

## Maundy Thursday:

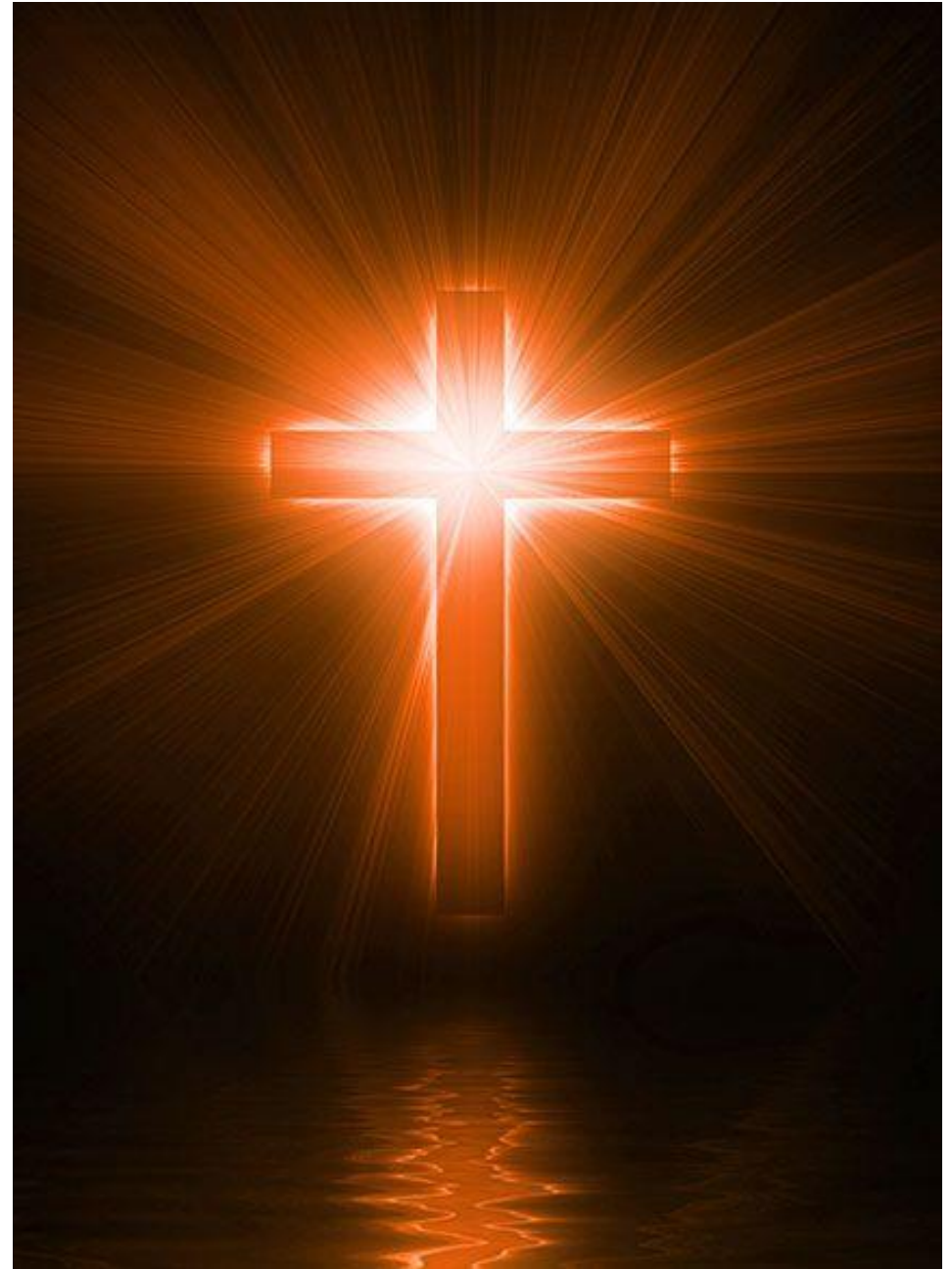
We come together this evening to recall in our hearts and minds the events that occurred on Thursday of what the church calls Holy Week, the last week in the life of our Lord. One-third of all the events that we have about Jesus' life occurred during Holy Week: Reminding us of the great significance of these last days. The disciples have gathered in a home, whose we are not sure, but we do know that it had a furnished second floor.

As they gather, they participate in what is called a Seder meal, one of the highlights of the Passover week. The Passover festival, of course, had been done for centuries before Jesus came on the scene. It commemorated that time when the Jews were in bondage in Egypt. Moses warned Pharaoh to let his people go, but Pharaoh hardened his heart. So God sent a death over the land of Egypt, but miraculously this death passed over the homes of the Jews. And they were set free. Thus, the season of Passover was given birth.

The meal itself was a symbolic one reminding the Jews of the sufferings of their forefathers and the power of God's deliverance. The foods that were eaten were symbols to remind the Jews of their captivity in Egypt. Unleavened bread, because they didn't have time to wait for the yeast to make the dough rise. Applesauce was eaten to remind them of brick mortar and the fact that they were forced to make bricks with no straw. A bitter herb is eaten to remind them of the bitterness of their captivity. It was this symbolic Seder Meal that the disciples were partaking of that night in the upper room.

At the conclusion of that meal Jesus added two more symbols. He took a loaf and broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take, eat, this is my body which is broken for you, do this in remembrance of me." Then he took a cup with wine. He drank from it and gave it to His disciples saying, "Drink all of this, for this is my blood which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin." Thus was born our sacrament of the Lord's Supper, out of the experience of an ancient Jewish celebration of God's deliverance.

God in Christ has delivered us from slavery to sin & death, and gives us new, eternal life instead!



**Maundy Thursday Communion Service**  
**Kitchener East Presbyterian Church**  
**17<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

Call to Worship: Lenten Candle Liturgy:

**Leader:** Gracious host and servant Lord, Jesus washes His disciples' feet.

**People:** **then shares a last supper, sign of the new community in Him.**

**Leader:** We behold him: a king holding no political office,

**People:** **God becoming mere human, a Saviour dying on a criminal's cross.**

**Leader:** "My God, why have you forsaken me?" echoes from ancient traditions

**People:** **into the story we remember today.**  
**Let us worship God.**

**Praise:** **"Lord Jesus of You I will sing"**      **Songbook #76**

Prayer

Scripture reading: St. Mark 14:17-26      NLT

**Praise:**      **"Jesu, Jesu"**      **Songbook #14**

Scripture reading: St. Matthew 27:45-54      NLT

**Praise:**      **"The old rugged cross"**      **Songbook #67**

Meditation: "Why darkness?"

**Praise:**      **"The wonderful cross"**      **Songbook #77**

The fellowship of the Lord's Supper

**Praise:**      **"The blessing"**

Benediction