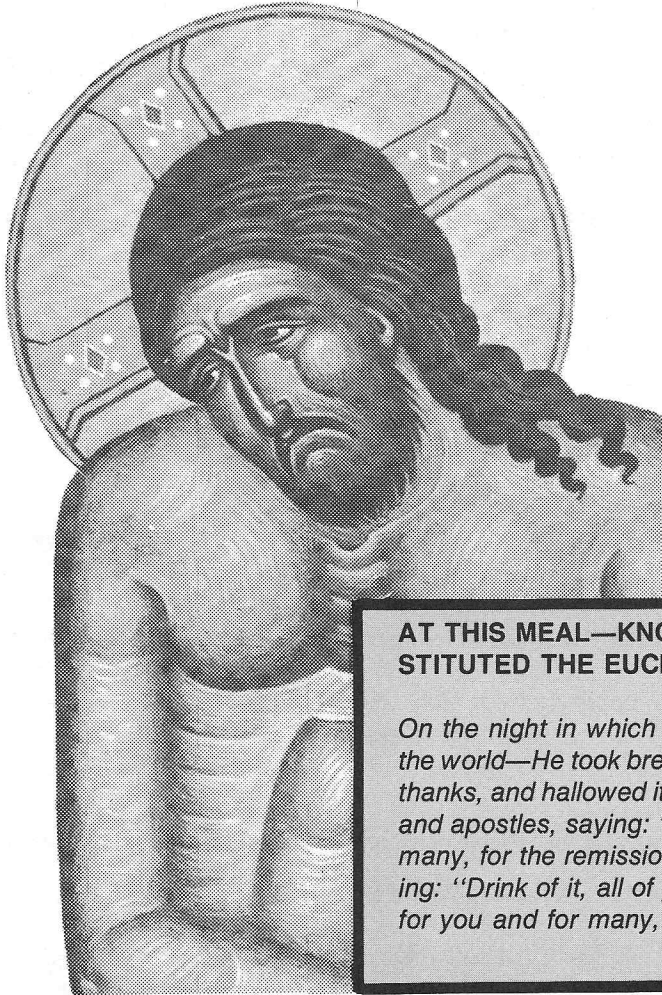


CHRIST'S PASSION AND DEATH



Four days after His triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, Jesus joined His disciples for *the Passover meal*. It was the custom of the Jewish people to share this sacrificial meal annually in commemoration of the deliverance off the Old Testament faithful from slavery in Egypt.

During this meal, Jesus

- **spoke** of His impending betrayal, sufferings, death and resurrection;
- **washed** the feet of His disciples, showing His love and humility; and
- **prayed** for those who faithfully followed Him.

AT THIS MEAL—KNOWN AS THE “MYSTICAL SUPPER”—JESUS ALSO INSTITUTED THE EUCHARIST.

On the night in which He was given up—or rather, gave Himself up for the life of the world—He took bread into His holy, pure and blameless hands; and having given thanks, and hallowed it, and blessed it, and broken it, He gave it to His holy disciples and apostles, saying: “Take. Eat. This is my Body, which is broken for you and for many, for the remission of sins.” And likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying: “Drink of it, all of you. This is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins.”

—The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

After supper, Jesus and His disciples went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. An angry crowd, led by Judas, arrived and arrested Jesus, who was then

- put on trial before the religious and political leaders;
- whipped, mocked and crowned with thorns; and
- condemned to death by crucifixion.

Jesus was led to *Golgotha*, the place where executions were carried out. The crowds, who had earlier greeted Jesus joyously, had ultimately betrayed Him. Instead of shouting, “Hosanna! King of the Jews!” they now shouted, “Crucify Him! We have no King but Caesar!”

THROUGH CHRIST'S CRUCIFIXION

- God hangs on a cross and dies in order to give life to all;
- the Creator is put to death by His own creation; and
- the boundless love of God for His People is revealed.

