

The Institution of the Lord's Supper from the Passover

Luke 22:14-20

From the Concordia Commentary on Luke by Arthur Just

Luke 22:14-20

The Last Passover of Jesus

The Time of the Meal

22:14 The hour of the Passover has come.

The Eschatological Perspective

22:15-16 **Jesus declares,**

“With deep desire I desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you that surely I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

22:17-18

Having taken a cup, Jesus says,

“Take this and apportion it among yourselves; for I say to you that surely I will not drink, from now on, from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God shall come.”

The Breaking of the Bread and the Words of Institution

22:19 **Having taken bread, Jesus says,**

“This is my body, which is being given on behalf of you; this do in my remembrance.”

The Cup of the New Testament in Jesus' Blood

22:20 **And the cup, likewise, after the eating of the meal, saying,**

“This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is being poured out on behalf of you.”

Luke is the only evangelist who preserves in his account two distinct cups of wine (22:17-18 and 22:20). These cups point toward the fuller structure of the Passover meal itself. On the next page is an outline of a full Jewish Passover meal² in the left column and a summary of the Lukan account of the Last Supper in the right one.

Jewish Christians who hear Luke's gospel would be familiar with the Passover, but they might be evangelizing those who are not aware of the Passover structure and do not realize that the institution of the Lord's Supper

The Passover Meal

A. Preliminary Course

Word of sanctification (the *qiddush*, or blessing) spoken by the head of the family or host over the first cup (the *qiddush* cup).

Preliminary dish, including green herbs, bitter herbs, and a sauce made of fruit purée.

The meal proper (see C) is served but not yet eaten; the second cup of wine is mixed and poured but not yet drunk.

B. Passover Liturgy

The Passover Haggadah (narrative teaching) spoken by the host.

First part of the Passover *Hallel* (praise psalms).

Drinking of the second cup (cup of redemption).

C. Main Meal

Grace spoken by the host over the unleavened bread.

Meal, consisting of Passover lamb, unleavened bread, bitter herbs (Ex 12:8), with fruit the purée and wine.

Grace (*birkat hammason*) over the third cup (cup of blessing).

D. Conclusion

Second part of the Passover *Hallel* (praise psalms).

Praise over the fourth cup (*Hallel* cup).

The Lukan Last Supper

22:14—The hour for the Passover observance begins with the disciples reclining at the table with Jesus.

22:15—Jesus announces his great desire to eat the Passover that is now set before them.

22:16—In Jesus' explanation, he announces that he will not eat the Passover again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

22:17–18—The first cup mentioned by Luke is probably the second cup of the Passover, also called the “cup of redemption.”

22:19—Jesus speaks the Words of Institution over the unleavened bread; the breaking of the bread begins the meal.

22:20—“... likewise, after the eating of the meal.”

22:20—Jesus speaks the Words of Institution over the cup after the meal. (This is the second time a cup is mentioned by Luke.)

took place in the context of the Passover meal. The potential problem of Gentile ignorance is illustrated by the congregation at Corinth, where the celebration of the Lord's Supper apparently was held in conjunction with a congregational meal, and the congregation's celebration was plagued with problems and abuses (1 Corinthians 10–11).