



הגדה של פסח

A SEDER HAGGADAH

The CATHEDRAL for the DIOCESE OF THE CAROLINAS
Anglican Church in North America

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Preparing for your Seder

This Haggadah is the liturgy for celebrating the Passover Seder.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God incarnated as a faithful Jewish man, chose the Passover Seder to institute his new meal of salvation: the Eucharist.

We celebrate Seder as Christians to understand the history of salvation through the Jewish people, and to appreciate more fully the meal that Jesus celebrated with his disciples.

In the list below you will find everything you will need to celebrate a Seder meal. Read through the whole Haggadah once before the meal so you will have a sense of how the various actions and texts fit together.

The preparation of the Seder is based on the directives of Exodus 12. God told the Israelites to observe the Passover by eating lamb roasted over a fire, unleavened bread called matzah, with bitter herbs (usually horseradish). There have been other elements added to the plate: green vegetables, a roasted egg, haroset, a bowl of water for washing hands, a dish of salt water, and four cups of wine.

To celebrate a Seder dinner, you will need...

- A white tablecloth and napkins
- Two candles in candlestick holders
- A plate, bowl for salt water, and wine glass for each person
- An empty place setting reserved for Elijah
- Cups for wine; bowls and serving spoons for food
- A plate with three matzah crackers in a white napkin
- A bowl and towel for washing hands
- One of these Haggadah for each person at your table
- A Seder Plate (or, in bowls together at one place on the table)...
 - * A lamb shank-bone (the butcher at your grocery store is familiar with this)
 - * Matzah Crackers (1 pack for 6-8 people)
 - * Horseradish (1 tablespoon or less, grated for each person)
 - * A hard-boiled egg (1 for the Seder Plate and, optionally, one per person)
 - * Parsley (1 or 2 stalks per person)
 - * Salt water
 - * Red Wine (have plenty, you refill all the cups four times...but you don't need to drink it all each time!; sparkling grape juice can be substituted for children)
 - * Rewards for finding the Afikomen (a Hershey Kiss, a quarter, a small toy, etc...)
 - * Haroset (mix applesauce, cinnamon, honey, and crushed nuts)

The Seder Haggadah

A Passover worship tradition with family and friends.

INTRODUCTION

Father This story has been told for thousands of years; a story about miraculous change from misery to joy, slavery to freedom, sin to grace. One of the last things Jesus did with his disciples was to celebrate Passover and retell the story. It was the Passover that Jesus reinterpreted as the Lord's Supper. Tonight we will see, hear, and taste the great love God has for us!

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

Father As we light the candles, we pray for the light of the Spirit of God to bring the special meaning of Passover and Easter to each and every one of us.

The Mother lights the candles.

Mother Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has chosen each one of us out of all the people of the world and made us holy by your Word, and in whose name we light these celebration lights.

Father As the light for the celebration of redemption is lit by a woman, we remember that Jesus, our Redeemer, the Light of the World, came into the world through the obedience of a woman.

THE FOUR CUPS OF WINE

Father God told Moses, "Now you will see what I will do," and he made four promises about how he would save his people.

All "I will bring you out of Egypt...
"I will free you from slavery...
"I will save you by my own hand...
"I will take you to be my own people, and I will be your God..."

Father To remember these four promises, we will drink from our cups four times.

THE FIRST CUP

THE CUP OF SANCTIFICATION

The Father fills the wine glasses for the First Cup.

Father When Jesus began his last Passover supper, he offered a cup to his disciples and said, "Take this, all of you, and drink from it." Let's hold up our first cup and bless the Lord!

All **Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.**

Everyone drinks from the First Cup.

WASHING HANDS

URKHATZ

The Father washes the hands of the person sitting to his right; giving him or her the cloth and bowl of water to wash the next persons hands. After he has passed the bowl, the Father says

Father The Scripture says only the person who has clean hands and a pure heart can stand in God's presence. When we wash each others' hands, we remember how Jesus poured water into a bowl and washed the disciples' feet for them, like a servant. He asked them, "Do you understand what I, your Lord and Teacher, have done for you? Now in your hearts you should be willing to do the same kinds of things for each other."

Each washes the hands of the one to their right until everyone's hands are washed.

PARSLEY

KARPAS

Father Why do we celebrate Passover? God commands His people to celebrate certain special holidays every year forever.

The Father holds up the Parsley and continues.

This holiday comes in the spring, when the earth turns green with new life. Only God can create life and keep it alive. This parsley is a sign of life.

The Father holds up the salt water and continues.

But while the Israelites were slaves in Egypt, their life was miserable. The salt water is their tears. We know life can be full of tears. We dip our parsley in the salt water and eat it to remind us of our ancestors' tears and of how miserable our own sin makes us. We also remember how God parted the Red Sea to lead his people to new life.

All **Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who creates the fruit of the earth.**

Everyone dips a twig of parsley in the salt water twice, and then eats it.

THE QUESTIONS

MA NISHTANAH

Youngest Why is this night so different from all other nights? On all other nights we eat leavened bread. On this night why do we eat only unleavened bread? On all other nights we eat all kinds of vegetables. On this night why do we eat only bitter ones? On all other nights we don't dip our vegetables even once. On this night why do we dip them twice?

THE ANSWERS

Father It is a special duty and a privilege to be the one to answer the four questions of Passover and tell everyone the great things God has done! On all other nights we eat any kind of bread, but on Passover we eat matzah, unleavened bread. When our ancestors left Egypt, they were in such a hurry they didn't have time to let their dough rise. Instead, they baked it flat. The Scriptures tell us that leaven is a symbol of sin.

All **"Don't you know that just a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast so that you may be like a new batch of dough without yeast—as you are created to be. For Messiah, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed."** *1 Cor 5.⁷*

Father holds up the plate of matzah.

Father This is the bread of suffering that our ancestors ate. The three matzah in one napkin show us the special unity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Holy Trinity, three-in-one. The matzah itself is a symbol of the promised Messiah, Jesus. See how it is striped, as Jesus' back was marked by the scourging before his crucifixion.

All **"He was wounded for our sins, bruised for our sinfulness: He suffered to bring us peace; and by his stripes our sin is healed."** *Is 53.⁵*

Father See how the matzah is pierced with holes, as God's only Son was pierced by the nails and the soldier's lance.

All **"I will pour out my spirit of grace and prayer: and they will see me whom they have pierced, and they will cry with sadness as for an only son."** *Zec 12.¹⁰*

The Father takes the middle matzah and breaks it in half.

Father Just as this middle piece of the bread of suffering is broken, the Son, Jesus, also suffered. We save half for after the meal. It's wrapped in a white cloth just as Jesus' body was wrapped for burial.

The Father wraps half of the matzah in the white napkin and continues.

Kids, please hide your eyes...

Someone hides the wrapped matzah somewhere in the room and continues.

Just like I've hidden the broken matzah, Jesus' body was put in a tomb, hidden for a little while. But just as the special piece of matzah will come out again to finish our celebration, Jesus came alive again to take us to heaven when we finish our lives. Now we share this piece of bread made with no yeast—a sign of Jesus, who has no sin.

Everyone passes the matzah and breaks off a piece, waiting to eat.

All **Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.**

Everyone eats the matzah.

THE BITTER HERBS

MAROR

Father On all other nights we eat all kinds of vegetables, but on Passover we eat maror, bitter ones, to remember how bitter life was for our ancestors in Egypt.

The Father holds up the horseradish and continues.

Father "...the Egyptians became afraid of the Israelite slaves and made them work even more. They made their lives bitter with hard work making brick and mortar and doing all kinds of work in the fields." *Ex 1:12-14*

Scoop some maror onto a piece of matzah and let the bitter taste bring tears to your eyes. Remember with compassion the tears our ancestors cried in their slavery long ago, and remember the bitterness of our own slavery to sin when we do not allow Jesus to set us free.

All **Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has set us apart by His Word and commanded us to eat bitter herbs.**

All eat the matzah after dipping it in the horseradish.

THE HAROSET

Father On all other nights we don't dip our vegetables even once, but tonight we dip them twice. We've already dipped the parsley in salt water.

The Father holds up the haroset and continues.

The Israelites worked very hard to make brick and clay to build cities for Pharaoh. We remember this in a mixture called haroset, made from apples, cinnamon, honey, and nuts. Now, scoop some haroset onto a piece of matzah.

All **Even the most bitter things in life are sweetened by our hope in God.**

All eat the matzah after dipping it in the haroset.

THE STORY OF PASSOVER

MAGGID

Father The story of Passover is a story of miracles, a story of redemption, a story of the mighty power of God to overcome evil.

Reader 1 The Lord had promised the land of Israel to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Yet here were their children in Egypt. The Pharaoh who had come to power feared them. "These foreigners in our midst are prospering and have grown numerous" he thought, "suppose they join with our enemies and turn against us!" Pharaoh decided to exert greater control over this people, imposing harsh and bitter slavery upon the Israelites. Still, God blessed his people in strength and number.

Reader 2 Pharaoh grew more frightened and ordered every baby boy among the Israelites to be drowned in the Nile River. One Israelite couple hid their little boy for three months. Finally, entrusting his future to God, they set him in a basket and placed him upon the river. His sister, Miriam, watched as he floated downstream. Coming upon the basket, Pharaoh's daughter took pity on the child and chose to raise him as her own son. She called him Moses, meaning "drawn from the water."

Reader 3 Moses grew and became aware of the sufferings of his people. One day, in a rage, he lost control of himself and killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave. Fleeing the palace and the eye of Pharaoh, Moses became a shepherd in the land of Midian, far from the cries of his suffering brothers.

Reader 4 The Lord, however, saw the affliction of the children of Israel and heard their groaning. He would raise up a deliverer to lead them out of bondage. It was then that he appeared to Moses in the midst of a bush that burned with fire, yet was not consumed. Moses drew close and listened as God commissioned him to go to Pharaoh. Fearful and reluctant, still Moses agreed to bring God's message to the king of Egypt, "Let my people go!"

THE SECOND CUP

THE CUP OF PLAGUES

Father Moses went to Pharaoh with God's command, "Let my people go!" But God warned Moses that Pharaoh wouldn't easily agree. The Lord sent plagues, one by one, but with each plague, Pharaoh refused and made his heart harder against God. With the tenth and most awful plague, God broke through Pharaoh's hard heart.

All **The Lord said, "On that night I will pass through Egypt and every firstborn person and animal will die, and I will punish all the demon gods of Egypt for I AM the Lord"** *Ex 12¹²*

Father We fill our cups a second time now. A full cup is a sign of joy and we're certainly filled with joy that God has set us free. But we should also remember how much that freedom cost.

The Father refills the wine glasses for the Second Cup and continues.

Many lives were lost to save our people from slavery in Egypt. But an even greater price was paid to save us from slavery to sin—the death of Jesus, God's only Son. When we say the name of each plague, dip a finger into your cup and let a drop fall onto your napkin, making the cup of joy a little less full as we remember the cost of our freedom.

All **Blood, Frogs, Lice, Wild animals, Cattle disease, Boils, Hail, Locusts, Darkness, Death of the Firstborn!**

Everyone drinks from the Second Cup.

THE PASSOVER LAMB

Father In telling the Passover story, three things absolutely must be mentioned: the unleavened bread, the bitter herbs, and the Passover lamb.

All **We've eaten the matzah to remind us how quickly our ancestors left Egypt. We've tasted the bitter herbs to remind us of the bitter life they lived there.**

The Father holds up the shank bone.

Father This bone stands for the lamb whose blood on the Israelite houses was a sign to God. God told Moses, "The lamb must be perfect" and when it is killed, "the people are to mark their door frames with some of the blood... They are to eat the meat that night, along with bitter herbs and unleavened bread. Eat quickly, with your coat ready, your shoes on your feet, and your walking stick in your hand. It is the Lord's Passover. The blood will show your obedience; when I see the blood, I will pass over you and no plague will touch you when I punish Egypt." *Ex 12.³⁴³* We are reminded by Moses that it is the Lord himself who redeemed our ancestors from slavery. "So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with miraculous signs and wonders." *Dt 26.⁸*

All **"On that same night I will pass through Egypt I, and not an angel,**

Father "and strike down every firstborn, both men and animals

All **I, and not an archangel,**

Father "and I will bring forth judgment on all the demon gods of Egypt;

All **I, and not a messenger,**

Father "I am the Lord.

All **I myself and none other."**

Father Since Jesus has become our perfect Passover Lamb, God has allowed the Temple in Jerusalem to be destroyed. No more lambs need to be sacrificed and lamb meat is no longer eaten at Passover. This bone is enough to remind us of the lamb sacrificed for the Israelites and of the Sacrifice of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

THE EGG

HAGIGAH

Father Last is the egg. It is called hagigah, a name signifying the traditional offering brought to the Temple on feast days. The egg is now a symbol of mourning, reminding us of the destruction of the holy temple in Jerusalem. The hardness of the shell also reminds us of the hardness of Pharaoh's heart—and of every heart that won't accept God's love. But the egg is also a sign of new birth and eternal life. God wants to break the sadness and hardness of our hearts and be born into new life, everlasting life with him.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH

DAYENU

Father God is so good to us! For even one little blessing we should be able to respond, “it would have been enough!”

All If the Lord had merely rescued us, and not punished the Egyptians...
It would have been enough!

Father If he had only destroyed their gods, but had not parted the Red Sea...
All **It would have been enough!**

Father If he had only destroyed our enemies, but had not fed us his food in the desert...
All **It would have been enough!**

Father If he had only led us through the desert, but had not given us his holy day of rest...
All **It would have been enough!**

Father If he had only given us his Words and Commandments, but not a Promised Land forever...
All **It would have been enough!**

Father But the Holy One, the Lord, blessed be he, provided all these blessings for our ancestors. And not only these, but so many more, and so many for us, too!

All **Blessed are you, O God, for you have given us everything we need. You have given us Jesus our Messiah, forgiveness for sin, life with you now in our hearts, in your Word, and in your Eucharist, and the promise of life with you forever!**

THE THIRD CUP

THE CUP OF JOY

The Father refills the wine glasses for the Third Cup.

Father Everyone drink the third cup now, the Cup of Joy, and we'll have dinner!

The Seder Plate is removed from the table, and everyone feasts.

THE AFIKOMEN

The Father returns the Seder Plate to the table.

Father It is time to share the afikomen, the hidden matzah. Who can find it?

All the children search for the hidden matzah. When it is found, it is given to the Father.

Father Remember, this piece of matzah, made without leaven, is a symbol of the promised Messiah, Jesus. It was hidden and now it is back. Jesus was buried and rose from the dead. This special matzah is the last food eaten at Passover so that its taste stays with us. It's shared like the Passover lamb was shared from the time our ancestors were freed from Egypt until the destruction of the Temple, after Jesus' death. Jesus broke the matzah and gave thanks to the Lord.

All **Blessed are you, O God, King of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.**

The Father breaks the matzah and passes the pieces to each. Everyone waits to eat.

Father It was here that Jesus added the words: “This is my Body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”
Lk 22:19

Jesus changed the significance of the matzah forever. The matzah, like the Eucharist, is broken in small pieces so that everyone can eat. Think about Jesus, the Lamb of God, our once and forever Passover sacrifice. Eat this piece of matzah now, and let its taste stay with you.

Everyone eats the matzah.

THE PROPHET ELIJAH

ELIYAHU HANAVI

The Father lifts the cup from the empty place set for Elijah at the table.

Father This cup is the cup of Elijah the Prophet. Elijah did not see death, but was taken up to heaven alive in a mighty wind, riding a fiery chariot. Our ancestors and the Jewish people everywhere hoped that Elijah would come at Passover to announce the coming of the Messiah.

Before the birth of John the Baptist, an angel of the Lord said, “And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah...to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” *Lk 1.17*

Later Jesus said about John, “...he is the Elijah who was to come.”

Mt 11.14

It was this same John who saw Jesus and announced, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” *John 1.29*

The extra cup also reminds us to pray for our brothers, the Jews, still seeking the Messiah who has already come to them, and who waits longingly for them. The empty chair reminds us—and every household observing Passover tonight—that there are still those who cannot celebrate as free men. We pray that someday soon all may freely rejoice in the majesty of God everywhere in the world.

Everyone drinks from the Third Cup.

THE FOURTH CUP

THE CUP OF PRAISE

Father God’s promise is, “You will be my people and I will be your God” *Ex 6.7*

Let’s fill our cups for the fourth and last time, and give thanks to our Great God.

The Father refills the wine glasses for the Fourth Cup.

Father Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

All **His love endures forever.**

Father Give thanks to the Lord, God of all creation.

All **His love endures forever.**

Father Give thanks to him who destroyed the gods of Egypt.

All **His love endures forever.**

Father Give thanks to him who destroys the works of Satan today.

All **His love endures forever.**

Father Give thanks to him who saved Israel from slavery in Egypt.

All **His love endures forever.**

Father Give thanks to him who saves us from slavery to sin.

All **His love endures forever.**

Father Give thanks to God, our God, who chose us to be his people.

All **His love endures forever.**

Father Lift your cups and bless the Lord!

All **Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of Universe, who creates the fruit of the vine.**

Everyone drinks from the Fourth Cup.

Father Our Passover celebration is now complete, as God’s plan for our salvation through Jesus is complete. We end with the traditional wish that next year we will celebrate face to face with Jesus!

All **“Next year, in the New Jerusalem!”**

