

PASSOVER SEDER MEAL

Thank you for joining Streatham Central Church as we retell the Traditional Jewish Passover Meal, the Seder Meal, as Jesus' followers. Jesus himself sat down for the Passover meal the night before he died so we remember it with reverence and anticipation. As you can probably tell, we're not Jewish. We don't pretend to be. But we want to try and experience this special meal together, which helps us understand the richness of Jewish history, and how it points to the founding of the Christian faith. Without what is represented in this meal, we would not be able to access the greatest gift ever offered.

BEFORE THE MEAL

BACKGROUND BIBLE READING 1 – MARK 14 (ON BACK PAGE)

[Man of the house puts on the white kiddle (worn by the priests) then he puts on a hat to symbolise a crown - he is priest and king]

Luke 22 ¹⁵And he said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfilment in the kingdom of God.'

[Place cushions on the chairs to remind them they would have sat (reclined) as free people]

All: Slaves had to stand, but we are free now, so we recline.

CLEANING OUT THE LEAVEN

1 Corinthians 5 ⁶Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? ⁷Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch – as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

THE LIGHTING OF THE FESTIVAL CANDLES

All: Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who sanctifies us with His commandments and commanded us that we kindle the Festival lights. Amen

Messianic Jews say: Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who sanctifies us through Jesus the Messiah, Light of the world, Amen

THE EXPLANATION

Ma-nishtanah: "Why is this night different from all other nights?"

- 1) On all other nights, we eat chametz (leavened foods) and matzah.
Why on this night, only unleavened bread (matzah)?
- 2) On all other nights, we eat all vegetables.
Why, on this night, maror (bitter herbs)?
- 3) On all other nights, we don't dip even once.
Why on this night do we dip twice?
- 4) On all other nights, we eat either sitting upright or reclining.
Why on this night do we all recline?

BACKGROUND BIBLE READING 2 – EXODUS 12 (ON BACK PAGE)

THE FIRST CUP: THE CUP OF SANCTIFICATION

All: Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, creator of the fruit of the vine.

THE SEDER PLATE

- 1) Karpas (Greens)
- 2) Maror (Bitter Herbs, normally raw Horseradish)
- 3) Charoseth (“Mortar” made of Apple, Nuts & Cinnamon))
- 4) Chazeret (Bitter Root)
- 5) Chagigah (Festival Sacrifice – Egg)
- 6) Zeroah (The Arm – Lamb Bone)

Isaiah 53 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

²He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

⁴Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished.

SECOND CUP: THE CUP OF PLAGUES

Blood, Frogs, Gnats, Flies, Cattle Disease, Boils, Hail, Locusts, Darkness, Death of the Firstborn.

THE MATZAH TASH: THREE IN ONE

This is the bread of affliction which our forefathers ate in the Land of Egypt, let all who are hungry come in and eat. Now we are slaves, next year we are free men.

THE MEAL

AFTER THE MEAL

THE AFIKOMEN BREAD

THIRD CUP: THE CUP OF REDEMPTION

Jeremiah 31 ³¹‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,’ declares the LORD. ³³‘This is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time,’ declares the LORD. ‘I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴No longer will they teach their neighbour, or say to one another, “Know the LORD,” because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,’ declares the LORD. ‘For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.’

ELIJAH’S CUP

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”

*ELIYAHU HANAVI, ELIYAHU HATISH'BI,
ELIYAHU, ELIYAHU, ELIYAHU, HAGIL'ADI
BIM'HERAH BEYAMEINU, YAVO ELEINU,
IM MASHI'ACH BEN DAVID*

Translation:

*Elijah the Prophet, Elijah the Tishbite,
Elijah the Gileadite come even in our days
and bring with you Messiah Son of David*

Malachi 4 ⁵See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. ⁶He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.’

Luke 1 ¹³But the angel said to him: ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. [...] ¹⁶He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous – to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.’

4TH CUP: THE CUP OF PRAISE

Next year in Jerusalem

1 Corinthians 15:20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

PSALMS & SONGS OF PRAISE

BACKGROUND BIBLE READINGS

Mark 14:12-26 On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, 'Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?'

¹³So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, 'Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴Say to the owner of the house he enters, "The Teacher asks: where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" ¹⁵He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.'

¹⁶The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. ¹⁸While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me – one who is eating with me.'

¹⁹They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, 'Surely you don't mean me?'

²⁰'It is one of the Twelve,' he replied, 'one who dips bread into the bowl with me. ²¹The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.'

²²While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take it; this is my body.'

²³Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

²⁴'This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many,' he said to them.

²⁵Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.'

²⁶When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives

Exodus 12 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, ²'This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. ³Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. ⁴If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbour, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. ⁵The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. ⁶Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. ⁷Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the door-frames of the houses where they eat the lambs. ⁸That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. ⁹Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire – with the head, legs and internal organs. ¹⁰Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. ¹¹This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover.

¹²'On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. ¹³The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

¹⁴'This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD – a lasting ordinance. ¹⁵For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day until the seventh must be cut off from Israel.