

THE FIRST COMMUNION SERVICE

Reference: **Matthew 26:17-30**

Pastor Larry Webb

Read **verse seventeen** (see screen)

This happened during what is called Passion Week (i.e. Holy Week). Passion Week started on Palm Sunday and ended on Easter (i.e. Resurrection Sunday). This account happened on what is called _____ Thursday.

The word Maundy comes from the Latin language and means “_____ or _____.” Jesus did two important things on that Thursday:

One - Jesus _____ the disciples’ feet and

Two - Jesus _____ the Passover meal.

Reference: **John 13:14-15** (see screen)

The ancient Jewish calendar was full of religious celebrations and feasts. The principle feast of the year was called Passover. The Passover Feast was combined with the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Passover was commemorated on day one, and then the Feast of Unleavened Bread was celebrated the next seven days. Both feasts commemorated the deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage.

Reference: **Exodus 11** and **12:1-30** (see screen)

Passover is also called “*Pesach*” and in the Hebrew language that word means “_____ or protection”

Read **verse eighteen** (see screen)

It was essential that Jesus commemorate Passover so that during that meal He could institute what we now call communion. At that meal He transformed the **Passover Supper** from the **Old Testament** into the _____ of the **New Testament**.

Read **verse nineteen** (see screen)

The sacrificial Passover lambs prefigured the ultimate human sacrifice. Reference: **I Corinthians 5:7b**; **I Peter 1:19** (see screen)

Read **verses twenty thru twenty-six** (see screen)

Judas left that upper room and didn’t participate in the first communion service.

Communion is a _____ ordinance or commemoration designed for Christian participation.

Read **verses twenty-seven and twenty-eight** (see screen)

In these verses Jesus was speaking in a _____, nonliteral sense. Jesus often used figurative, symbolic language in the Gospels.

References: **John 10:7**; **John 15:1**

Read **verses twenty-nine and thirty** (see screen)