

General Church Education



Family Lesson: Mark 14
The Holy Supper

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Family Lesson 31-H

The Holy Supper
Mark 14

Family Talk
THE HOLY SUPPER

by Rev. Alfred Acton

The 14th chapter of the Gospel of Mark describes things that happened to the Lord on the day before He was crucified. It tells how the Lord, on Thursday, celebrated the Jewish feast of the Passover. Before that He was in the home of Simon the Leper, where His feet were anointed. Then He went out to the garden of Gethsemane to pray, where He was betrayed by Judas Iscariot. He was taken before the Sanhedrin, tried and falsely found guilty. At last the chapter tells how His disciple, Peter, denied Him three times.

All of these stories are important. But today we want to look at just one of them. It is the story about the last supper which the Lord had here on this earth. This story tells how the Lord wanted everyone from that time on to celebrate that supper in remembrance of Him. From very early times in the Christian Church, even till now, people celebrate that supper. They go to church, and in church take what is called by some Christians “mass,” by others “communion,” and by still others, the Holy Supper. In this holy act of worship commemorating the Lord’s Last Supper, bread and wine are taken.

In the New Church we have a new vision of this supper. Our new vision of this supper helps us to understand it better. It helps us to understand why it is such a holy act of worship. As you know, things in the natural world correspond to things in the spiritual world. Things that we do with our body correspond to things that happen to our mind.

So when we eat, physically with our body, it corresponds to taking things into our mind. If we eat good things, it is like taking good things into our mind.

Sometimes, of course, when we eat bad things, we spit them out because they taste bad. And so it should be with bad spiritual things. We should get rid of them because they taste bad.

When the Lord celebrated His last supper on earth, He was teaching people how to be with Him in a new special way. When we understand that taking food into the body is like taking good things into the mind, then we can start to understand this supper. We can see why the Lord wants us to celebrate it in remembrance of Him.

What is the best thing we can ever learn about? It is the Lord. So when we can take the Lord into our mind by learning about Him — when He can really

be with us in our spirit — *then* we can find the happiness of heaven. Every time we celebrate the Lord's supper, we take wine and bread into our body with a prayer that the same thing is happening to our minds — that the Lord Himself is coming into our mind and being with us. The bread is the Lord's love. The wine is the Lord's wisdom. When we have both His love and His wisdom, then He is with us.

In the New Church, when people take the Holy Supper, we understand this important truth, and so when we eat the bread and the wine, we think of the Lord in a very special way. We know He is with us. This is the wonderful truth that the New Church has about the Lord's Last Supper. It makes the taking of that supper very, very special for New Church people. It makes it possible for us to enter into the spirit of the Lord's Word: **"This do in remembrance of Me."**

The Holy Supper

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LEVEL 1 – THE LORD AND HIS DISCIPLES



Parents:

A. Ask your child, “Where is the Lord in this picture of the Last Supper?”

Then count the disciples with your child pointing with his/her finger and repeating the number after you.

Then name the disciples with your child pointing with his/her finger and repeating the names after you. *(It doesn't matter which name goes with which person.)*

1. Peter

2. James (son of Zebedee)

3. John

4. Andrew

5. Thomas

7. Matthew

8. James (son of Alphaeus)

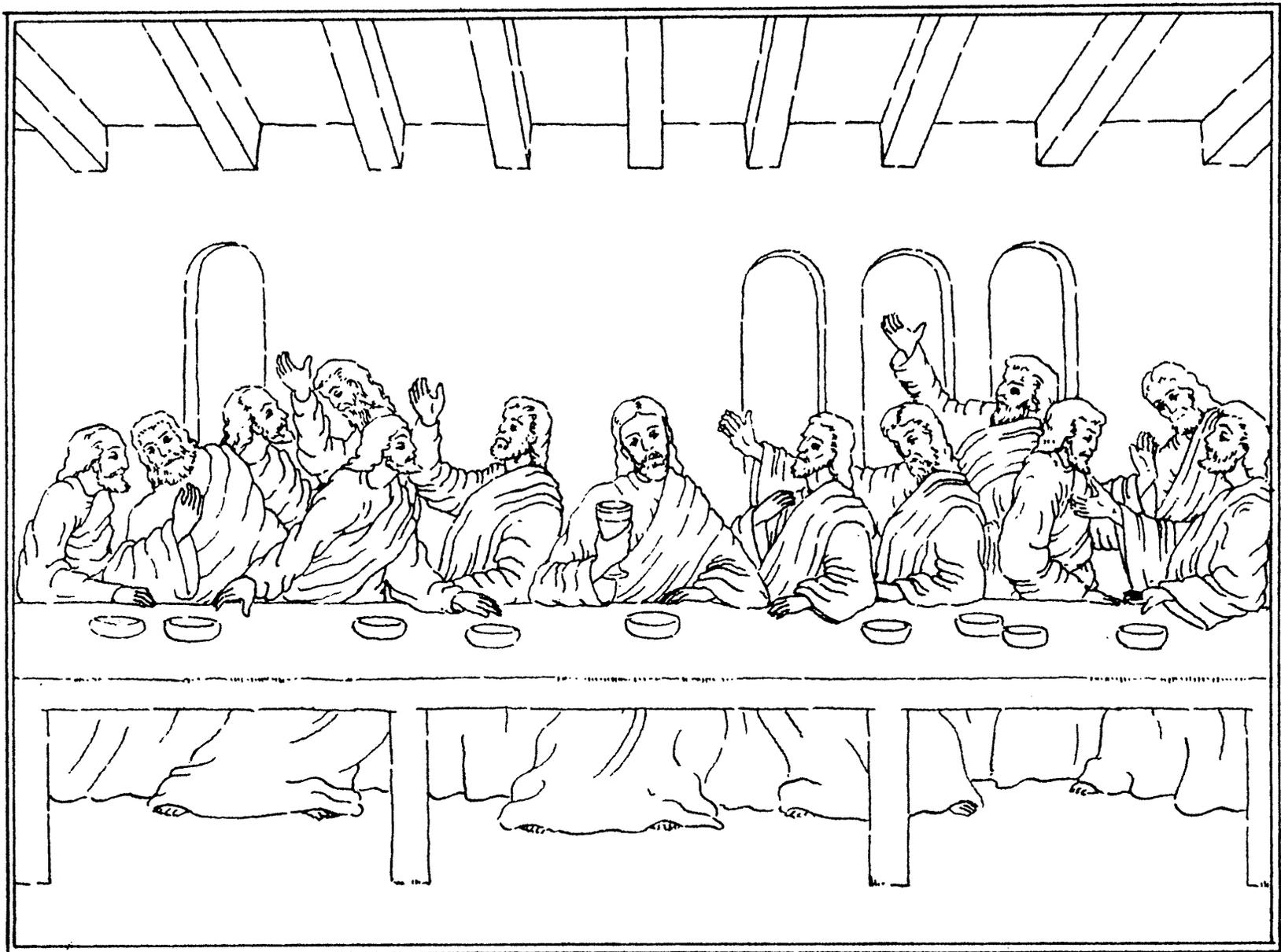
9. Thaddeus

10. Simon

11. Bartholomew

12. Judas Iscariot

B. Color the picture on the next page.



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LEVEL 2 – HOLY SUPPER BREAD



At the Last Supper the Lord ate a special kind of bread, and He served it to his disciples.

In serving this bread the Lord said, “Do this in remembrance of Me.”

Today Christians all over the world eat this bread in remembrance of the Lord in a service called the Holy Supper. In that service the bread is offered to the people in the same way that the Lord gave it to His disciples. This makes it very special.

Activity #1

This is a recipe for the kind of bread the Lord ate at the Last Supper. Perhaps someone in the family could help you make this bread. When it is ready serve it to your family.

HOLY SUPPER BREAD

Ingredients: 1 cup flour
 ¼ teaspoon salt
 3 tablespoons olive (or vegetable) oil
 2 tablespoons water

1. Mix 1 cup of flour with ¼ teaspoon of salt.
2. Sprinkle this mixture with 3 tablespoons of olive oil (you may substitute vegetable oil if you wish). Use a fork to mix.
3. After oil is mixed in, sprinkle 2 tablespoons of water over it. Stir until it makes a ball, and divide mixture in half. Pat each half out on a floured board until the halves are ¼ inch thick.
4. Bake in preheated 350 degree oven for approximately 4-6 minutes or until light brown. Watch so it doesn't burn.

Activity #2

Color the picture of the Last Supper. You will find the picture on the previous page.

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LEVEL 3 – THE LAST SUPPER



When the Lord was in this world, He chose twelve men who became His closest followers or “disciples.”

Just before the Lord was arrested and crucified they ate a last supper with Him. It was the time of year for the Jewish feast of the Passover commemorating their deliverance from Egypt.

At this time, the Lord taught them a new supper. He broke unleavened bread and passed it around the table to His disciples. Then He drank wine and passed the cup around to each one.

Christians all over the world still eat this “Last Supper” in honor of Jesus. They call it “Communion” or “Mass” or “Eucharist.” The Lord commanded that we do it “in remembrance of Me.”

Application

Some of the stories of the Lord’s life are told in only one of the four gospels. Some are told in many or all of them.

The story of the Last Supper is told in all four gospels
Read each account and notice how they are alike and how they differ:

- 1) Matthew 26: 17-30 2) Mark 14: 12-26 3) Luke 22: 7-23 4) John 13: 1-30

Answer the following questions by filling in which verse in each book answers each question about the Last Supper. (You may not find every part in all four gospels.):

1. When? (on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread)

Matthew _____ Mark _____ Luke _____ John

2. Where? (the upper room of a house belonging to a certain man)

Matthew _____ Mark _____ Luke _____ John

3. Who? (He sat down with the twelve)

Matthew _____ Mark _____ Luke _____ John

4. A prediction (“Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.”)

Matthew _____ Mark _____ Luke _____ John

5. What? (the bread which is His body and the wine which is His blood.)

Matthew Bread _____ Wine

Mark Bread _____ Wine

Luke Bread _____ Wine

John Bread _____ Wine

6. Which three gospels are the most alike? _____

7. Which gospel account of the Last Supper is most different? _____



Question Answers

1. When? (on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread)

Matthew 17 Mark 12 Luke 7 John x

2. Where? (the upper room of a house belonging to a certain man)

Matthew 18 Mark 15 Luke 12 John x

3. Who? (He sat down with the twelve)

Matthew 20 Mark 17 Luke 14 John x

4. A prediction (“Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.”)

Matthew 21 Mark 18 Luke 21 John 21

5. What? (the bread which is His body and the wine which is His blood.)

Matthew Bread 26 Wine 27-28

Mark Bread 22 Wine 23-24

Luke Bread 19 Wine 20

John Bread x Wine x

6. Which three gospels are the most alike? Matthew, Mark, Luke

7. Which gospel account of the Last Supper is most different? John



The Holy Supper

Mark 14

LEVEL 4 – THE FEAST OF THE PASSOVER



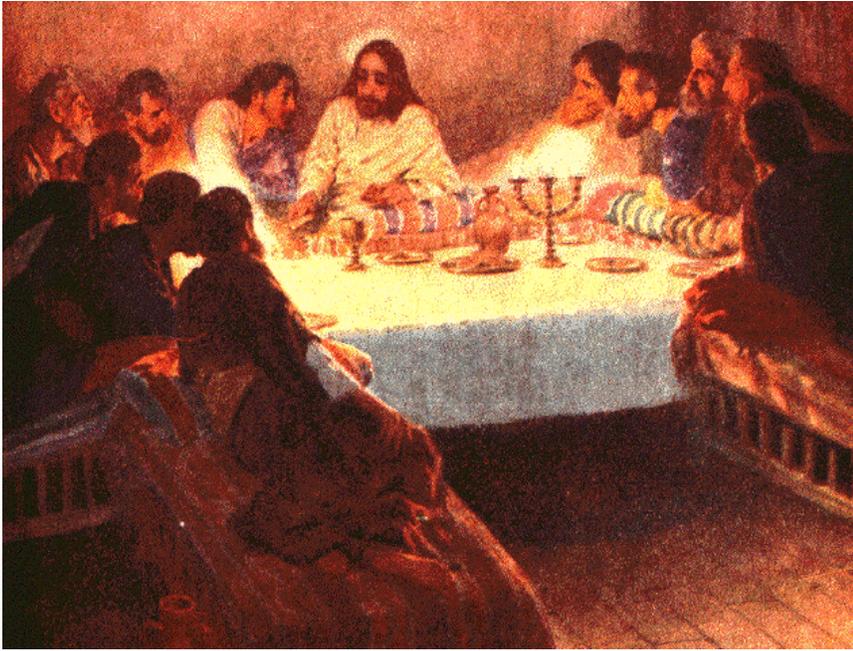
Directions:

1. Read *Exodus* 12: 1-14 about the Passover Feast.
2. Read the summary below to help you fill in the chart
3. Then fill in the chart on page 3.

The beginning of the Passover

The Lord always finds ways to be conjoined to the people of His Church. The Children of Israel often forgot the Lord. So when they were leaving Egypt, He started a special feast called the Passover Feast, to remind them how He saved them.

This feast is described in the Old Testament. The Children of Israel were to eat unleavened bread as a ritual to remind them that the Lord had spared them.



The beginning of the Holy Supper

When the Lord was born on earth, a new Church began called the Christian Church.

This church knew the Lord as a Man- Jesus Christ. It was an important new idea to think of the Lord as a Man. So He changed the Passover Feast into a new celebration, called the Last Supper.

The Bread and the Wine

Instead of simply eating bread, the Christians (followers of Christ) were to think of the bread as a symbol for the Lord's body, and wine as a symbol for the Lord's blood.

When Christians today celebrate the Last Supper, they call it "Mass" or "Communion." It is described in the New Testament in the gospel of *Mark* (*Mark* 14: 12-26).

A long time after the Lord was born on earth, He came again as a new set of truths through the Writings of a man named Swedenborg. Another church began, called the New Church. This church knows even more about the Lord.

Correspondences

One of the things the New Church knows is called "correspondences". A correspondence is when something from heaven comes down to earth in some shape or form.

The Lord uses this new idea in His newest celebration, called the Holy Supper:

When New Church people eat the bread at this service, they know that the bread means more than the Lord's body. The bread is His Love.

And when they drink the wine, it means more than His blood. They know it is His Truth.

We must take the Lord's Love and His Truth into ourselves before we can become angels. And this is the beautiful new truth we have about this special service called the Holy Supper.

Fill in the chart below by putting each word under one or more headings. Look back at the summary you just read for hints. (Answers on page 4)

bread	Mass	correspondence
wine	Communion	Old Testament
Passover Feast	Love	New Testament
Last Supper	truth	The Writings
body	ritual	Holy Supper
blood	symbol	

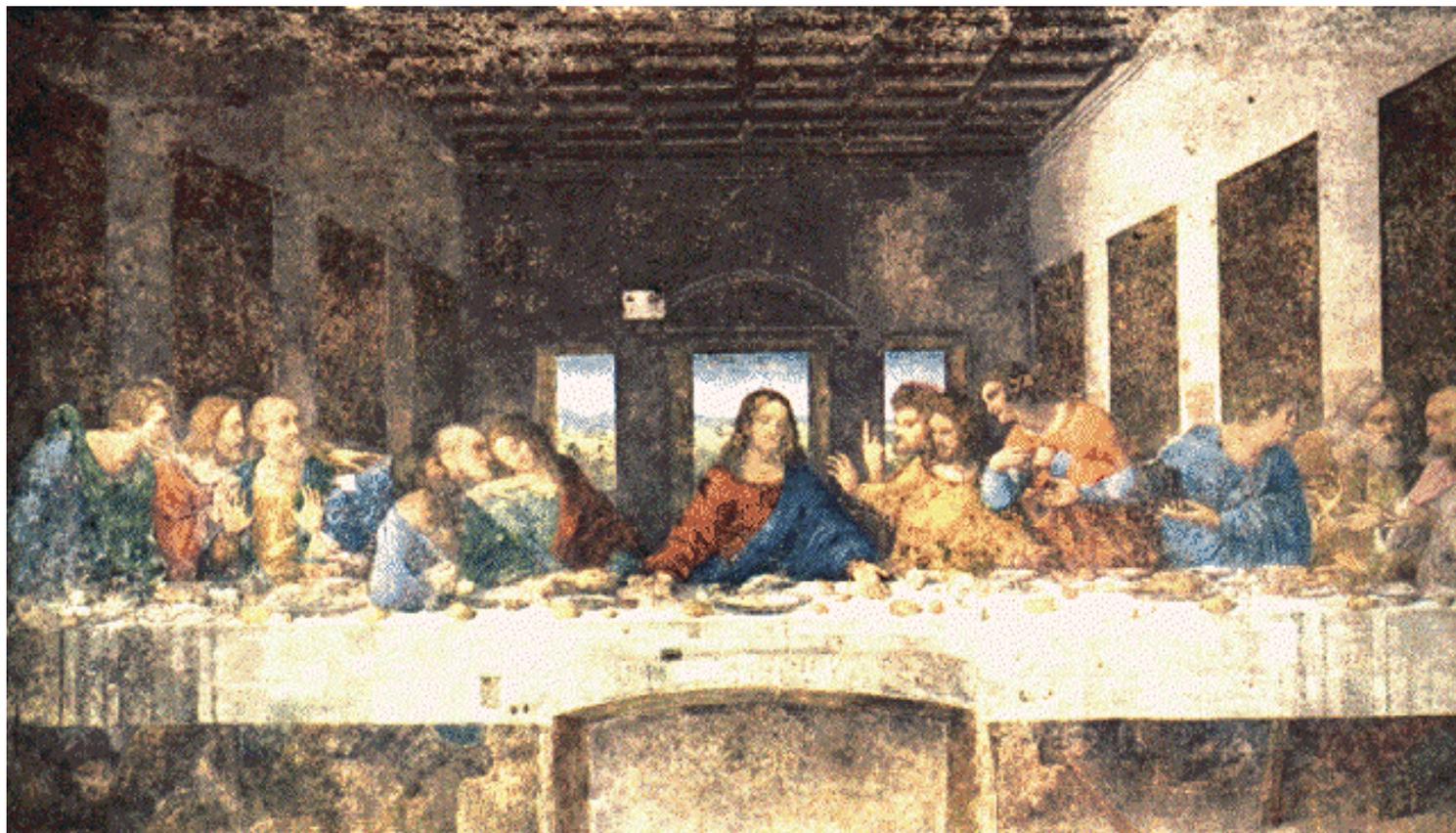
Children of Israel	Christian Church	New Church
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.
	5.	5.
	6.	6.
	7.	7.
	8.	8.
	9.	9.

Answers

Children of Israel	Christian Church	New Church
1. bread	1. bread	1. bread
2. Passover Feast	2. wine	2. wine
3. ritual	3. Last Supper	3. body
4. Old Testament	4. body	4. blood
	5. blood	5. love
	6. Mass	6. truth
	7. Communion	7. correspondence
	8. symbol	8. The Writings
	9. New Testament	9. Holy Supper



The Holy Supper
Mark 14
LEVEL 5 – THE HOLY SUPPER



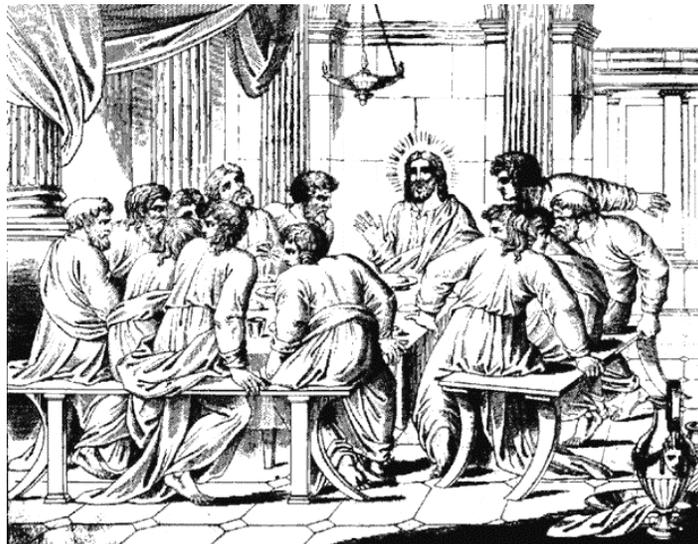
On pages 4 and 5 are some teachings from the Writings about the Holy Supper.

Read the teachings. Then answer the following questions:

1. Why did the Lord ask us to take the Holy Supper “in remembrance of Me”?

2. What spiritual quality is like both “bread” and “flesh”?

9. Who is “worthy” to take the Holy Supper?
Pick from the following list and explain your answer.
(You may choose more than one.)
- a. A person who likes the evil life he is living and doesn’t want to change.
 - b. A person who is a good Hindu and so doesn’t believe Jesus Christ is the One God of Heaven and Earth.
 - c. A person who wants to be with the Lord but hasn’t begun looking at his evils and shunning them.
 - d. A person who just did something bad, is sorry about it, and wants to change, but hasn’t really started to change.
 - e. A person who is trying hard to stop doing bad things and wants the Lord’s help.
 - f. A person who is really good, like an angel, and just wants to be with the Lord.



TEACHINGS FROM THE WRITINGS

“The Holy Supper was instituted by the Lord, that by means of it the church may be conjoined with heaven, and thus with the Lord; it is, therefore, the most holy thing of worship. But conjunction with the Lord by the Sacrament of the Holy Supper, is effected solely with those who are in the good of faith and love to the Lord from the Lord; with others indeed there is the presence of the Lord, but no conjunction with Him. Besides, the Holy Supper includes and comprehends all Divine worship instituted in the Israelitish Church; for the offerings and sacrifices, in which the worship of that church principally consisted, were called, in one word, bread; hence also the Holy Supper is the completion or fullness of that worship.”

(Arcana Coelestia 10519, 10522)

“There is natural nourishment for the body, and spiritual nourishment for the soul; spiritual nourishment, therefore, is for eternal salvation. These two kinds of nourishment must not be confounded; if they are confounded, man forms no other ideas concerning this most holy sacrament than those which are material, corporeal and carnal. But if there is any one who is not able to think anything else from the understanding than what he sees with the eye, let him at least think that the Holy Supper is the most holy thing of worship, and let him remember the passion of Christ, and His love for the salvation of man.”

(True Christian Religion 709)

“Bread signifies the Lord, and everything holy which is from Him, that is, all good and truth; and because there is no other good, which is good, than that which is love and charity, therefore bread signifies love and charity. Sacrifices formerly had no other signification; wherefore they were called by one expression, bread; and also, the flesh of the sacrifices was eaten, to represent a heavenly feast, that is, conjunction by the good of love and charity. This also is what is signified by the Holy Supper, which succeeded in place of sacrifices and the feasts upon what was sanctified. Thus the Holy Supper is an external of the church, in which there is an internal, and by the internal it conjoins the man who is in love and charity with heaven, and by heaven with the Lord.”

(Arcana Coelestia 4211)

“The man who is in what is holy, when he receives the bread of the Holy Supper, does not then think of bread, but of the Lord and His mercy, and of those things which are of love to Him, and of charity toward the neighbor, because he thinks of repentance and amendment of life; but this with a variety, according to the holiness in which he is, not only as to thought but also as to affection.”

(Arcana Coelestia 4217)

“And baked unleavened [bread]. That this signifies purification, is evident from the signification of ‘unleavened’ or ‘unfermented.’ In the Word ‘bread’ signifies in general all celestial and spiritual food, thus celestial and spiritual things in general. That these should be free from everything impure was represented by bread without leaven; for ‘leaven’ signifies that which is evil and false, by which celestial and spiritual things are rendered impure and profane.”

(Arcana Coelestia 2342)

“‘Grapes’ in the Word signify charity and what is of charity, and ‘wine’ signifies the faith thence derived and the things that belong to it.”

(Arcana Coelestia 2342)

“The man who looks to the Lord, and performs repentance, is conjoined to the Lord, and introduced into heaven, by the most holy sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. The bread and wine do not effect this; there is not anything holy in them; but material bread and heavenly bread correspond to each other, and so do material wine and heavenly wine; and heavenly bread is the holy of love, and heavenly wine is the holy of faith, both from the Lord, and both the Lord. Thence there is the conjunction of the Lord with man, and of man with the Lord; not with the bread and wine, but with the love and faith of the man who has repented; and conjunction with the Lord is also introduction into heaven.”

(Apocalypse Revealed 224:13)

“The whole of the Lord, and the whole of His redemption, are present in the Holy Supper.”

(True Christian Religion 716-717)

“The Lord is present and opens heaven to those who come worthily to the Holy Supper, and He is also present to those who come unworthily, but He does not open heaven to them; consequently, as Baptism is introduction into the church, so the Holy Supper is introduction into heaven. These two sacraments, Baptism and the Holy Supper, are as two gates to eternal life. By Baptism, which is the first gate, every Christian man is admitted and introduced into those things which the church teaches from the Word concerning the other life; all of which are means whereby he may be prepared and led to heaven. The other gate is the Holy Supper, through which every man who has suffered himself to be prepared and led by the Lord, is admitted and introduced into heaven. There are no more universal gates.”

(True Christian Religion 719, 721)

“Those come to the Holy Supper worthily who have faith in the Lord and charity towards the neighbor; they are in the Lord and the Lord in them; hence conjunction with the Lord is effected by the Holy Supper. Therefore the Holy Supper, to those who approach worthily, is a sign and a seal that they are sons of God. Moreover it is a key to the house in heaven, where they will dwell to eternity.”

(True Christian Religion 722, 728)

“Actual repentance is to examine one’s self, to know and acknowledge one’s sins, to make supplication to the Lord, and to begin a new life. If this be done at stated times; for instance as often as a man prepares himself for the communion of the Holy Supper; and if he afterwards abstains from one or more sins, which he then has discovered in himself, it is sufficient to initiate him into actual repentance; and when he is in that, he is on the way to heaven; for then from natural he begins to become spiritual, and to be born anew of the Lord.”

(True Christian Religion 528, 530)