Him still He wanted to be with those who were the closest to Him. In this intimate and meaningful event Jesus did something that began to change the lives of those around Him. First, He took the 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*” (19.v.). 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*” (20.v.).

As Christ broke the bread and raised the cup in thanksgiving, He added a new meaning and significance to observe the Passover. He said, “*Do this in remembrance of me*” (19.v.). With this statement Jesus took an old symbol, an old way of remembrance, and filled with new meaning.

*Remembrance* is a key word in the story as we observe Christ and this holy occasion, the Lord’s Supper. The Lord’s Supper expresses and points to Christ by reminding us of Him. *Remembrance* means that Christ gave us this Supper to help us keep Him in memory, especially His body and blood given up in death. The Apostle Paul writes this in his first letter to the Corinthians chapter 11, “*For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes*” (v.26). We must remember Him because He is the most valuable Person in the universe. We must remember His death because it is the most important death in the history of mankind.

Nothing shows better the precious reality of Christ than the Lord’s Supper, and in the prepared table no one is more worthy to be remembered, no one is more worthy to be proclaimed, and no one can nourish our spirits to eternal life, but Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior. So let us remember, and proclaim, and share Jesus Christ and what He had done on the cross for you and me on this Maundy Thursday and every day in our lives. Amen.

Yours in Christ,  
Rt. Rev. Dr. Csaba Krasznai  
Pastor