



NATIVE FIRST COMMUNION SERIES

SHARING

WORKBOOK

NATIVE FIRST COMMUNION SERIES

A series of 9 children's workbooks with family letters, including a family and teaching guide:

1. BELONGING
2. CELEBRATING
3. FORGIVING
4. HEARING
5. LOVING
6. OUR CREATOR'S GIVE-AWAY
7. NEW LIFE
8. SHARING
9. SERVING
10. FAMILY & TEACHING GUIDE

- Created in the early 1970s by Fr. Gilbert F. Hemaue, OFM Cap. and Religion Research Center Staff at St. Labre Indian School, Ashland, MT 59003
- Piloted in various native communities until the Summer of 1987
- Revised by the Tekakwitha Conference Staff and Native Catechists in 1987
- Illustrated by Gus Antone



SHARING

Through the teaching on SHARING, the children are taught that people share their food as a way of showing their friendship for each other. Eating together is a way of sharing life with others. In the Bible, we read about Jesus eating with his friends and also with sinners. On special feasts he shared with many people. He shared his last meal with close friends.

This last meal (the Last Supper) was during a very sacred time for the people. It was the Passover meal. With this feast, the Jewish people celebrated their freedom from slavery. They remembered what God had done for them. They celebrated the agreement, or covenant, God had made with them. It was a sign of their unity as a people. Through the symbols of this meal, all the people shared in the event which had taken place many years ago.

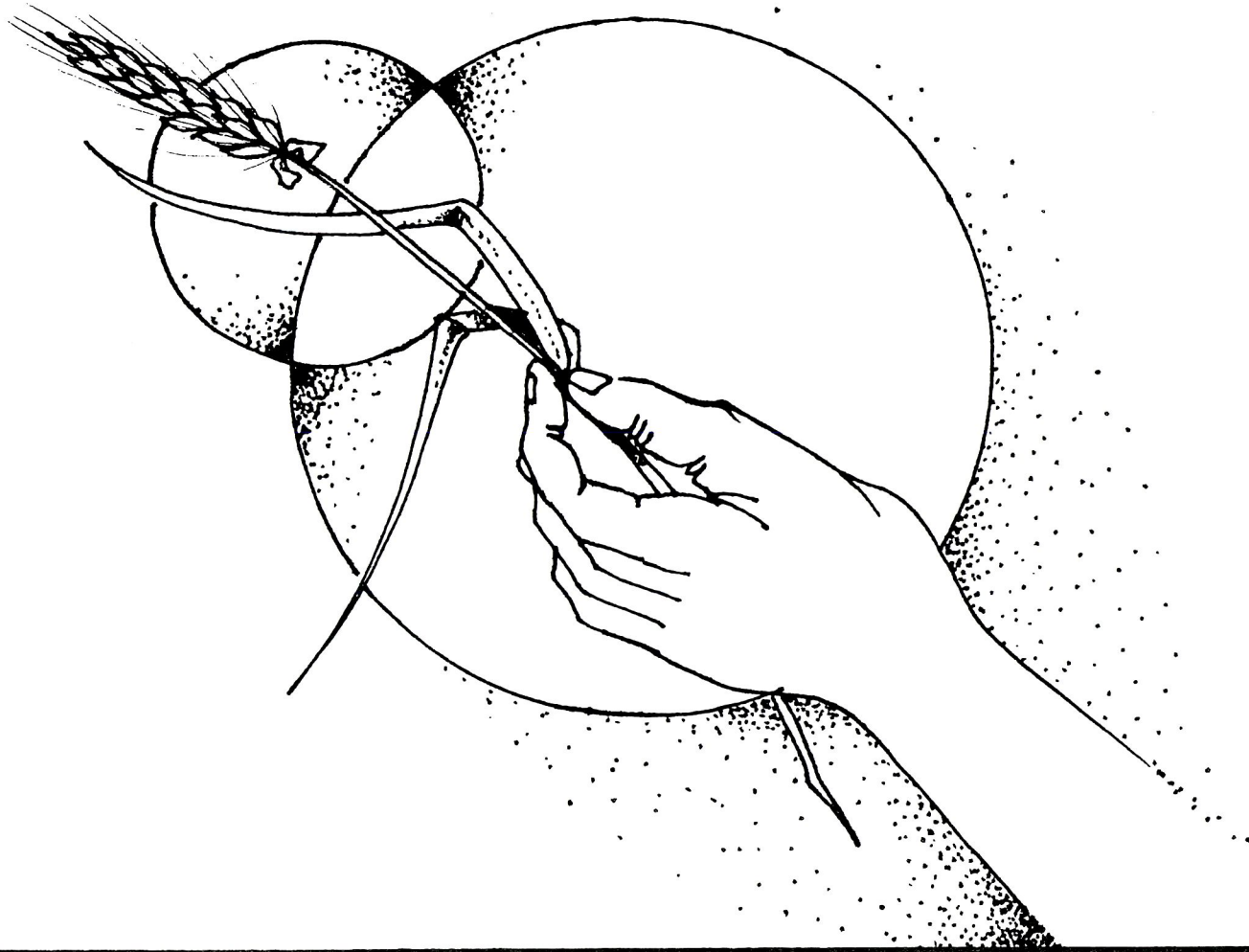
Jesus took the bread and wine of this meal, which meant so much to his friends, and gave it deeper meaning by telling them of his death and resurrection through it. In this meal Jesus gave us the Eucharist. He blessed and broke the bread and told his friends: "This is

my body which is given for all people. Take and eat in memory of me." He blessed the wine saying: "This is my blood which will be shed for all. Take and drink in memory of me."

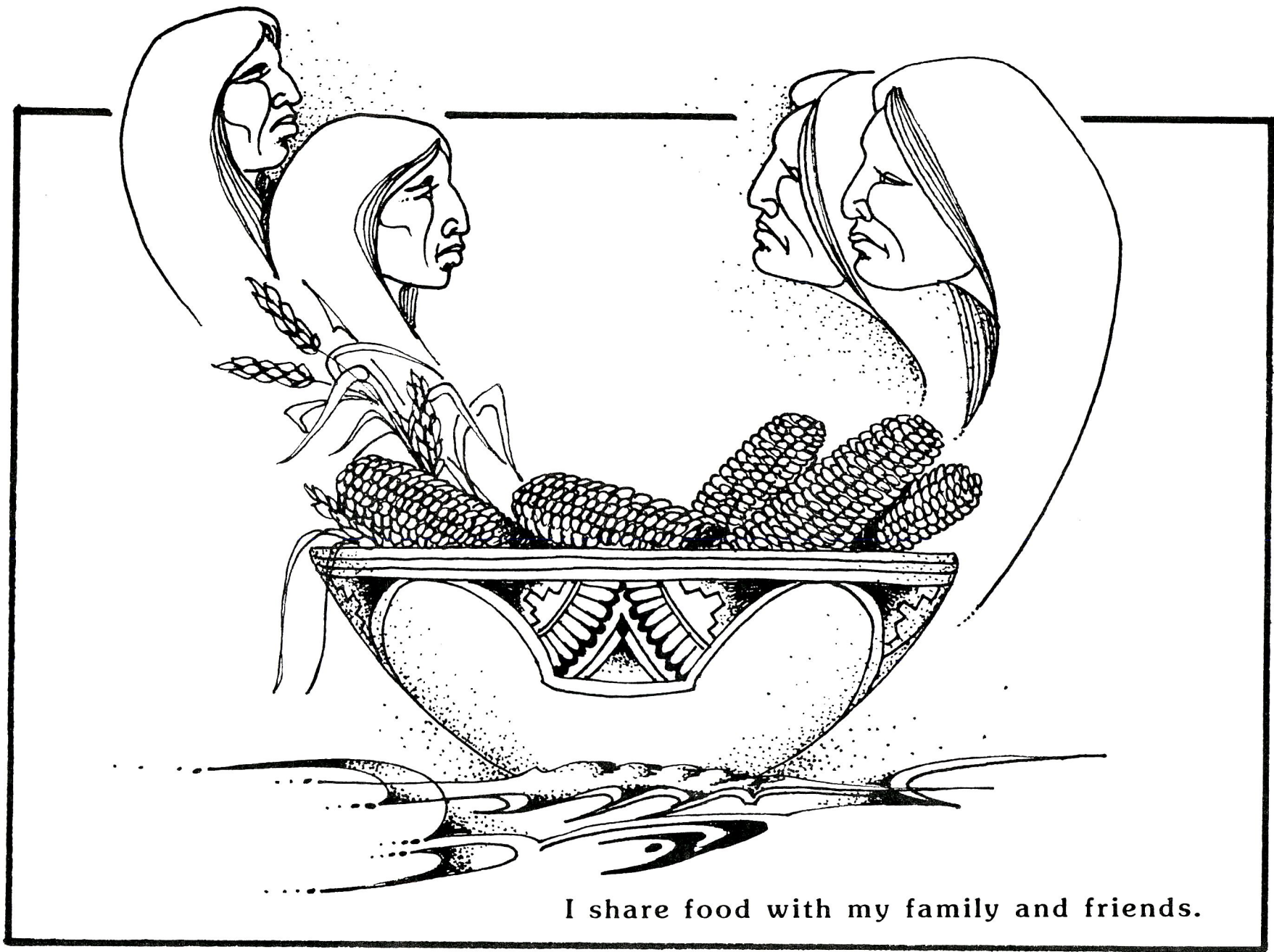
Eucharist celebrates the mystery of God's love for us. It makes Christ present to us through this bread and wine we share. It offers us a share in the life of Christ and strengthens our sharing in the fullness of Christ's risen life.

The bread we eat is a sign of sharing and unity. Many grains of wheat are needed to become the one piece of bread we share. The bread can be broken into many pieces and still nourish each person. The wine, too, is made from many grapes. Just as many grains of wheat and many grapes become one bread and one cup of wine, many people make up the Body of Christ — His Church. People are different sizes, shapes, colors, and ages. All are united in Christ and the way of life he has given us. By accepting the invitation to receive Communion, we show our unity and love with one another and with God.

We share with each other as our Creator shares with all people.

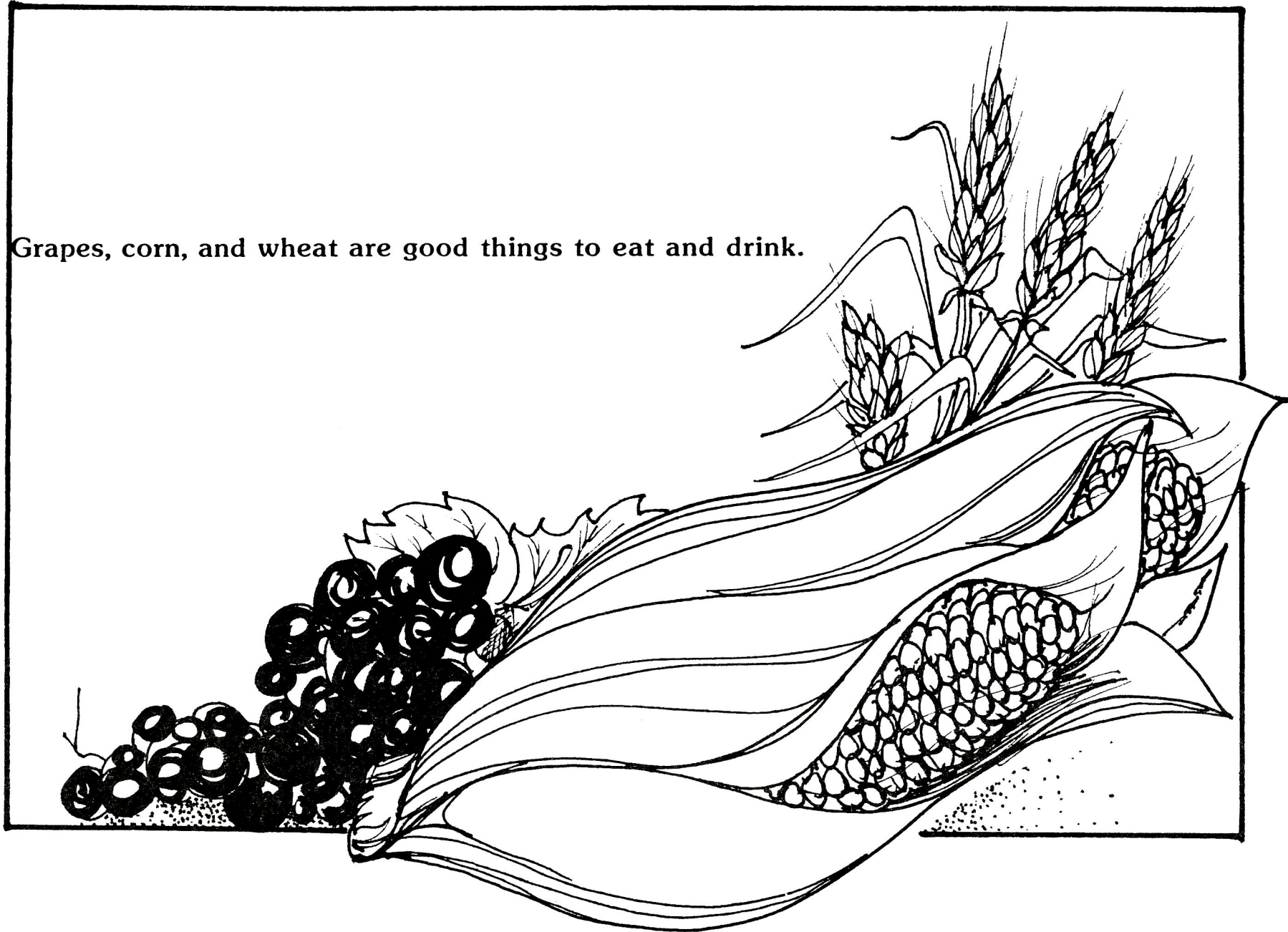


Nature gives us the food we share.
Draw some food that nature gives us to share.



I share food with my family and friends.

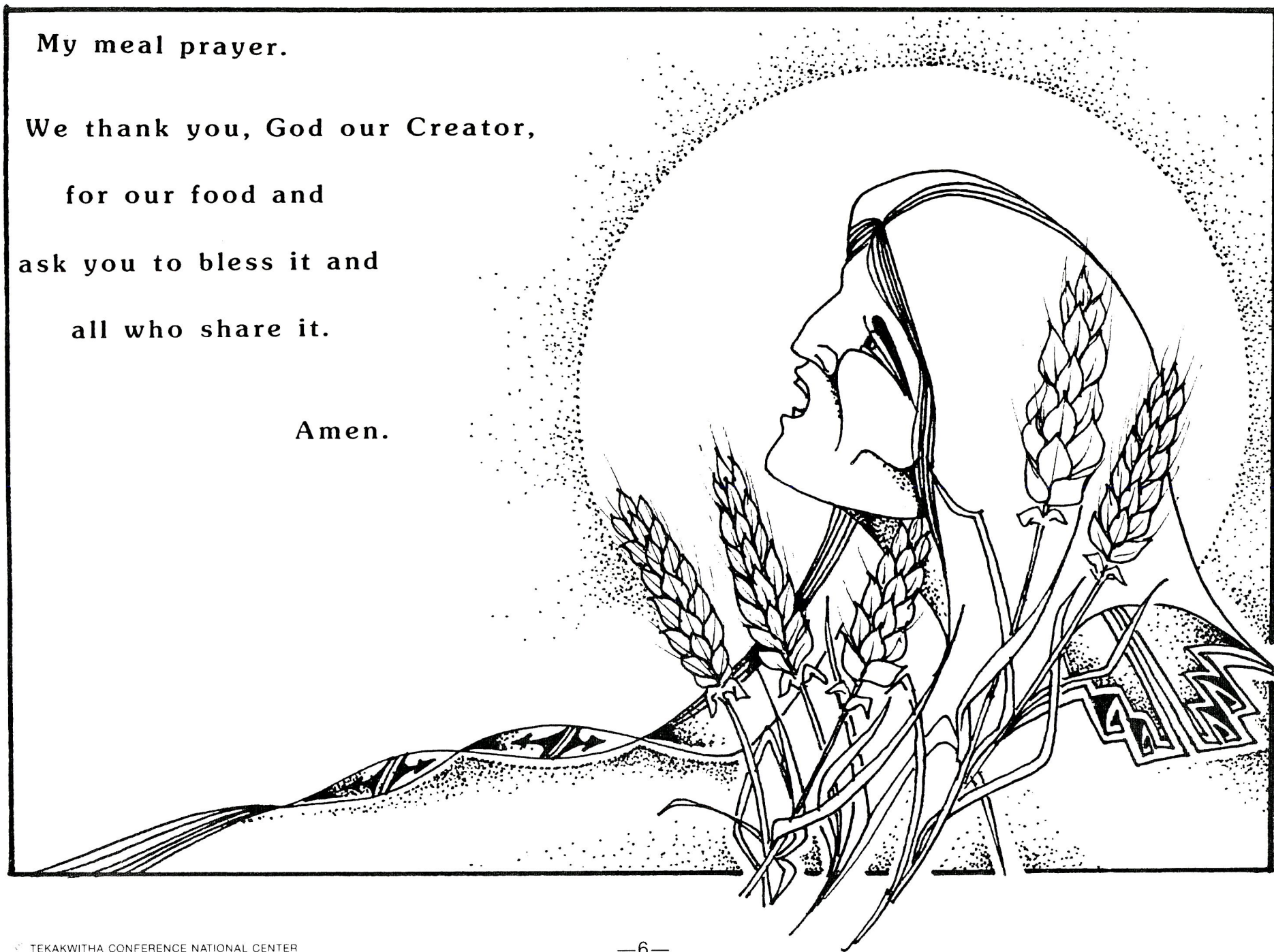
Grapes, corn, and wheat are good things to eat and drink.



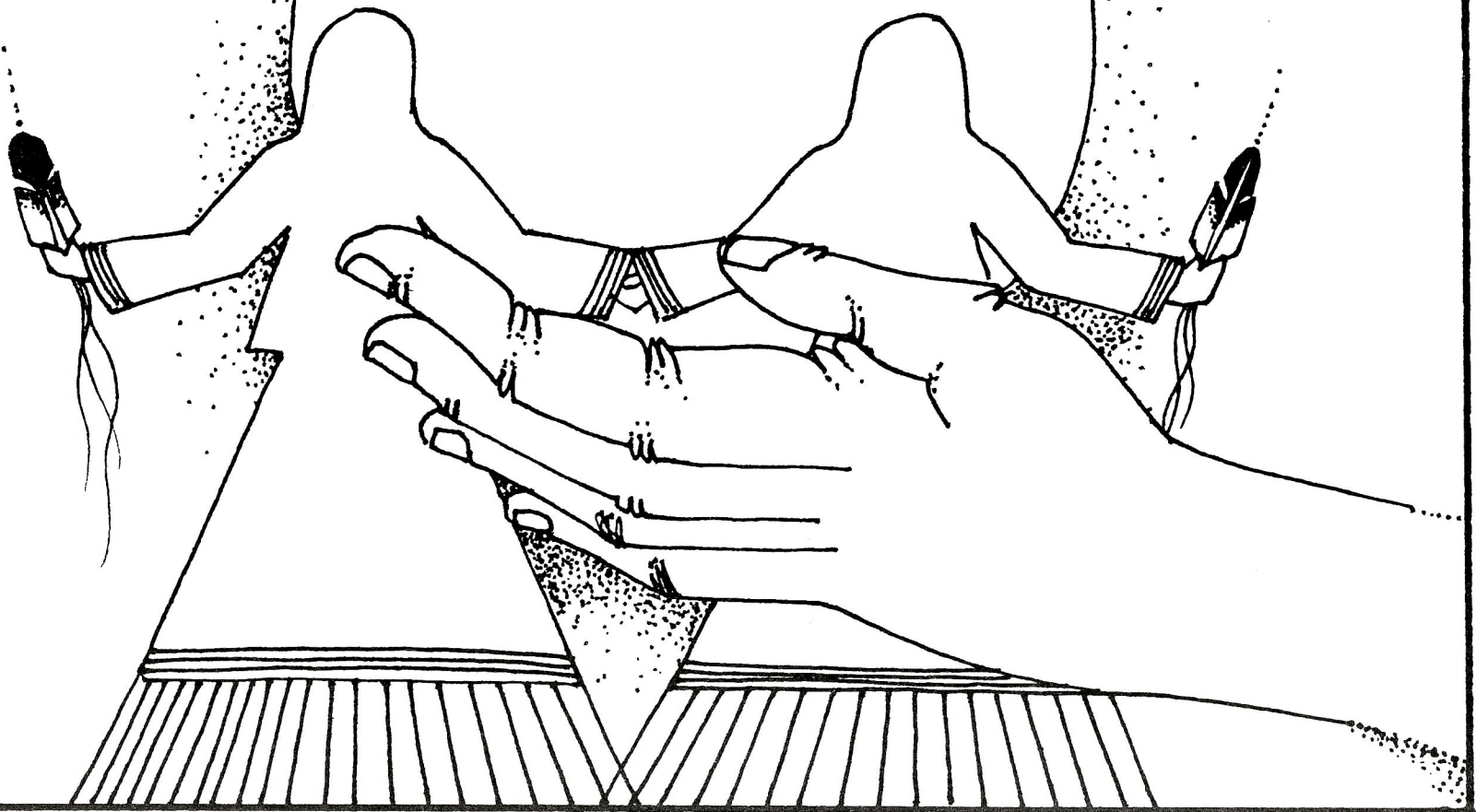
My meal prayer.

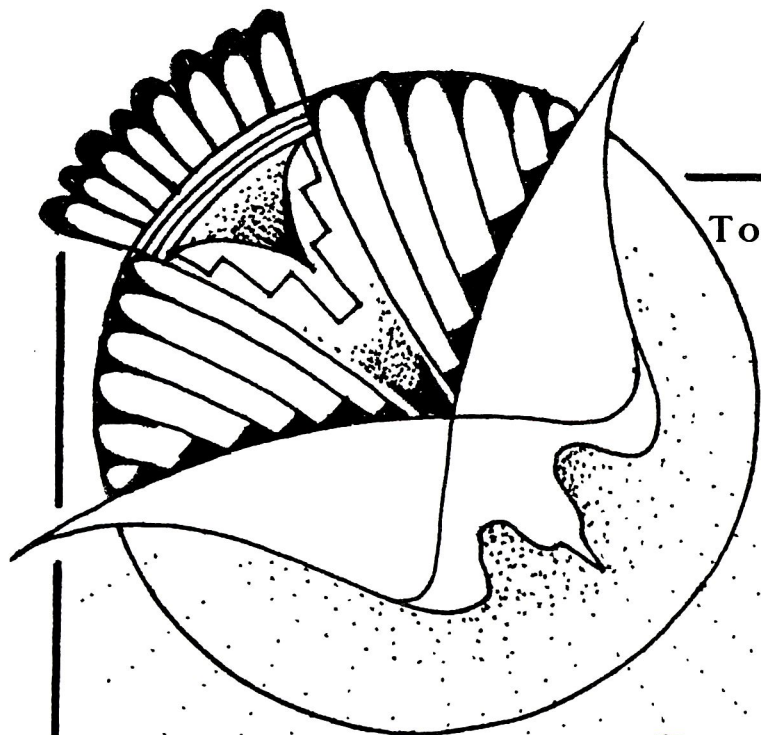
We thank you, God our Creator,
for our food and
ask you to bless it and
all who share it.

Amen.



Our Creator's Son, Jesus, came
to give us a new way of sharing.

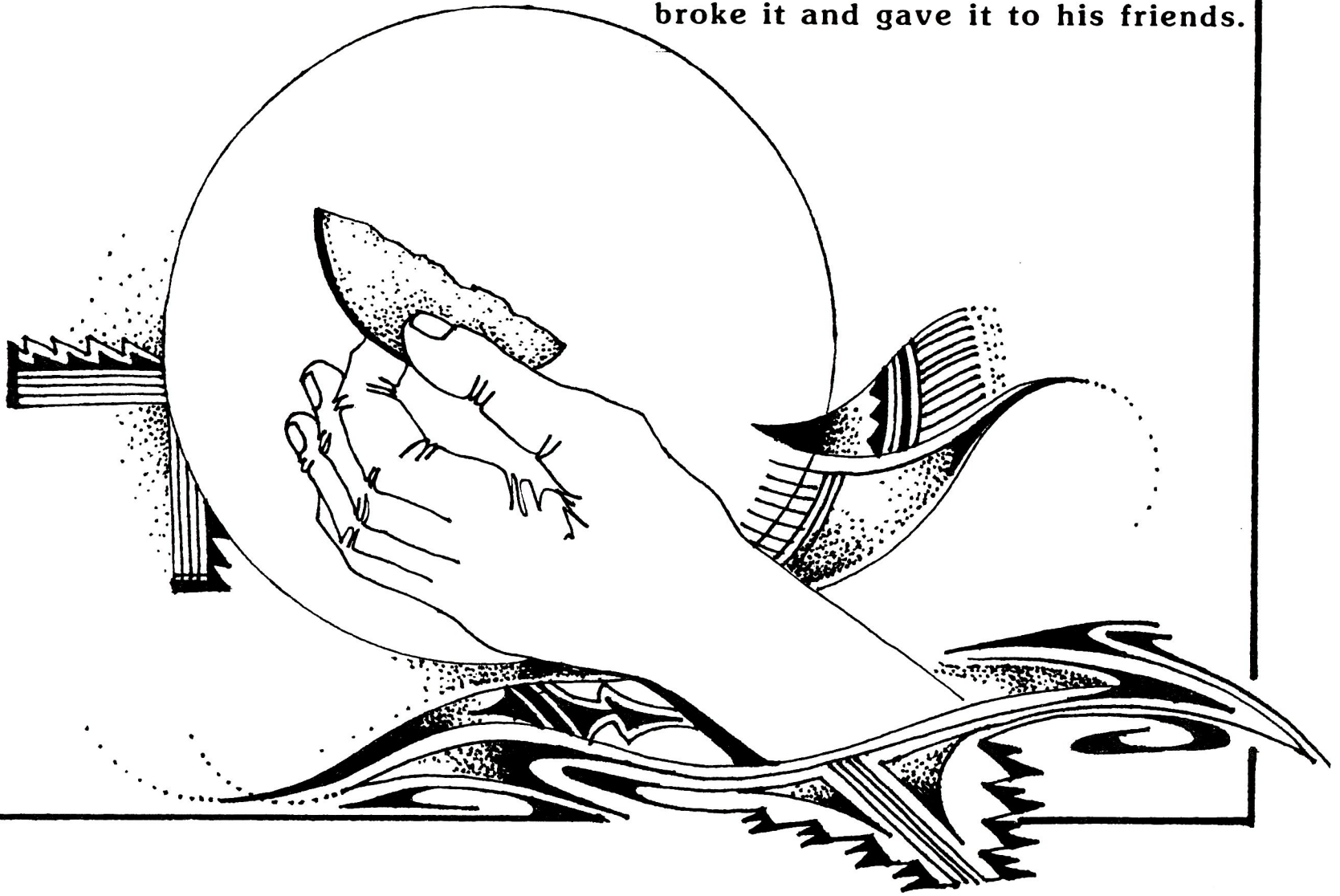




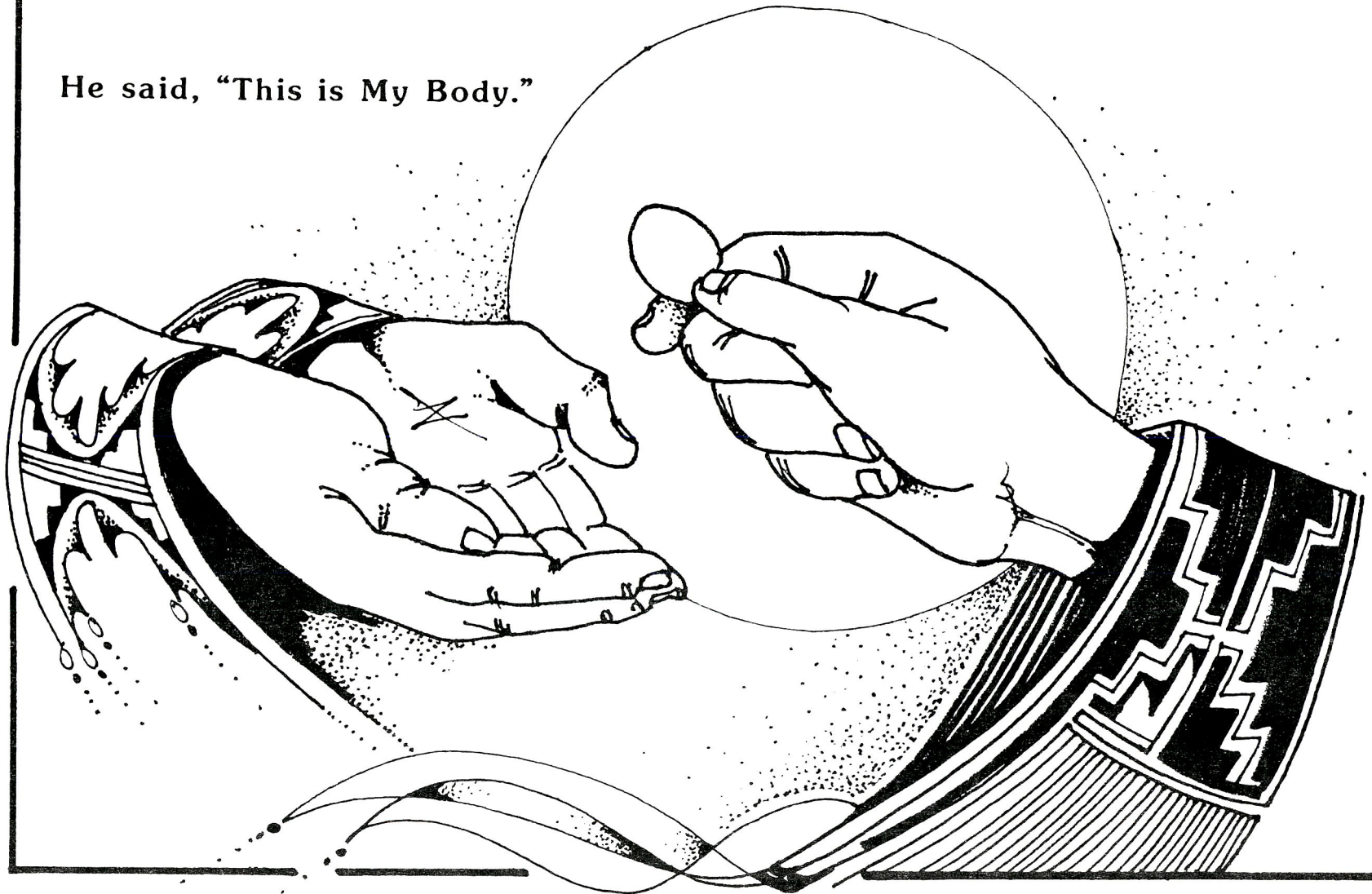
To show this new way of sharing, Jesus gathered

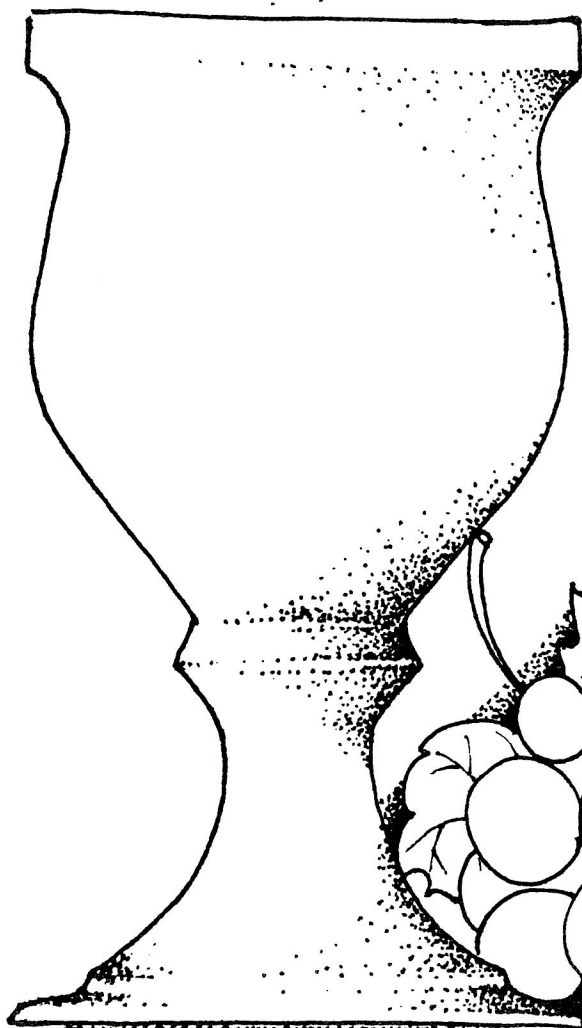
his close friends, the apostles, for a meal.

At this meal, Jesus took bread. He prayed to His Father, blessed the bread,
broke it and gave it to his friends.



He said, "This is My Body."

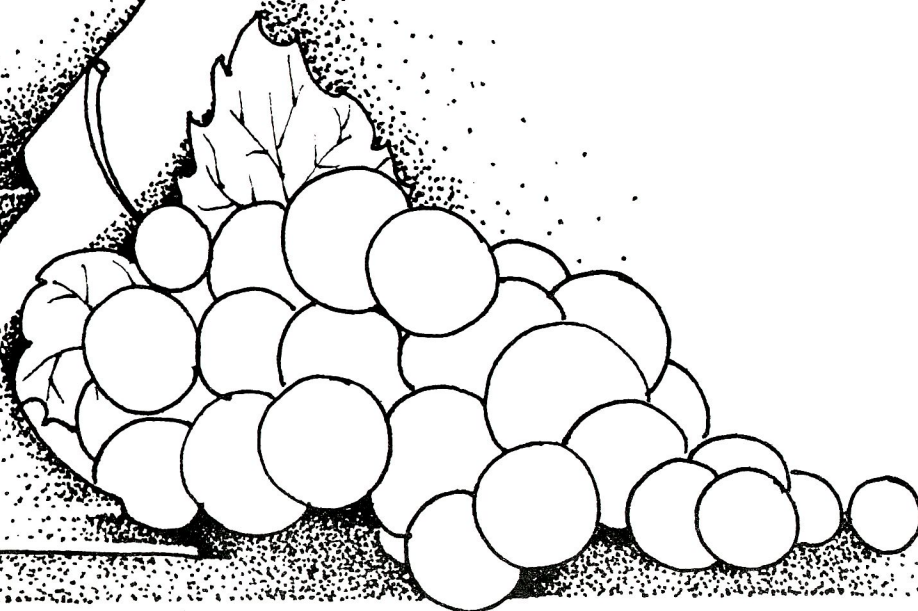


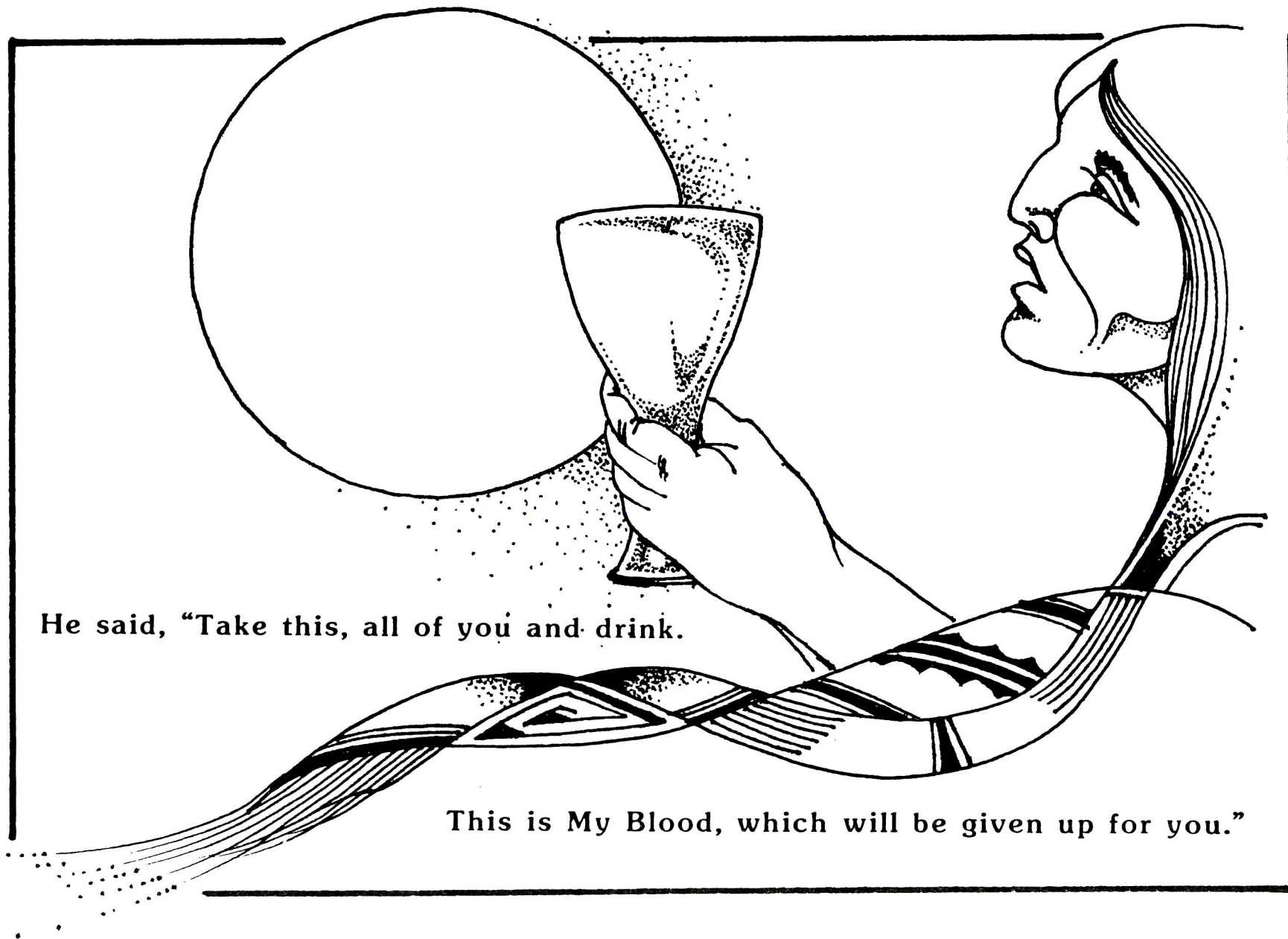


Then He took the cup filled with wine.

He prayed to His Father, blessed the
cup of wine and shared it with

His friends.





He said, "Take this, all of you and drink.

This is My Blood, which will be given up for you."

Then Jesus said,

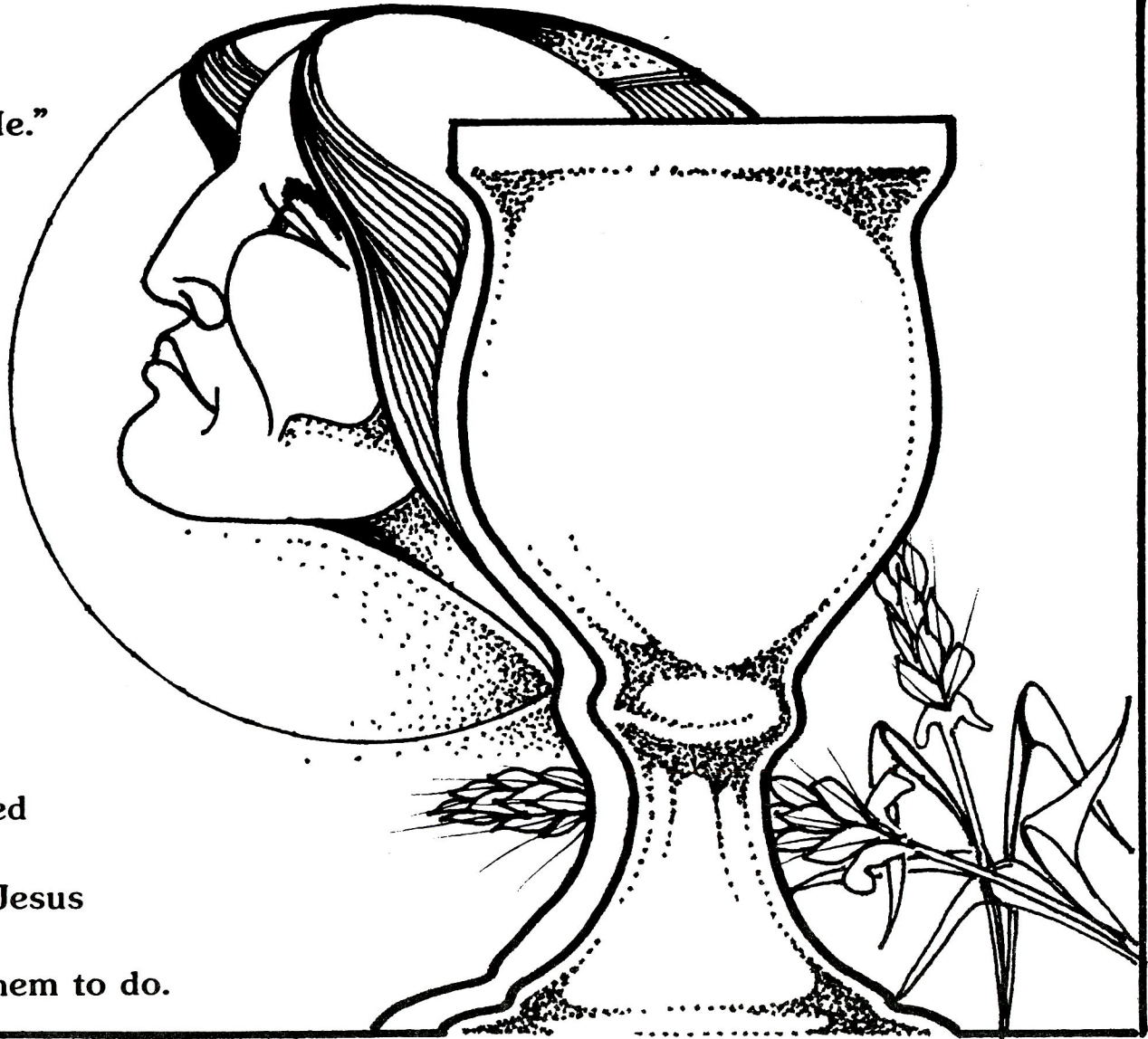
“Do this in memory of Me.”

From that time on,

the apostles celebrated

this meal as Jesus

wanted them to do.



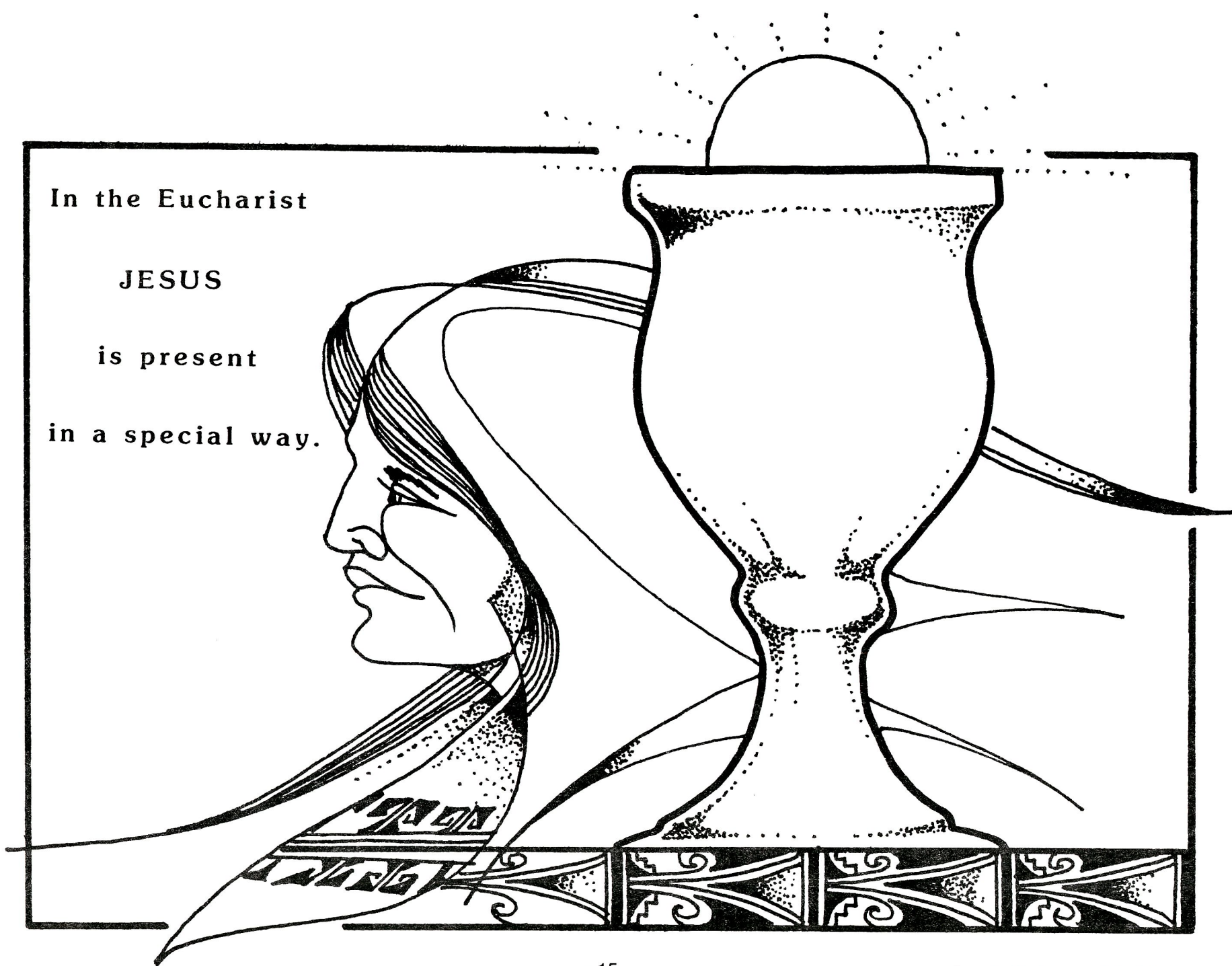
Today, when we celebrate the Eucharist,
we share this meal as the apostles did.

In the Eucharist

JESUS

is present

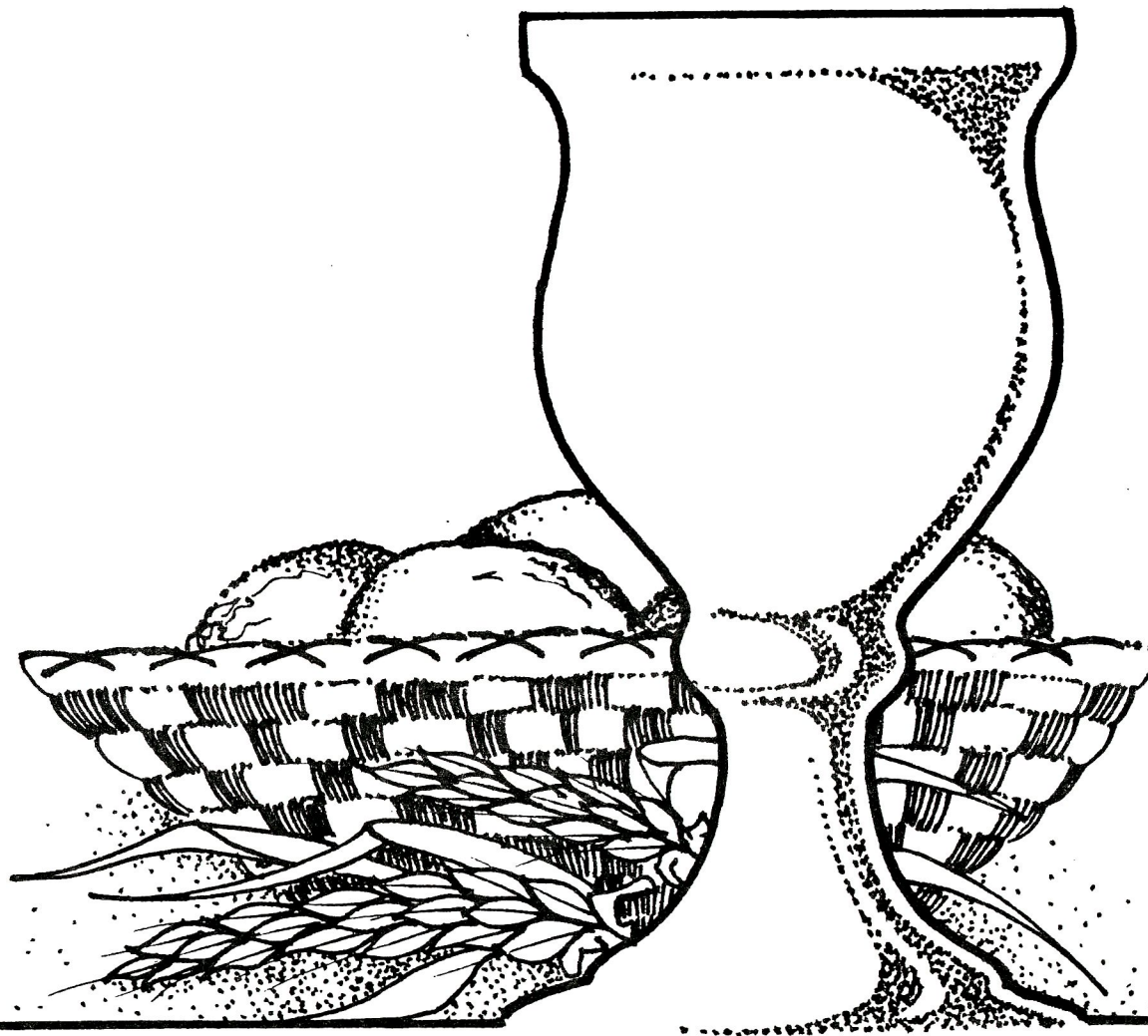
in a special way.



The priest offers a prayer over the bread and wine.



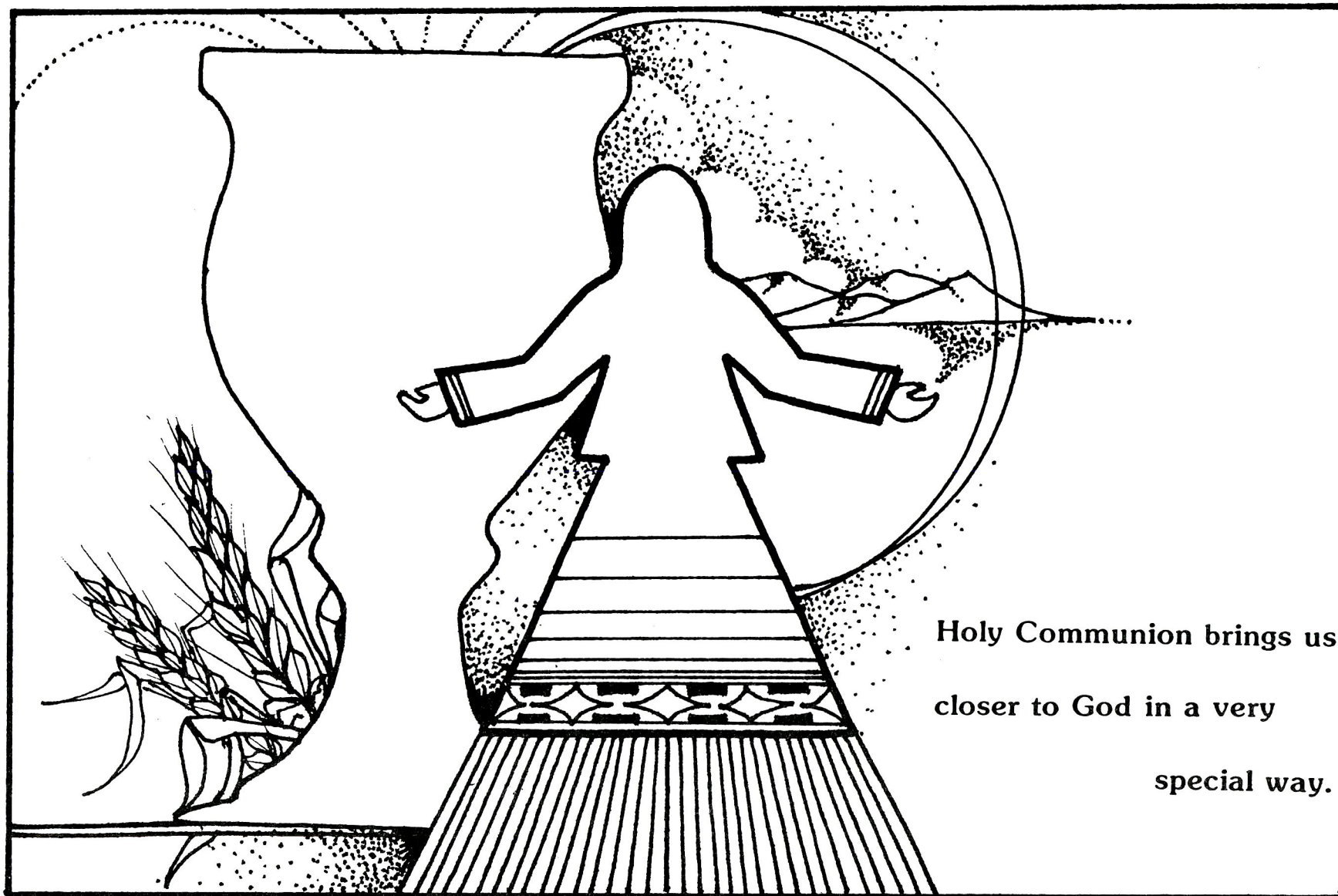
What before was bread and wine are now the new life of Jesus with us.



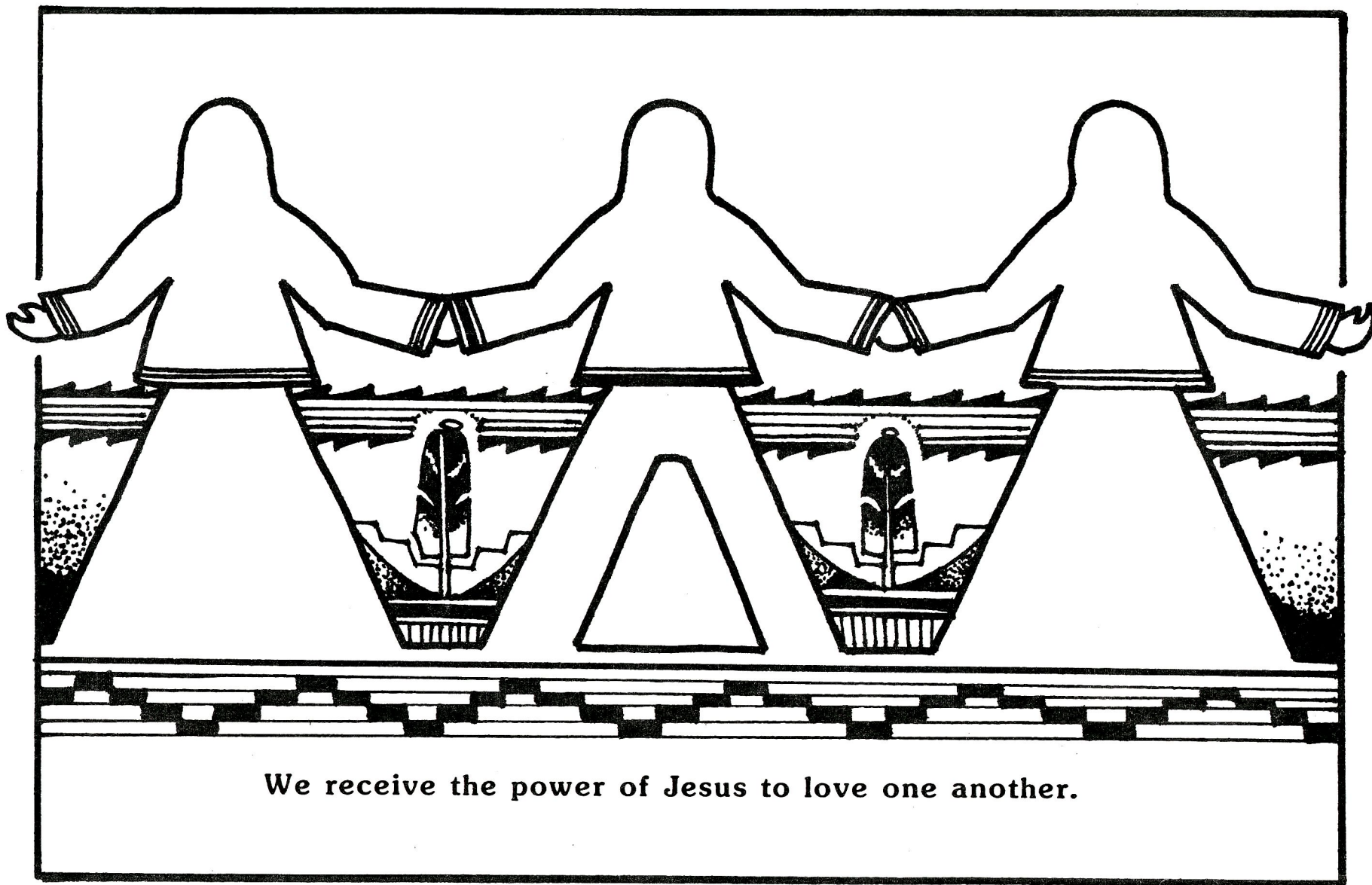


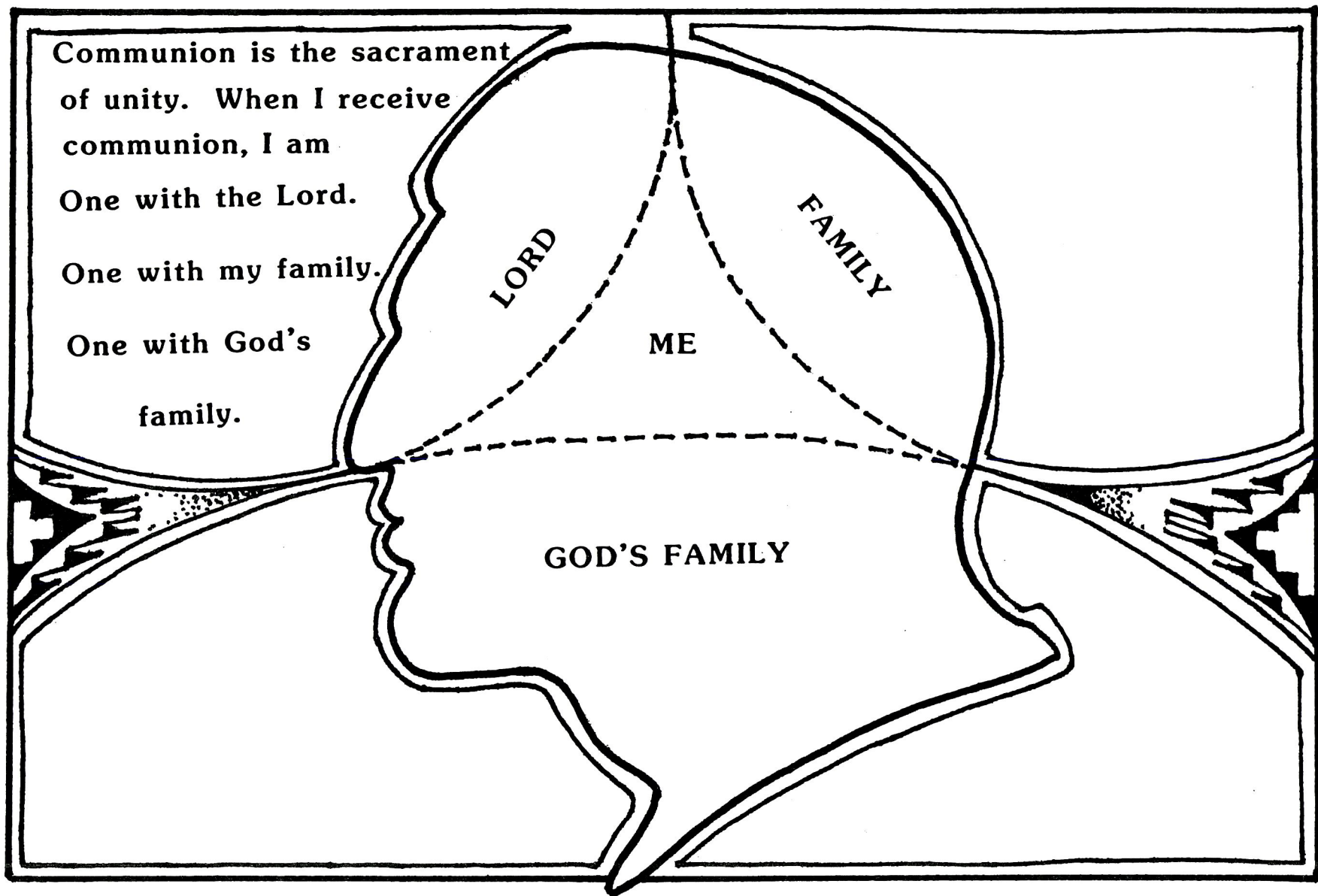
When we make our First Holy Communion,
Jesus shares Himself with us as new life.

New life we received at baptism continues to grow and becomes stronger each time
we receive Jesus in Holy Communion.

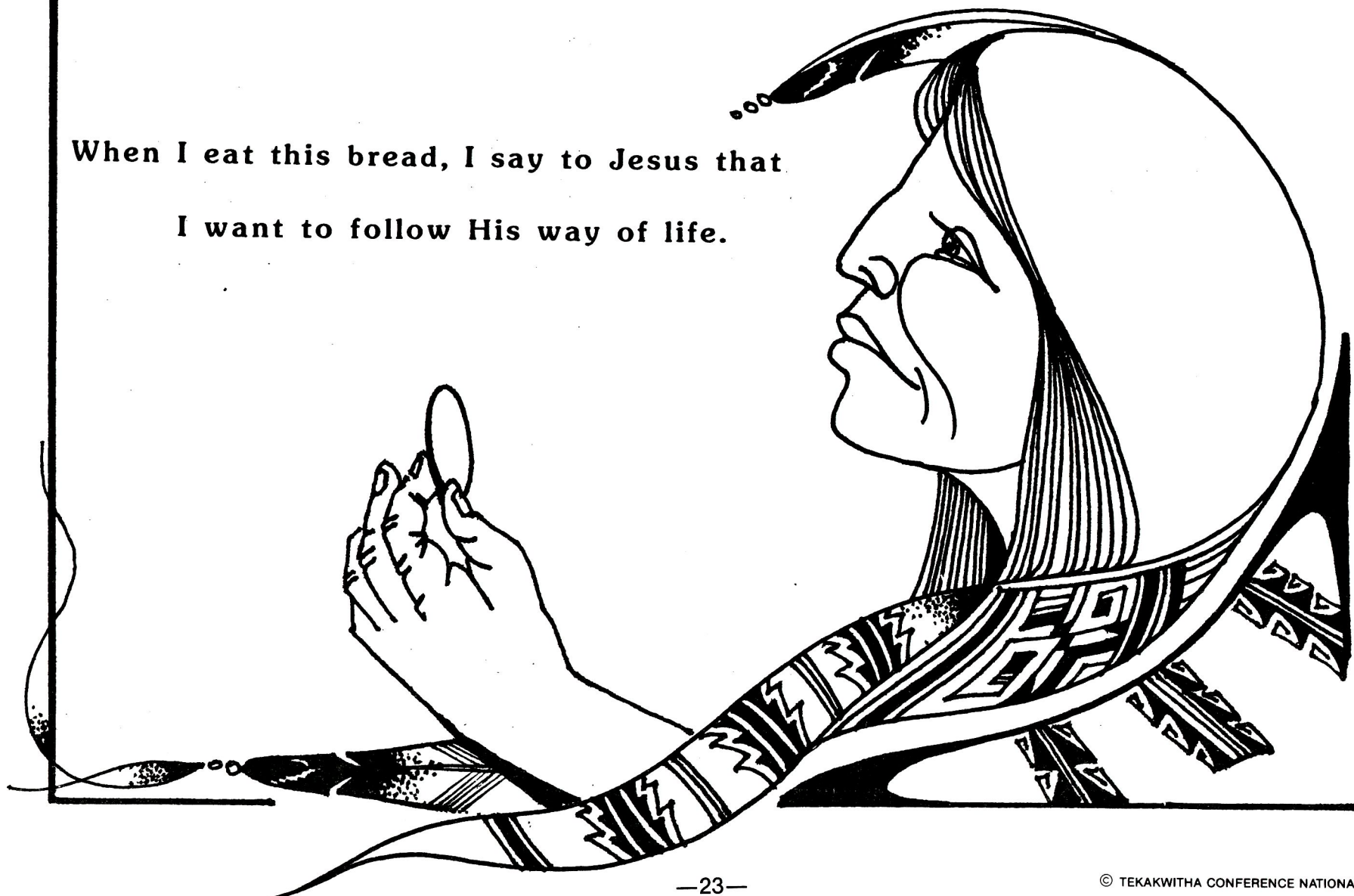


Holy Communion brings us
closer to God in a very
special way.

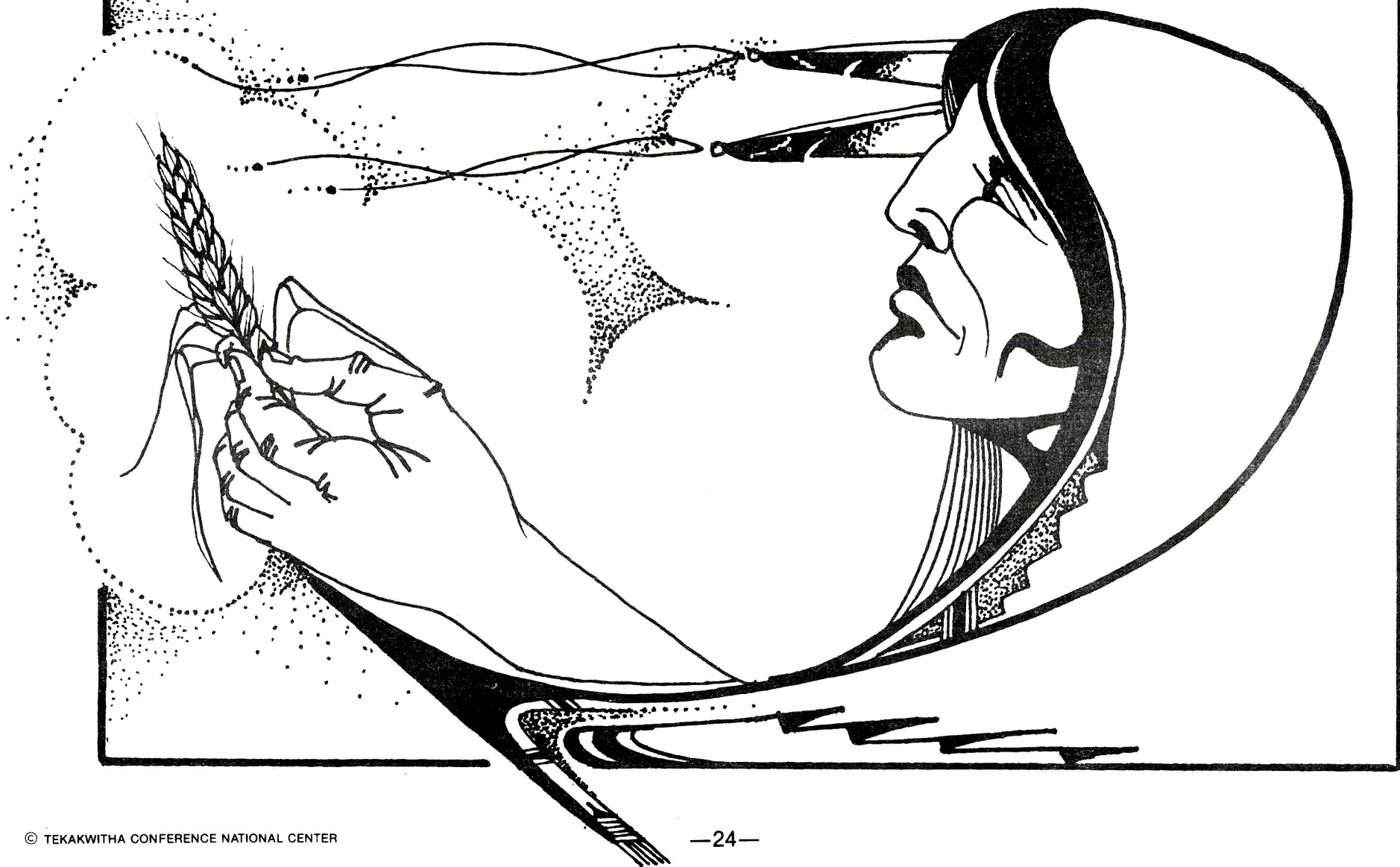




When I eat this bread, I say to Jesus that
I want to follow His way of life.



Happiness is knowing I can share this special meal with Jesus.



This is my own special prayer to Jesus, my friend.

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