

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

SUPPER IN THE UPPER ROOM (JOHN 13-17)

“Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.” (John 13:1)

In John 13-17, Jesus is in the Upper Room with the disciples. He washed their feet and ate with them. After dinner Jesus shared with the disciples instructions, he told them what was to come, and he encouraged them, letting them know that they would have to continue his work.

Among the teachings in the upper room, Jesus shares the promise of the Holy Spirit (John 14). To this point, the disciples have been present with Jesus — who was Emmanuel, God with us. They had experienced the very presence of God! Whether they understood it or not, the disciples had been walking in the presence of God for several years.

But Jesus was about to leave, so in that upper room, Jesus shared with them the reality of what was imminent. He also comforted their fears with the promise of an Advocate, the Holy Spirit, which would come.

That evening Jesus promised the Holy Spirit, but even before the Spirit came, the disciples were encountering Christ in a sacred way, in a sacred space, in a sacred moment — it was holy ground. It was there in the Upper Room that Christ reveals that he and God are one. How many of us long to have been in that upper room?

We know that the promise of the Holy Spirit was later fulfilled, the presence of God effectively sweeping over the midst of the disciples. Looking over the scriptures we see that there are many ways in which the disciples encountered Holy God.

We do not have to wait to encounter God or be in the presence of holy. We must simply allow ourselves to be caught up in the ever present Spirit of the Living God. God is waiting to be present with us, we must open ourselves up to it.

How can you allow the Holy Spirit to be present with you?