**Maundy Thursday**

**While they were eating, Jesus took bread**

**and blessed it and broke it,**

**and gave it to his disciples, and said,**

**Take, eat; this is my body.**

**Then he took the cup and gave thanks,**

**and gave it to them, saying, Take, drink of it, all of you.**

**This is my blood of the new testament**

**which is shed for many for the remission of sins.**

**(*St. Matthew 26:26-28*)**

**My 5-year-old granddaughter helped me clean the communion ware several times. One Sunday, she was in a hurry to get home right after the service. I reminded her that I needed to do my task. She said, "Oh, Grandma, are we going to do God's dishes again?" *(Fran Liszewski, in The Lutheran Witness)***

**Ways the Bible would be different if written by college students: Last Supper would have been eaten the next morning, cold. Ten Commandments are actually only five, double-spaced and written in a large font. New edition every two years in order to limit reselling. Forbidden fruit would have been eaten because it wasn’t dorm food. Paul’s Letter to the Romans becomes Paul’s E-Mail To: abuse@romans,gov. Instead of God creating the world in six days and resting on the seventh, he would have put it off until the night before it was due and then pulled an all-nighter. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

**My Last Supper: "You can learn a lot about people" by asking them what they'd eat for their final meal on earth, said Joel Stein in Time. That's the idea behind a game that chefs play late at night when the costumers have gone home, and it's the conceit behind photographer Melanie Dunea's enlightening new book. Fifty top chefs agreed to play along, and surprisingly few "piled on the caviar, foie gras, and truffles." Simple comfort foods won the day; Jacques Pepin actually chose a hot dog. Dunea's portraits capture Anthony Bourdain in the nude and Lidia Bastionich wearing fanciful pasta headwear, said Jennifer Leuzzi in The New York Sun. But neither the idiosyncratic images nor the recipes are the main draw. "The real appeal is the conversation," the chance for a foodie to enjoy virtual tete-a-tetes with dozens of well-known chefs. *(The Week magazine, December 14, 2007)***

**No Snacking During Service: When our grandson, Stuart Adamson, was 3, he attended church with his parents every Sunday, and Communion was served at each service. One Sunday, Stuart's impatience got** **the best of him, and he loudly asked his father, "Papa, when are they going to serve the treats?" His embarrassed parents quickly shushed him. *(Malcolm Adamson, in The Lutheran Witness)***

**He who makes a paradise of his bread makes a hell of his hunger. *(Antonio Porchia)***

**Our daughter Nicole has brought her daughter Mary to Sunday Mass from the time Mary was a newborn. Nicole always carries Mary along with her when she goes up to receive Communion. Even before Mary could talk, she would always indicate that she wanted to receive Communion, too. Every Sunday, Mary would ask, and every Sunday her Mom would patiently explain why she could not yet receive. One Sunday last summer, three-year-old Mary walked down the aisle with Nicole as usual. This time, just as the priest was about to give the Host to Nicole, little Mary tugged at her mother's hand. "Hey, Mom," Mary asked loudly, "how about splittin' one?" *(Gerald and Therese Vanasse, in Catholic Digest)***

**Super-sizing the Last Supper: The modern struggle with portion control may not be so modern; a study of 52 artists' depictions of the Last Supper indicates that "serving sizes have been marching heavenward for 1,000 years," says the Los Angeles Times. Using computer technology, researchers analyzed and compared the meals served in 52 renderings of the Last Supper painted between the years 1000 and 2000, including works by El Greco, da Vinci, and Rubens. Relative to the size of the disciples' heads, the portions steadily expanded: The loaves of bread grew by 23 percent over the millennium, the main meal grew by 69 percent, and the plates grew by 66 percent. Although the Bible says the meal consisted of bread and wine, in art it has come to include fish, fruit, and even the head of a lamb. Researchers say their findings reflect society's growing expectations of what the average meal should look like. "The last thousand years have witnessed dramatic increases in the production, availability, safety, abundance, and affordability of food," says Cornell University researcher Brian Wansink. "We think that as art imitates life, these changes have been reflected in paintings of history's most famous dinner." *(The Week magazine, April 9, 2010)***

**Maundy Thursday, the Thursday before Easter, is a corruption of the Latin word mandati meaning “of the commandment,” and refers to the command “This do in remembrance of me” spoken by Jesus in regard to His breaking of the bread and drinking of the wine at the Last Supper. Maundy Thursday commemorates the event of the Last Supper. *(Charles Fillmore, in Keep A True Lent, p. 139)***

**It is in the heart -- what Jesus describes as "the upper room" -- that we can most clearly and purely link ourselves to the presence and power of the Divine. All love, all life, all possibilities for joy and abundance, are sourced in that heart energy. *(Rev. Ed Townley, in Interpret This)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\****