

Why is the Last Supper so important to Christians?

Lesson 2 Objective:

To understand the purpose and symbolism of Holy Communion

Can you remember the events of Holy Week?

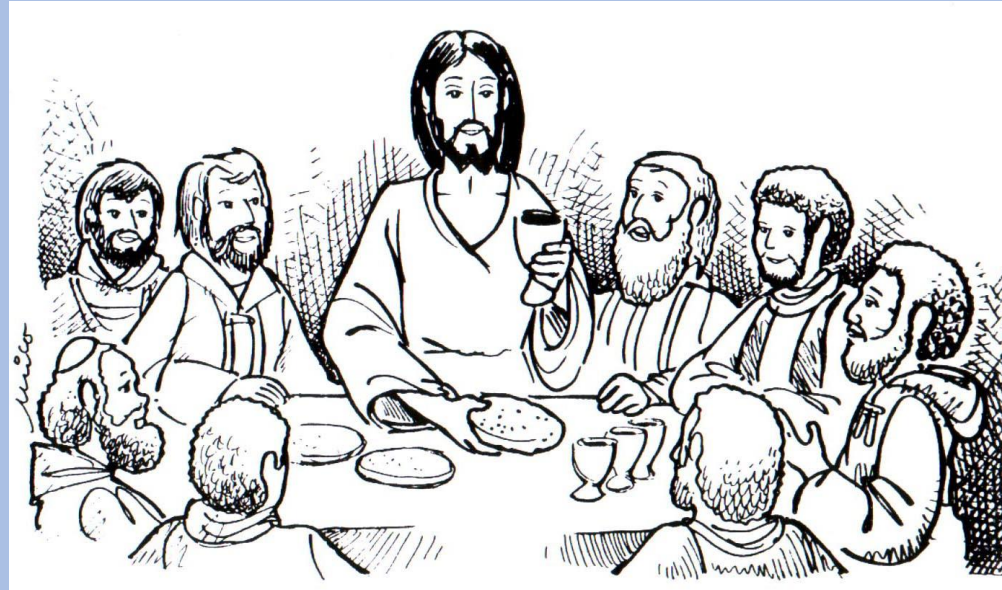
Take a look below to remind yourself.

Notice the other events which happened on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Holy Week Calendar	
Sunday	<u>Palm Sunday</u> Jesus enters Jerusalem
Monday	Jesus throws traders out of Temple in Jerusalem
Tuesday	Jesus is questioned by people who try to trap him.
Wednesday	Judas Iscariot betrays Jesus to the authorities.
Thursday	<u>Maundy Thursday</u> The Last Supper
Friday	<u>Good Friday</u> Jesus' crucifixion and death
Saturday	<u>Holy Saturday</u> Jesus' burial
Sunday	<u>Easter Sunday</u> Jesus' resurrection

Can you remember the story of the Last Supper?

What happened?



Christians today still follow the example of the Last Supper and share bread and wine in remembrance of Jesus' death. This is called the Eucharist.



The Eucharist is known by other names too. Do you know any of them?

The Eucharist (Church of England) is also called:

Holy Communion (The Free Church)

Mass (Catholic Church)

The Lord's Supper

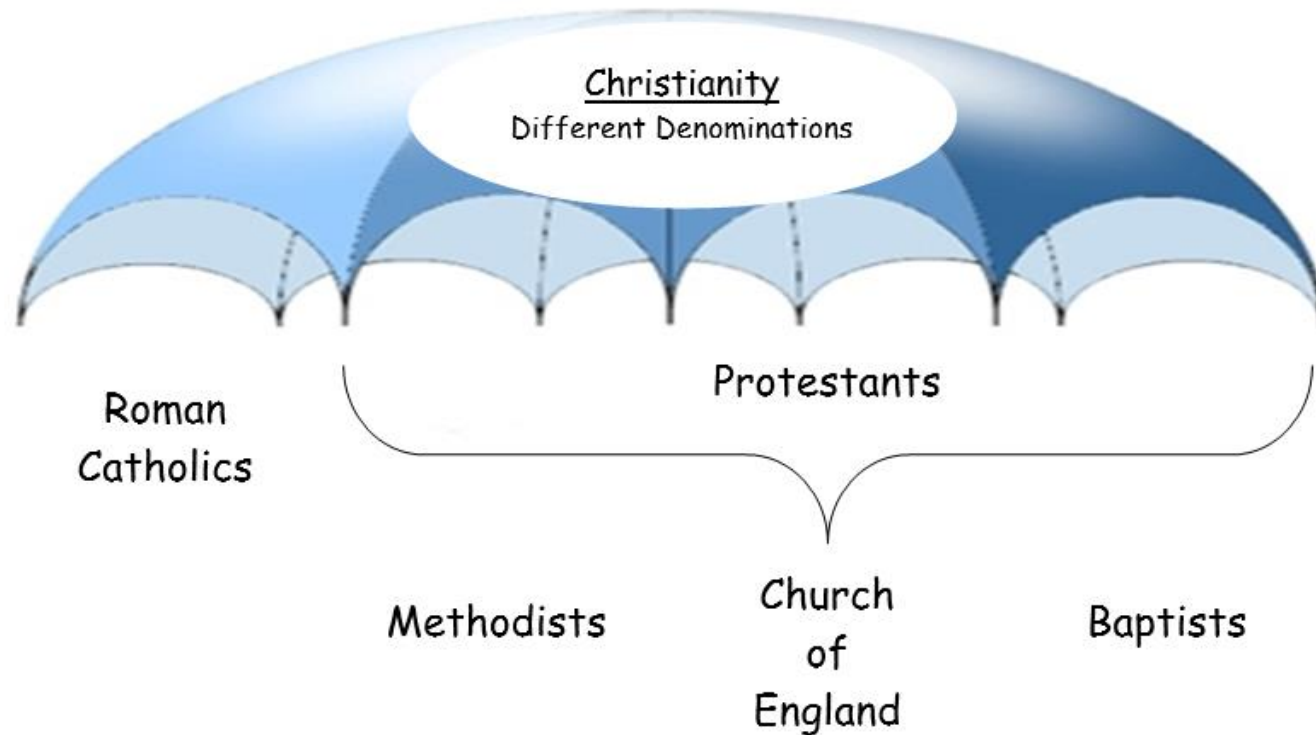
The Divine Liturgy



It is a sacrament (a spiritual ceremony) accepted by almost all Christians.

There are different branches of Christianity because some Christians worship in different ways, however all Christians share common beliefs.

Below are some of the denominations:



What is the purpose of the Eucharist?

The Eucharist is a **re-enactment of the Last Supper**, the final meal that Jesus Christ shared with his disciples before his arrest, and eventual crucifixion. At the meal Jesus ate bread and wine and instructed his disciples to do the same in memory of him.

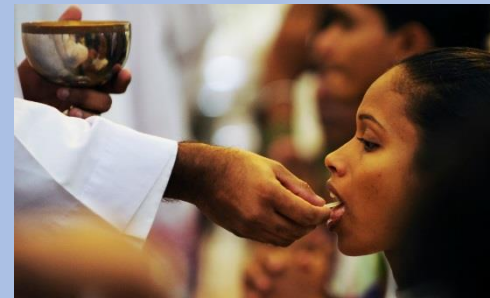


What happens?

The **prayers and readings** in a Eucharistic service **remind** those taking part of that final meal and of the solemn words and actions of someone standing at the edge of death.

The people taking part **drink a sip of wine (or grape juice)** and **eat a tiny piece of some form of bread or cracker**, both of which have been consecrated (blessed).

Different churches have different ways of doing this, and different ways of understanding what it means, and what spiritual events are happening at the time.



Can you explain the two different ways of receiving the bread?

Different churches, different meanings

Although all denominations recognise the importance of the Eucharist, they differ about its meaning. There are three main Christian views regarding the bread and wine during Holy Communion:



1. The bread and the wine **change completely** into the **actual body and blood of Christ**. This change is known as **Transubstantiation**.
2. Christ's presence **appears spiritually**, through the bread and wine.
3. The bread and the wine are **symbols** representing Christ's body and blood, in remembrance of his sacrifice.

Importance



For **Roman Catholics**, the Eucharist is the **most important act of worship**. All Roman Catholics are encouraged to receive communion at least once a week during Mass. Some practising Catholics may receive the Eucharist every day.

Other denominations receive Holy Communion less frequently and usually services are held once a week or every few weeks.

Watch this short clip to see what happens at Holy Communion.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zq2yg82>



Activity Time!

Follow the instructions on the worksheet.

