

Church Name's Parish Celebration of the Passover Seder

*Leader: Father of the Lead Family
Reader: Mother of the Lead Family*

*Commentator: The Pastor
Children: from the Lead Family*

LEADER For more than 3,000 years, our Jewish brothers and sisters have celebrated the Passover, thanking God for listening to their prayers and freeing them from slavery. As we prepare to celebrate this ritual meal, you are reminded to only eat and drink as you're directed.

BLESSING THE DAY

COMMENTATOR

Now, in the presence of friends and loved ones,
with the signs of festive rejoicing before us,
we gather for our sacred celebration.
Linking and bonding the past to the future,
living the story that is told for all people,
we gather to observe the Passover.

HYMN

ALL PEOPLE THAT ON EARTH DO DWELL

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice,
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell,
Come we before Him, and rejoice.

Oh enter then His gates with praise;
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His Name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

COMMENTATOR

According to ancient Jewish custom, all Jewish home rituals begin with the ceremonial lighting of candles and lamps. The solemn lighting of candles during the Easter Vigil originated here. It reminds us of God's work on the first day of creation, when He said: "Let there be light." In a home, it's the mother who lights the candles. Here, we will ask one woman at each table to light the candle.

Please stand.

(All rise, and one woman from each table lights the candles.)

WOMEN *(As the candles are lit)*
Blessed are You, Lord God, King of the universe.
You have made us holy by Your commandments.
You have commanded us to light the festival lights.
May our homes be consecrated, O God, by Your light,
the light of Your face shining upon us in blessing and bringing us peace.

ALL Amen!
(All sit.)

KIDDUSH, THE BLESSING OF THE FEAST

COMMENTATOR

Every food used in the Jewish Passover meal is blessed before it's eaten. Here we see the origin of the blessing during Mass of the bread and wine by the priest. The story that I live tells how in many different ways, God promised to free his people. With cups of wine, we remember each promise. Everyone pour a little wine or grape juice into your cups.
(The Leader fills Elijah's cup.)

LEADER Blessed are You, O Lord, King of the universe, who has chosen us above all peoples and has exalted us above all tongues, and has made us holy with Your commandments. In love You have given us, O Lord, seasons for gladness, holidays, and times of rejoicing, this day of the feast of the unleavened bread, the time of our freedom, a memorial to the exodus from Egypt. We thank you, O Lord our God, for giving us this joyful heritage. You have taught us to know light from darkness, sacred from profane, and as we sense the holy, we ourselves are consecrated. We thank you, O Lord, for keeping us in life and bringing us to this day of celebration.

COMMENTATOR

Four times during the Paschal meal, the wine (or juice) is passed to all. The common pitcher is a symbol of the unity of the community. The first cup is probably the one spoken of in Luke, during the Last Supper, when Our Lord said: "Take this and share it among yourselves; for I tell you, from this time on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." This first cup is called the cup of thanksgiving.

(All raise their cups.)

LEADER Blessed are You, O Lord, King of the universe,
who has created the fruit of the vine.

ALL Praise to you, O Lord our God, for bringing us to this feast.
You created the fruit of the vine to gladden the hearts of Your people.
Continue to show us your love.
We take up the Cup of Blessing, and proclaim this blessed day of deliverance.

(All drink)

THE WASHING

COMMENTATOR

The Presider now washes hands, symbolizing the interior cleansing necessary for partaking in this ritual. Similarly, the Presider at Mass washes his hands after offering the bread and wine. It's probably at this point in the Last Supper when Jesus washed the feet of His disciples.

LEADER

(while washing his hands)

Blessed are You, O Lord, King of the universe.
You have blessed us by Your commandments
and have commanded us concerning the washing of hands.

PREVIEW

KARPAS – BITTER HERBS

*(Pass to each person the parsley and the bowl of salt water.
Everyone takes a piece, dips it in the salt water, and sets it on their plate.)*

COMMENTATOR

Green is a sign of new life renewing the earth each Spring. We dip greens in salt water as a symbol of tears and sorrow to remind us of the years of slavery in Egypt. God heard the cries of our fathers and brought them to new life. The rebirth of Spring is, for us, full of signs of God's love.

ALL

We praise you, O God, King of the Universe, for renewing the signs of your love for us each Spring. We praise you for creating the fruits of the earth.

(All take a small bite of the parsley.)

THE BREAKING OF SHARED BREAD

COMMENTATOR

We celebrate the Seder with unleavened bread, because at the first Passover, there was no time to wait for bread to rise. At Mass, we use unleavened bread for the Eucharist.

Now, we invite the children — those who are old enough to leave the room by themselves — to step out while the Leader hides the “afikoman” – half of a matzo. At the end of the meal, the children will search for the hidden piece.

(The children leave the room with an adult assistant until a signal to return is given. The Leader breaks the middle matzo, hides half, and holds up the other half. The children are signaled to return to their tables.)

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ALL (Dayenu – pronounced **Di A Nu** – means “It would have been enough.”)



LEADER Had he only permitted us to cross the sea on dry land and not sustained us for forty years in the desert, we would be grateful, for that would have been enough.

ALL DAYENU

LEADER Had he sustained us for forty years in the desert and not fed us with manna we would be grateful, for that would have been enough.

ALL DAYENU

LEADER Had he fed us with manna and not given us the Sabbath, we would be grateful, for that would have been enough.

ALL DAYENU

LEADER Had he led us into the land of Israel and not sent us true prophets, we would be grateful, for that would have been enough.

ALL DAYENU

LEADER He brought us out of Egypt, divided the Red Sea, sustained us for forty years in The desert, fed us with manna, gave us the Law, led us into the Promised Land, sent us true prophets, and made us a holy people.

ALL DAYENU

THE PASSOVER SYMBOLS

COMMENTATOR

We will now see the deliverance from Egypt symbolized in the Passover supper.

ALL What is the meaning of the lamb bone?

LEADER (*holds up the lamb bone for all to see*)

The paschal lamb – or “pesach” – is what our forefathers sacrificed to the Lord in memory of the Passover sacrifice, when God passed over the houses of our fathers in Egypt during the redemption. Since the Temple in Jerusalem no longer stands, the shankbone reminds us of the sacrificial lamb.

ALL What is the meaning of the egg?