We are told in Luke 22:14 that "When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him." This was the night of His betrayal. This was the night that the only One who is righteous would be judged multiple times by unrighteous ones. This was the night that one of His chosen would betray Him. But before any of that happened, first "He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him."

Luke 22:15 says, "Then He said to them, 'With fervent desire I have desired to eat the Passover with you before I suffer..." Before suffering the beatings, the mocking, the scourging, and ultimately the crucifixion, He fervently "desired to eat the Passover" with His disciples. The word "fervent" in that verse is not in the original. That is why it is italicized. It was added to our translation. There is a reason for that italicized addition. It was necessary to partially capture the thought of the original text. The word for desire in the original language is epithumia. If you do not know what that means, the lexicographers can help you. It is a word that means "a desire, craving, longing, mostly of evil desires." One lexicographer says that the word is "frequently translated 'lust.'" If that word had been used Luke 22:15 would have read "With lust I have lusted to eat this Passover with you before I suffer." Since the word "lust" has such an evil connotation perhaps the translators were uneasy about using that word here and instead translated it "fervent desire." I can understand that. I am not all that keen on reading Jesus say, "With lust I have lusted to eat the Passover with you before I suffer..." But let us not dismiss for our own convenience and comfortableness that sometimes the word can be used in a good, wholesome, holy way. In Philippians 1:23 Paul "epithumia-ed," "lusted," to be with Christ. In I Thessalonians 2:17 Paul "epithumia-ed," "lusted," to see the Thessalonian saints again. It is more comfortable for us to use "fervent desire."

But think about what Jesus said. "With lust - with a fervent desire, a craving, a longing - I have lusted to eat the Passover with you..." On Monday morning, Tuesday morning, and the other mornings of the week, do we have a holy "lust" - do we have a "fervent, burning, inward desire" - for the Lord's Day morning to come so finally we can sit down with Him and eat the New Testament Passover meal, the Lord's Supper? Or do we even give it a second thought after having received it last Lord's Day morning? If the truth were known, few give it a second thought after having communed with Him.

But such was not the case with Jesus. He "lusted" to sit down and eat a meal that has since been superseded by and is in the shadow of the Lord's Supper. The Passover meal was in observance of the
Hebrews escape from the Pharaoh by the hand of God. The Lord’s Supper is in observance of our escape from the guilt and consequences of our sins by the blood of the Son of God. The Passover meal was a reminder that the Hebrews’ first-born had escaped death through the providence of God. The Lord’s Supper is a reminder that we are the first-born ones who will escape eternal death because of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. The Passover meal was part of an Old Testament covenant that has been nailed to the cross. The Lord’s Supper meal is an integral part of a New Testament covenant that shall not pass away until the coming of the Lord.

If the Lord “lusted” to sit down and eat an Old Testament meal with the Apostles before He suffered and died, I wonder how He longs to sit down and to eat with His children a New Testament meal that commemorates and memorializes His sacrifice on behalf of those who sit with Him at this Table? But, more importantly, how do you anticipate it? Do you, like Paul, “lust” to be with Christ? Do you, like Paul, “lust” to be seated with the saints, our brethren, at the Table again? Do you come to the Table with a holy “lust” - a “fervent desire” burning inside you, or do you come half-heartedly, numb to the whole matter? Do you approach the Table with the idea that it is just one more Lord’s Supper under your belt? As we grow in our faith this Table should become more and more precious and sacred to us – a Table for which we ‘lust” to be around. As we examine ourselves, as we ought, this sacred Table is a reminder of how much of a spiritual failure we have been and how much of a spiritual blessing Christ’s sacrifice is to us. Were it not for His sinless body and blood we would be of all men most lost. May we all have “lust” in our heart as we come to the table today – a “lust” to sit down to commune with Him.

Prayer

Our holy Father in heaven, it is our prayer that as you look upon our hearts today that you will see a holy, righteous, lust in our hearts to be here at this time to remember our Lord’s sacrificial death on our behalf to save us from our personal wage of sin – eternal death. Father, we in no way deserve or merit the privilege to be at this table. We confess to you that it is only because of the invitation given to us from our Lord that we approach our seat at this table. We praise you and worship you for granting us this privilege and honor. We offer this prayer of worship in the name of Jesus, our great God and Savior. Amen.