

**Answer:** Many of the first Christian church buildings were modeled after the Basilicas of the Roman Empire, which were long narrow buildings. In those churches an altar was placed at one end of the building. This altar resembled a sepulcher or a sarcophagus that were present in the catacombs where many early Christians had worshiped. The catacombs were underground tombs which were present in many Roman cities.

The free-standing altar at Gethsemane is modeled after the table that held the Eucharist in the house churches where many early Christians worshiped. The people would meet around the table and worship and have communion.