On Maundy Thursday, the day before Jesus would die on a cross, he and his disciples came to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover.

That evening they met in an upstairs room of a house. The house was owned by a follower of Jesus who let them use it for the night. Earlier that day, Peter and John had gone there and prepared the Passover meal. Everything was ready now, and Jesus and his disciples took their places around the table.

While they were eating, Jesus told his disciples in a sad voice, “One of you is going to betray me by handing me over to my enemies.”

Jesus was talking about the disciple named Judas. The enemies of Jesus had promised to give Judas 30 silver coins if he would show them where they could find Jesus and then take him prisoner. Judas had agreed to the plan.

The other disciples did not know what Judas was planning. So when Jesus said, “One of you is going to betray me,” they were shocked and very sad. They looked at one another, wondering who was planning to do this. One after the other, they said to Jesus, “Lord, am I the one who is going to betray you?” Even Judas asked this question.

Finally John, who was sitting next to Jesus, asked, “Lord, who is it? Which one of us are you talking about?”

Jesus answered, “I will take a piece of bread and dip it into this dish. Then I will give it to one of you. The disciple I give the bread to is the one who will betray me.”

Then Jesus took a small piece of bread, dipped it into the dish, and gave it to Judas. Judas acted as if he was surprised. He said, “Lord, am I the one?”

Softly, Jesus answered, “Yes, you are the one who will betray me. Now go and do what you have been planning.”

As soon as Judas took the bread, he left the room. He went out into the dark night to meet with the enemies of Jesus.

As the Passover meal was ending, Jesus did something very special. He took some bread from the table and gave thanks to his heavenly Father. Then he broke the bread into small pieces and gave a piece to each of his disciples. He said, “Take this bread and eat it. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this, and remember me.”

Then Jesus took a cup of wine and gave thanks. He gave the cup to the disciples and said to them, “Each of you, drink this wine. It is my blood, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of all your sins. Do this, and remember me.”
This was the first time this special meal was served. We call it the Lord’s Supper. Ever since, Christians everywhere have been receiving the Lord’s Supper for the forgiveness of sins.

On the night before Jesus suffered and died on a cross, he gave the Lord’s Supper to his disciples and to all other believers. This special meal offers forgiveness of sins in a way people can see, touch, and taste. Other ways Jesus offers forgiveness is through his saving Word and the gift of Baptism.

1. Complete the pictures to show what we are to remember whenever we receive the Lord’s Supper (as confirmed members of the church) or as we watch others receive the Lord’s Supper (as children). Finish the cup of wine, add some more bread waferes, and finish the cross.

2. Find in your Bible the memory treasure passage that talks about service. Jesus, the Son of God, deserves to be served by us sinful creatures, yet he has served us willingly. Can you think of three ways your Lord Jesus has served you?

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Pray Together

Lord, I remember all you’ve done.
You are the Savior, God’s own Son.
In love, you came to earth for me.
You gave your life up willingly.
Amen.

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* Matthew 26:41a

* Mark 10:45

**The Eighth Commandment**
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

*What does this mean?*
We should fear and love God that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, or give him a bad name, but defend him, speak well of him, and take his words and actions in the kindest possible way.