

The Last Supper

**Matthew 26:1–5, 14–30; Mark 14:1–2, 10–26;
Luke 22:1–28**

It was getting close to the time of the Passover festival in Jerusalem. The temple leaders were looking for a way to put Jesus to death because of the way the people were flocking to him. They were happy when Jesus' disciple Judas came to them with an offer. In return for money, he would tell them when they could find Jesus with no crowds around.

Jesus sent Peter and John to arrange for the Passover festival. "Listen," said Jesus, "once you are in Jerusalem, you will meet a man carrying a jar of water. Follow him into the house that he enters. Say to the house's owner, 'The teacher needs a room to eat the Passover meal with his disciples.' He will show you a large room upstairs."

Peter and John went and found everything as Jesus had said. Together, they prepared the Passover meal.

That evening, Jesus and the disciples ate their Passover meal together. Jesus said, "I have been looking forward to this Passover, the last Passover before my great suffering." Then he held up the bread and thanked God. He broke off pieces for everyone. Then he said, "Take this bread and eat it. This is my body, which is given for you."

Then Jesus took a cup of wine. He thanked God for it and then shared it with the disciples. Jesus told them, "This is my blood, which will be poured out for many. When I die, there will be a new covenant between God and all people."

The disciples wondered why Jesus was talking about suffering. Then Jesus said, "One of you here is planning to betray me."

All the disciples except Judas were upset at hearing this. Each one asked him, "Surely, I am not the one, am I?"

Following the Passover tradition, when they finished the meal, they sang a hymn of praise together. Then they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Wonder: How was this meal different from other meals Jesus ate with his friends?