

*-A Passover Seder in the Light of Christ-*

(lighting of the candles and blessing)

*THE FIRST CUP: BLESSING (KIDDUSH)*

*"I will free you from your burdens in Egypt."*

Leader: As we celebrate the Seder, we will drink four times. These cups stand for the four things God promised to Moses (in Exodus 6:6,7). Each cup has its own name and meaning. First is the **Cup of Blessing**, from when God says "I will free you from your burdens in Egypt." Second is the **Cup of Judgment**, from God saying "I will rescue you from slavery by mighty acts of judgment." Third is the **Cup of Redemption**, from God's promise, "I will save you with my outstretched arm." The fourth cup is the **Cup of Praise**, where we praise God for saying, "I will make you my own people." Egypt, in the Old Testament, was a figure of sin, and the Jews' slavery there, a picture of one's slavery to sin. Let us drink this first cup in remembrance of God's promise to deliver us from our slavery to sin.

All: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, Who creates the fruit of the vine, Who Has given us life, sustained us and brought us to this season of rejoicing.

*URCHATZ: THE WASHING OF HANDS*

Reading # 3: John 13:1-17

All: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has made us holy by His Lamb.

*KARPAS: DIPPING OF THE PARSLEY*

Karpas reading #4:

All: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, You create the fruits of the earth.

*BREAKING OF THE MIDDLE MATZAH AND THE AFIKOMAN*

Middle Matzah reading #5

All: This is the bread of affliction which our forefathers ate in the land of Egypt. All who are hungry let them come and eat. All who are needy let them come and celebrate the Passover with us. Now we are here; next year may we be in the Promised Land. Now we are slaves; next year may we be free men. Come quickly Lord Jesus, come!

Leader: Although tragically Israel is still waiting, we know that the promise that the hungry shall eat and the slaves shall be free has already been fulfilled through Christ (Luke 4).

*THE FOUR QUESTIONS:*

Reading for youngest member of Seder #6:

Reading #7: THE STORY (MAGGID)

Reading #8: Exodus 12:1-14

All: By the blood of a lamb Israel was spared. By the blood of the lamb was death made to pass over.

Leader: Passover is the night when death passed over the houses of Israel because of the blood of the Passover lamb. A mighty act of redemption, and a beautiful picture of redemption destined to come. For just as no bones of the first Passover lambs were to be broken, so none of the Messiah's bones were broken.

Reading #9: John 19

**Leader:** And just as the blood of those first Passover lambs on the crossed wooden beams of the doorposts and lintel of the Israelites homes saved them, so the blood of Jesus on the wood of the cross has saved us.

**All:** By the blood of The Lamb we have been spared. By the blood of The Lamb death has passed over us.

DAYENU

*"It would have been enough for us"*

Reading of Dayenu #10: (please join in after each phrase read saying, Dayenu)

*THE SECOND CUP: JUDGMENT (MAKKOT)*

*"I will rescue you from slavery by mighty acts of judgment."*

*THE PRAISES (HALLEL)*

(to be recited alternately by the two sides of the table)

*Psalm 113*

Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD!

*Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and for evermore!*

From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the LORD is to be praised!

*The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens!*

Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high, Who looks far down upon the heavens and the earth?

*He raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap*

To make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.

*He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children.*

**ALL:** Praise the LORD!

*Psalm 117/118*

Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!

*For great is his steadfast love toward us; and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for ever praise the LORD!*

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures for ever!

*Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures for ever."*

Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures for ever."

*The LORD has chastened me sorely, but he has not given me over to death.*

thank thee that thou hast answered me and hast become my salvation.

*The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.*

Blessed be he who comes in the name of the LORD!

*Thou art my God, and I will give thanks to thee; Thou art my God, I will extol thee.*

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures for ever!

*Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good for His kindness is everlasting;*

Give thanks to the God of gods for His kindness is everlasting;

*Give thanks to the Lord of lords for His kindness is everlasting;*

Who alone does great wonders for His kindness is everlasting;

*Who made the heavens with understanding for His kindness is everlasting;*  
*Who stretched out the earth above the waters for His kindness is everlasting;*  
*Who made the great lights for His kindness is everlasting;*  
*The sun, to rule by day for His kindness is everlasting;*  
*The moon and stars, to rule by night for His kindness is everlasting;*  
*Who struck Egypt through their first-born for His kindness is everlasting;*  
*And brought Israel out of their midst for His kindness is everlasting;*  
*Who split the Red Sea for His kindness is everlasting;*  
*And led Israel through it for His kindness is everlasting;*  
*Who led His people through the desert for His kindness is everlasting;*  
*And gave the land as a heritage to Israel, His servant for His kindness is everlasting;*  
ALL: Thank the God of heaven for His kindness is everlasting.

LEADER SPEAKS

All: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy Name.

#### *THE UNLEAVENED BREAD (MATZOT/MATZAH)*

All: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth.

#### *THE BITTER HERBS (MAROR)*

Leader: The bitter herb speaks of the sorrow and persecution of the people under Pharaoh in Egypt. As the horseradish brings tears to the eyes, so also did slavery bring tears to the eyes of the Israelites. For the Christian, this symbolizes how we were slaves to the bitterness of sin until redeemed by The Passover Lamb.

Reading #11: Exodus 1:13-14

#### *EATING THE BITTER HERBS WITH CHAROSETH*

Leader: The sweet charoseth is a symbol of the mortar and clay bricks made by the Israelites in Egypt.

#### *ROASTED EGG (BEITZAH)*

Leader: The egg is a symbol of the suffering and oppression in Egypt and the festival offering that was sacrificed along with the Passover lamb. Everything else in boiling water becomes soft or disintegrates, but an egg becomes hard, like the Israelites. The more it is boiled, the harder it becomes. An egg also symbolizes New Life.

#### *THE PASSOVER MEAL (Z'ROA)*

*The LORD will provide The Lamb*

Leader: God told Moses for them to take a lamb four days before its slaughter. Christ entered Jerusalem on Sunday - four days before His crucifixion. Both took place on the 14th day of the month Abib. In Exodus 12:6, the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel were to kill their lambs. This was not done by a priest. Everyone was to witness and be responsible for the death of the lamb. Just as we are all responsible for the death of The Lamb on the cross. It was our sins that crucified Him. Lamb was to be roasted whole - no broken bones. Christ was crucified and

died with no broken bones - even though the soldiers were sent out to break His leg bones to hasten His death.

**Reading #12: Gen. 22:1-14**

*(singing while eating)*

**Reading #13: John 1:29; 1 Cor. 5:7; Rev. 5:12**

*(singing while eating)*

***EATING THE AFIKOMAN (TZAPHUN) AND DRINKING THE THIRD CUP***

**Leader:** Traditionally, the children search for the afikoman. The leader redeems it by giving a coin to the one who finds it. We now eat it with lamb and drink our third cup, the “cup of redemption,” remembering The Lamb who redeemed us.

*(singing)*

**All:** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe,  
who creates the fruit of the vine.

**Leader:** There is usually an empty place left for Elijah. ELIJAH'S CUP traditionally is filled at this point and the youngest member of the household opens the door. Elijah was prophesied to appear before the Messiah in Malachi 4. The door is opened to see if Elijah will come to bring God's promised savior to the people. Israel still waits for the Messiah, but we know that the Messiah has already come. Jesus is the Savior God promised, not only for Israel, but for the whole world.

**Reading #14: 1 Peter 1:15-16, 18-21**

**Reading #15: Psalm 136** (join in at the end of each phrase with “for his steadfast love endures forever)

***THE FOURTH CUP: PRAISE (HALLEL)***

**Leader:** We come to the fourth and last cup. This cup tells of God's promise to gather a people to Himself. God has delivered us from slavery to sin by the Cross of Christ. Seeing the Blood of Jesus on the doorposts of our hearts, death will pass over us as well. Therefore, God will gather us into the promised land of heaven where there is a new and eternal Jerusalem. We will celebrate forever the 'Wedding Feast of the Lamb'.

**All:** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe for the fruit of the vine, for the produce of the field, and for the precious, good and spacious land which You have favored to give as an heritage to our fathers, to eat of its fruit and be filled by its goodness. For You, Lord, are good and do good to all, and we thank You. O Pure One in heaven above, restore the congregation of Israel in Your love. Bring them to the fullness of the knowledge of our beloved Messiah, your only-begotten Son Jesus, and to the fullness of the Redemption. Speedily lead Your redeemed people to Zion in Joy.

**Leader:** Ended is the Passover Seder.