

Sharing The Last Supper on Maundy Thursday

This is a liturgy which I compiled myself – trying to recreate what Jesus might have done at the last supper (Passover meal) and adding on the gospel story.

You might like to do this at home around 6:30pm – share it with others on-line, or take some pictures or video to share with others later. You will need pitta bread, lamb, horseradish and charoset (made from apples, raisins and cinnamon) – also some sort of ‘wine’ according to your taste/tradition. If you are feeling really brave – you could read John 13:1-11 – and then wash your own feet, imagining Jesus doing it, or if you are together with others, see if you can wash each other’s feet as an act of caring and humility.

SONGS OF ASCENT

Read [Psalms 122](#) & [Psalms 134](#) –

Sing [‘I will enter his gates with thanksgiving’](#)

Light your candles

FILL THE FIRST CUP OF WINE – THE CUP OF BLESSING

Leader: Blessed are you, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, creator of the fruit of the vine.

All: Praised are you, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who has chosen us and made us holy through your commandments. With love everlasting you have given us holidays and seasons for gladness. You have given this day of the Feast of Passover, an anniversary to remember our freedom, and this season of deliverance to remember Israel’s escape from Egypt.

Leader: Blessed are you, Lord our God, who has kept us alive, sustained us and enabled us to reach this season.

All drink the first cup of wine

Leader washes their hands – bitter herb is dipped and shared. (use horseradish and pitta bread or any equivalent)

THE PASSOVER STORY

Youngest person asks:

Why is this night different from all other nights?

On all other nights we eat leavened or unleavened bread, but this night only unleavened bread. On all other nights we eat all kinds of herbs, but this night only bitter herbs. Why do we eat bitter herbs?

On all other nights we eat meat roasted, stewed, or boiled, but on this night, why only roasted meat?

Leader: I’m touched by your questions because the story of this night is just what I wanted to share with you. This night is different from all other nights because on this night we celebrate the exodus of Israel from slavery into freedom and redemption, from a time of hardship to a time of blessing.

Read: [Deuteronomy 26:5-8](#)

Sing: [‘When Israel was in Egypt’s land. Let my people go.’](#)

When Israel was in Egypt's land. Let my people go.
Oppressed so hard they could not stand. Let my people go.
*Go down Moses, 'way down in Egypt's land,
Tell old Pharaoh to let my people go!*
We need not always weep and mourn. Let my people go.
And wear these slavery chains forlorn. Let my people go.
Refrain

O let us all from bondage flee. Let my people go.
And soon may all this world be free. Let my people go.
Refrain

Read: [Exodus 12:1-14; 28-32](#)

THE PASSOVER SYMBOLS

Leader: Rabbi Gamalial says: 'Everyone must consider the meaning of these three symbols: the Passover lamb, the unleavened bread and the bitter herbs, otherwise the duty of telling the Passover story has not been fulfilled.'

All: What is the significance of the Passover Lamb?

Leader: This is the lamb offered as a Passover sacrifice in the Temple at Jerusalem – remembering the first Passover.

Exodus 12: 26-27 says – Then, when your children ask you, 'What is the meaning of this rite?' you shall say: It is the Lord's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt when God struck the Egyptians, but spared our houses.

All: What is the significance of the unleavened bread?

Leader: It is a reminder of the haste with which the Israelites left Egypt. Exodus 12: 39 says – The dough they had brought from Egypt, they baked into unleavened cakes, because there was no leaven; for they had been driven out of Egypt and allowed no time even to get food ready for themselves.

All: What is the significance of the bitter herbs?

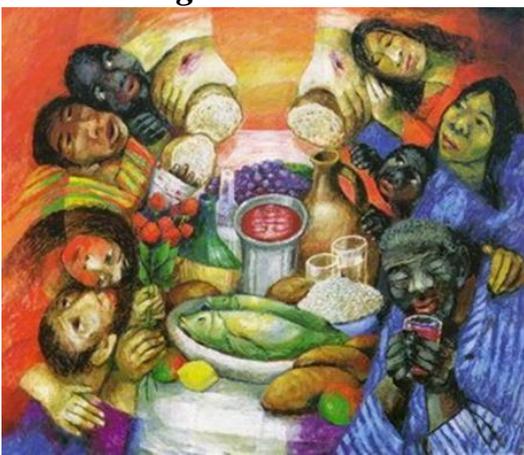
Leader: They are eaten as a reminder of the life of Israel in Egypt that was made bitter by their captors. Exodus 1: 13-14 says – So they treated their Israelite slaves with ruthless severity, and made life bitter for them with cruel servitude, setting them to work on clay and brick-making, and all sorts of work in the fields. In short they made ruthless use of them as slaves in every kind of hard labour.

THE HALLEL – Read: [Psalms 113](#) and [Psalms 114](#)

FILL THE SECOND CUP OF WINE – THE CUP OF MEMORY

Leader: Not only were our ancestors redeemed by God from slavery – we also have been saved. We drink this cup in memory of God's saving power. Blessed are you, Lord our God, creator of the fruit of the vine.

All drink together



Leader washes hands again BREAKING THE BREAD

The bread is broken before the blessing, showing humility, remembering that the poor have only bits of bread to eat.

Leader: Blessed are you, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth. Blessed

are you, Lord our God, who has made us holy and commanded us to eat the unleavened bread.

The bread is shared.

THE PASSOVER MEAL – *dinner is served: roast lamb, pitta bread, horseradish to represent bitter herbs and a mixture of apple and date and cinnamon called charoset – a symbol of the mortar from which the Israelites made the bricks in Egypt.*

GRACE AFTER THE MEAL

Leader: Deut 8:10 says when you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall thank the Lord your God for the good land which he has given you.

All: Praised be the Lord, our God, Father of all, who sustains the world with goodness and gives us the food of the earth.

FILL THE THIRD CUP – THE CUP OF REDEMPTION

Leader: Exodus 6:6 says – I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgement. Blessed are you, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, creator of the fruit of the vine.

All drink together

HALLEL Read [Psalms 117](#) & [118:19-29](#)

FILL THE FOURTH CUP – THE CUP OF ELIJAH

The door is opened for Elijah – the forerunner of the Messiah and messenger of peace.

THE LAST SUPPER: Read: [Matthew 26:17-30](#)

Sing: [Lord Jesus Christ](#) (StF 594)

All: Blessed are you, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, because you became flesh and blood, the Messiah, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world – and you have rescued us from the slavery of sin.

All drink together

Leader: On this night, our Lord Jesus Christ said to his disciples: ‘Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.’ The peace of the Lord be always with you. **All:** And also with you.

AMEN

Sing: [Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord, holy is the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is and is to come. Holy, holy, Holy is the Lord.](#)