

## 21 The Good Shepherd

“He will feed his flock like a shepherd,  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
he will carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead those that are with young.”

Isaiah 40:11

The time came when Jesus knew He would soon die for us. He rode on a donkey into the city of Jerusalem. Nobody else knew Jesus was going to die. Many people came to honor Jesus as King. They threw palm branches and coats onto the road where He was coming. They shouted for joy.

The people were right to think Jesus was King. But He was not the kind of king they wanted. Jesus is King of Heaven as well as earth. He did not come to live in a palace and wear a crown. He came to be the Savior Who would die for our sins and lead us to Heaven.

“I am the **Good Shepherd**,” said Jesus. “I know my sheep and they know me. They hear my voice. I know them and they follow me.”

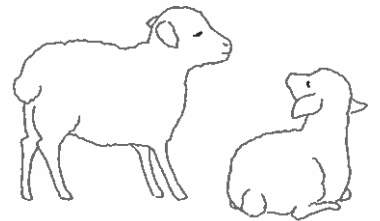
We are the sheep that Jesus speaks of. Just like a shepherd, Jesus watches over us night and day. He knows all about each one of us. He knows everything we say and do. Jesus even knows what we want and what will make us happy.

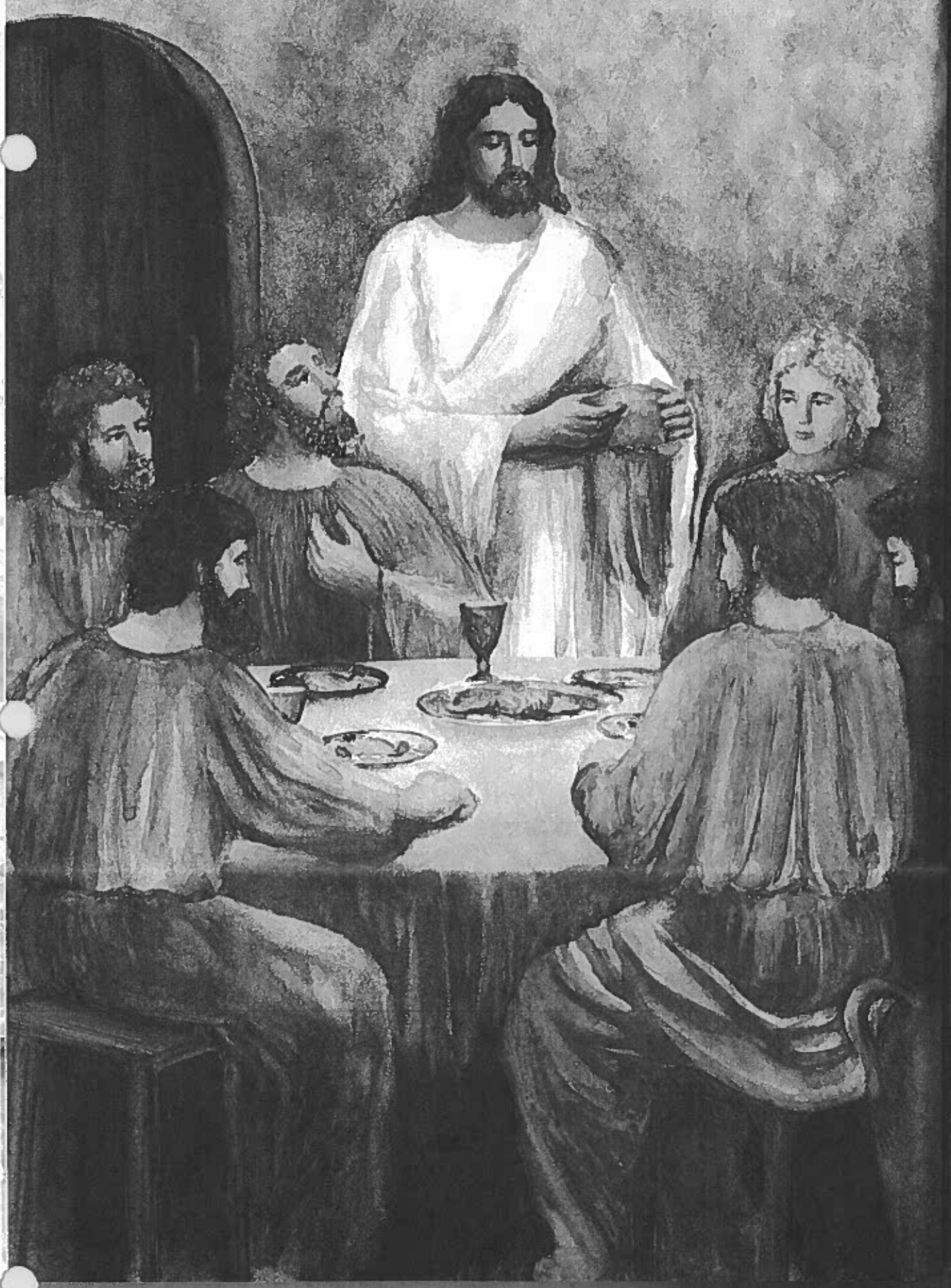
A shepherd must feed his sheep. Jesus gives us food for our souls in the Sacraments. This food makes us strong so we will be good.

A shepherd protects his sheep from the wolves and other dangers, and he finds those sheep that have gotten lost. Jesus guards us against evil and sin. But even when we turn away from Jesus by sinning, He will always come after us, calling us back to His love.

A shepherd leads his sheep to green pastures where they will be happy. Jesus came to lead all of us on the way to Heaven—the only place where we will be truly happy. He taught us that He is the Way and that we must become like Him to go to Heaven.

“The Good Shepherd lays down His life for His sheep.” Jesus was brave enough to lay down His life for us. He died so that we all could live forever. Even if you were the only boy or girl in the world, Jesus would have died just for you. He loves you that much.





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## 22

# The Last Supper

“I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

John 6:51

Every year, the Jews had a great feast called Passover. This was to remember the time when God led Moses and the Israelites, God’s Chosen People, out of slavery.

The night before Jesus died, He celebrated the Passover dinner with His twelve disciples. Jesus felt very sad to be leaving His friends. He wanted there to be a way that He could always stay with them, and with all those who loved Him.

While they were eating, Jesus took some bread. He prayed to His Father, blessed the bread, and broke it. He gave it to the disciples and said,

*“This is my Body, which will be given up for you.”*

Then Jesus took a cup of wine and said,

*“This is the chalice of my Blood... which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.”*

With those words, the bread and wine became the Body and Blood of Jesus. It was not bread and wine anymore, but Jesus. When the disciples ate it, Jesus came to live in their souls. This was the first time anyone had received Holy Communion.

### **Living Bread**

Remember when Jesus fed the crowd of five thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two fish? The people were all amazed and wanted Jesus to do it for them again. But Jesus told them that He would give them food that would make them live forever. He told them that He was that living bread.

Jesus gave this living bread for the first time to His disciples at the Last Supper and He gives it to us in Holy Communion.



We call the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood the **Holy Eucharist**. At the **Last Supper** Jesus said to His disciples, "Do this in memory of me." At every Mass the priest says the words of Jesus, and so the bread and wine are changed into Jesus' Body and Blood.

**Words to Know:**

Holy Eucharist      Last Supper

**Q. 45** *What is the Eucharist?*

The Eucharist is the Sacrament of the real Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ (CCC 1333).

**Q. 46** *When did Jesus give us the Eucharist?*

Jesus gave us the Sacrament of the Eucharist at the Last Supper (CCC 1340).

**Q. 47** *How can a priest change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ?*

When a man becomes a priest, he receives the power from Jesus to change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus. Jesus first gave this power to His Apostles when He said, at the Last Supper, “Do this in memory of Me” (CCC 1339–41, 1356).

**Q. 48** *What words must a priest say at Mass for the bread to become the Body of Christ?*

“This is my Body” (CCC 1365).

**Q. 49** *What words must a priest say at Mass for the wine to become the Blood of Christ?*

“This is the chalice of my Blood” (CCC 1365).