

KS2 Christianity: Worship, Pilgrimage & Sacred Places



What is the great significance of the 'Eucharist' to Christians?

ENQUIRE into the importance of Eucharist or 'giving thanks' to God for Christians

How many ways are there to say thank you? Is it important to thank people?

Imagine it is Mother's Day – Sunday 14th March

How many ways could you say thank you to your mum?

Can you say thank you without words?

Why is it important to remember?

How would mum feel if you forgot?



How did Buzz Aldrin give thanks on the moon?

When Buzz Aldrin landed on the moon, he had something to open and get out. What do you think it was? His 'thank you' involved doing something. He gave thanks in a way that is very meaningful to many Christians.

What did he do?

Click [here](#) to watch a video and gather some ideas.



Communion on the Moon

Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were the first men to walk on the moon in the Apollo 11 space mission. Michael Collins, the third member of the group, was in charge of the command module, essential for their return to earth, which circled the moon while Armstrong and Aldrin landed. The moon lander touched down at 3:17 Eastern Standard Time, Sunday July 20th, 1969.

Aldrin had brought with him a tiny communion kit, given to him by his church, which had a silver chalice and wine vial about the size of the tip of his finger. During the morning he radioed, "Houston, this is Eagle. This is the LM pilot speaking. I would like to request a few moments of silence. I would like to invite each person listening in, whoever or wherever he may be, to contemplate for a moment the events of the last few hours, and to give thanks in his own individual way."

"In the radio blackout," he wrote later, "I opened the little plastic packages which contained the bread and the wine. I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon, the wine slowly curled and gracefully came up the side of the cup. Then I read the Scripture, 'I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me will bring forth much fruit.'"

Communion on the Moon

"I had intended to read my communion passage back to earth, but at the last minute Deke Slayton had requested that I not do this. NASA was already embroiled in a legal battle with Madelyn Murray O'Hare, the celebrated opponent of religion, over the Apollo 8 crew reading from Genesis while orbiting the moon at Christmas. I agreed reluctantly..."

"Eagle's metal body creaked. I ate the tiny Host (wafer of bread) and swallowed the wine. I gave thanks for the intelligence and spirit that had brought two young pilots to the Sea of Tranquillity. It was interesting for me to think: the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the very first food eaten there, were the communion elements."

Houston This is Eagle
The LM Pilot speaking
I would like to request
a few moments of silence
over, ^{to invite}
I would like for each
person listening in, wherever
and whenever he may be,
to contemplate for a moment
the events of the past few
hours and to give thanks
in his own individual
way -
My way shall be by
partaking of the elements
of Holy Communion

An Agony said,
"I am the vine, you are
the branches. Who can remain
in me, and I in him,
will bear much fruit;
for you can do nothing
without me."
John 15:5
"When I consider, thy
heaven, the work of thy
fingers, the moon and the
stars, which thou has
ordered; What is man,
that thou art mindful
of him? and the Son of
Man, that thou visitest
him?"



Why is the 'Eucharist' or 'communion' so important to Christians?

'Eucharist' means 'thanksgiving'; it is a church service when Christians give thanks for bread and wine in memory of Jesus. Another name is 'Holy Communion'. Click [here](#) to watch a video explaining about this.

Buzz could just have said a thank-you prayer but he took Holy Communion as his act of thanksgiving. The other astronaut showed respect but didn't join in.

- Why did Buzz believe Holy Communion was so important?
- Why did the other astronaut not join in?



Why is the 'Eucharist' or 'communion' so important to Christians?

TASK: The wine is served in a chalice. Your task is to design your own chalice that could be used for Holy Communion. Think about all the symbols or representations of Christianity that you could include. Here are some ideas:

