

Holy Thursday Passover Seder

**For this service you need: pan of water and towel, Matzah, lamb bone, roasted hard boiled egg, horseradish, parsley, wine mixed ½ with water, salt water, and charoseth (This is made by mixing two cored and diced apples, ½ tsp cinnamon, ½ c. chopped nuts, ½ c. raisins, and ½ c. sweet red wine. Mix in blender. Makes 12 servings) . Set one extra place for Elijah.*

**If offerings: collect them at the door prior to the service.*

**Lighting of the candles: the Jewish mother or daughter does this at sunset.*

Pr: Tonight we celebrate the Passover. This is named the celebration of freedom. We gather to celebrate our freedom and the freedom we want for all people in the world. Tonight we will remember the history of our freedom, not only looking-back, but that we ourselves are brought from slavery to freedom in the family of God, from strangers and travelers to becoming a nation of God's special people. We today sitting here are the new Israel. We receive God's promises today. God worked in our world to make us His chosen people. We are no more slaves under any one person's reign, but we are the servants of everyone. Now we cleanse ourselves and serve each other with the washing of the feet.

**Around the table each person washes the next person's feet.*

Pr: In remembrance of our deliverance from slavery, we drink our first cup of wine. While we drink we remember our leaving Egypt to become a free nation under God's reign.

Cn: We praise You, O Lord our God, King of the world. You made this wine for us.

**Drink the first cup of wine.*

Pr: We read in Exodus 12, *"This month will be your chief month, the first month of the year, the month of spring. The 14th day of this month is the day of your deliverance. You will remember this day and celebrate that for all future years, because on this day all the people of Israel departed from Egypt."*

Now at this time of the year, spring, we take the green parsley, that is a picture of birth and new life, and we mix that in the salt water to remember that we were slaves under the reign of the Egyptian kings, and that in the past the devil, the world, and our own sinful hungers reigned over us until Christ freed us to become God's children.

Cn: We praise You, O Lord our God, King of the world. You made this food to grow.

**Eat parsley after dipping it in the salt water.*

Pr: Daily for eating we have one bread, but today we have two to remember that God gave us double before the worship day while we traveled in the wilderness. Our *matzah* bread we put under a special cover named "unity," but under here is three parts. We take the center bread and break that in half and hide that part in a small cover named the "*afikomen*." This becomes important later in the worship. Why do you think we break the middle bread and not the top or bottom bread? The unity cover means God. The three parts mean the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Later we learn the meaning of the hiding of the middle bread. This is the bread of suffering that our past fathers ate in Egypt. Anyone hungry can enter and eat and celebrate with us the Passover. Next year, we hope, all Israel will celebrate the Passover as free people.

**Fill the cup of wine for the Cup of Praise, but don't drink it now.*

Cn: Why is tonight different from all other nights?

Pr: On all other nights we can eat bread with or without yeast. But on this night we must eat only bread without yeast. The Egyptian king told us to leave, but we had not time to wait for the bread to enlarge, so we baked the bread without yeast.

Cn: On all other nights we eat all different-kinds of green vegetables, but on this night why do we eat bitter greens?

Pr: We eat bitter greens to remind us of the bitter sufferings the mean Egyptian leaders did to us. And we remember that today we continue to have bitter sufferings in our life.

Cn: On all other nights we never dip our greens in salt water, but on this night we must dip the greens twice. Why?

Pr: We do this twice to remind us that happens one suffering ends, then we are not free forever, but that other sufferings will come into our life.

Cn: On all other nights we eat sitting or laying-down, but on this night why do we lay-down?

Pr: Slaves always eat standing or sitting, but kings and rich people and leaders eat laying-down. Those people feeling free can relax while they eat. We remember that God freed us from the slavery of our sins.

Cn: I will sing to the Lord because He finished triumphed. The horse and rider drown in the sea. The Lord, my God, my Helper, my Song, now becomes my Victory. The Lord is God and I will praise Him, my father worshiped the Lord and I will honor God. The Lord is God and I will praise Him, my father worshiped the Lord and I will honor God.

Pr: The Holy Writings tell us about four different children: wise, rebellious, ignorant, young -- all asking questions tonight.

The Wise Son: What does this worship mean to us with all the rules?

Pr: It means that God saved us happened He made His agreement with our fathers: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. That God called us out of slavery with his servant Moses. That God blessed us with the words that Aaron spoke to his people. You are wise to ask, because tonight we remember that God made His promise to us, and at the correct time He sent His Son for us.

The Rebellious Son: What does this worship mean to you with all the rules?

Pr: This shows you are rebellious and don't feel part of the group, because of the things God did for me happen I departed from Egypt. If God's promise means nothing to you, then you must suffer in your sins. This worship shows my belief in God's promise to me that He loves me and gave His life for me.

The Ignorant Son: What does all this mean?

Pr: God led us from slavery in Egypt through the waters of the Red Sea to freedom in our new land. Because God did all that for us. Now we must become His obedient people, changing our lives, our thinking, and our speech to agree with His Word. Because our people in the past were not ready to follow God, they were led into slavery once again and scattered among the nations. They were ignorant people, and we must learn from them.

The Young Son: I don't know any questions.

Pr: We worship this way because of all the things that God did for us. This son may become wise, or rebellious, or ignorant. Our prayer is that all of us worshipping here tonight will learn that we now belong to God, and in God we find true life. In this hope we live, and to all other people we offer this hope for their lives. God will never fail us. God helped our fathers in the past. God will help us today. Happens our enemies come against us to destroy our faith, then our Lord God delivers us from their hands.

**With a small spoon, spill onto your plate some wine for every Plague.*

Pr: The Lord deliver us again the same He saved us in the past from the ten plagues and freed us from Egypt: blood, frogs, lice, flies, cattle

disease, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, killing of first born son.

We spill the wine in remembering the ten plagues to reduce our pleasure while we remember the sufferings of the Egyptian people. God calls us to be a forgiving people, not a revenging people, to bless those persecuting us, to love our enemies, and to show mercy to them.

Cn: We praise You, O Lord, our God, King of the world. You promised a world of peace, of honesty, of freedom. We praise You, O Lord our God, King of the world. You give us strength to build that world.

**Drink the second cup of left over wine.*

Cn: If God only leads us out of Egypt and doesn't punish our enemies, that is enough for us! If God gives us peace and doesn't lead us to His holy mountain, that is enough for us! If God leads us to His holy mountain and doesn't give us His Ten Commandments, that is enough for us! If God gives us His Ten Commandments and doesn't lead us to the Promised Land, that is enough for us! If God leads us to the Promised Land and doesn't give us kings, that is enough for us! If God gives us kings and doesn't punish us for rebelling, that is enough for us! If God punishes us and doesn't save a few people to come home again, that is enough for us! If God saves a few people and doesn't prepare us for our Savior's coming, that is enough for us! If God sends the Savior for us and doesn't gather together His holy people, that is enough for us!

Pr: We now bless the lamb, the bread, and the greens. O Lord, we pray with Your help that we will live to celebrate future meals and holy worship in peace and freedom. We praise You, O Lord our God, King of the world. You make bread to grow. We praise You, O Lord our God, King of the world. You make us holy with Your Word. We praise You, O Lord our God, King of the world. You command us to eat this food.

Now take some of the greens and *charoseth* with some bread and eat that to remember the hard suffering the Egyptians forced us to make the bricks.

Cn: Where is the bread we hid?

Pr: You remember the three breads under the unity cover? The breaking of the middle bread shows the crucifixion of God's Son for our sins. The hiding of the *afikomen* shows the burial of His body in the tomb, and finding the bread shows the resurrection. That third cup of wine we drank is named the Cup of Salvation.

Our Lord Jesus Christ celebrated this Passover with His friends on the night before He died. He took the bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His friends and said, "*Take eat. This is My body given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.*" Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to His friends and said, "*Take drink, all of you. This cup is the new promise in My blood given for the forgiveness of your sins. Drink this in remembrance of Me.*"

**Distribute the Lord's Supper.*

Cn: We praise You, O Lord our God, King of the world. You made us, You saved us. Now You forgive us and make us Your holy people. We thank and praise Your most holy name for this wonderful gift that You give us, the Body and Blood of Your holy Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Pr: You notice that we did not use the lamb bone or the egg. The roasted egg is the example of the past gifts offered in the temple. But the temple is destroyed now. The lamb bone is the example of the Lamb that was sacrificed. But no more sacrifices can be made because in 70 A.D. the temple was destroyed by the Romans. We Christians know that no more offerings need to be made for our sins, because our Savior made that final offering on the cross for all people's sins. You notice one place set and one cup of wine not used. That was kept for Elijah. The Jews believed that Elijah would come again and give the Jews hope for future freedom. We know that Jesus is the Savior and He finished came. The Jews now would open the door and watch to see if Elijah enters. We know that Elijah came in the spirit of John the Baptist and that the Savior is living with us now. But we have His place here to show our hope that Jesus will come soon to take us to heaven as He promised.

<p><i>*Drink the fourth cup of wine named the Cup of Hope.</i></p>
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Pr: We pray that this meal will always remind us of the freedom we have in Christ until we can celebrate this meal with our Lord Jesus in heaven. Amen!!