

## **Tuesday, March 30**

Today's Reading: Matthew Chapter 26: 1-30

Today's Devotional Message is by Matt Cesare

*While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom." Matthew 26:26-29*

When I was working in fulltime youth ministry, every year the 5<sup>th</sup> graders would go through First Communion instruction. The pastor at my church would handle the theological questions like, "Does the bread really become Jesus' body?" and "Who drinks the left over wine?" I handled the crafts. For the wine, each student would paint Christian images onto a wine glass using special stain glass paint. For the bread, we (with some help) would bake fresh bread. They would then use their cups and bread for their first communion service.

I was once told that if Jesus had come today, instead of 2000 years ago, we would have beer and pizza (or possibly chicken wings) for communion not bread and wine. The reasoning behind this is that during Jesus' time, bread and wine were two of the main staples, served daily with meals.

Bread and wine were everyday things, everyday objects. God has a great way of taking everyday plain items and making them holy. He does it here with bread and wine, he did it at Baptism with water, He did it at his birth with a manger and a barn and he does it with us. Everyday ordinary people, he fills us with his spirit and makes us holy.

*Lord, take me your humble, ordinary servant and make me a holy vessel for your love. Let me remember the sacrifice you made so that I could live. Amen.*