

TAKING THE HOLY SUPPER

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Reading: Mark 14

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 way of looking at this supper. Our new vision of this supper helps us to understand it better. It helps us 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—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.

When we understand this important truth and take the Holy Supper—eating the bread and 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."