

**Celebrant:** A place is left for Jesus who is with us by his Spirit, who will be with us bodily and will be part of that great final Feast in Revelation 19:1-8.



After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying,

**Everyone: Hallelujah!**  
**Salvation and glory and power to our God,**  
**For his judgements are true and just;**  
**Hallelujah!**  
**For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.**  
**Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory,**  
**For the marriage of the Lamb has come,**  
**And his bride has made herself ready;**  
**To her it has been granted to be clothed**  
**With fine linen, bright and pure –**  
**For the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.**

***Glasses to be filled for the fourth cup***

**Celebrant:** This is known as the cup of completion. Passover normally ends with the words 'Next year in Jerusalem' but may our hope be that Jesus will return and that all Israel will be saved. 'Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Creator of the fruit of the Vine.'

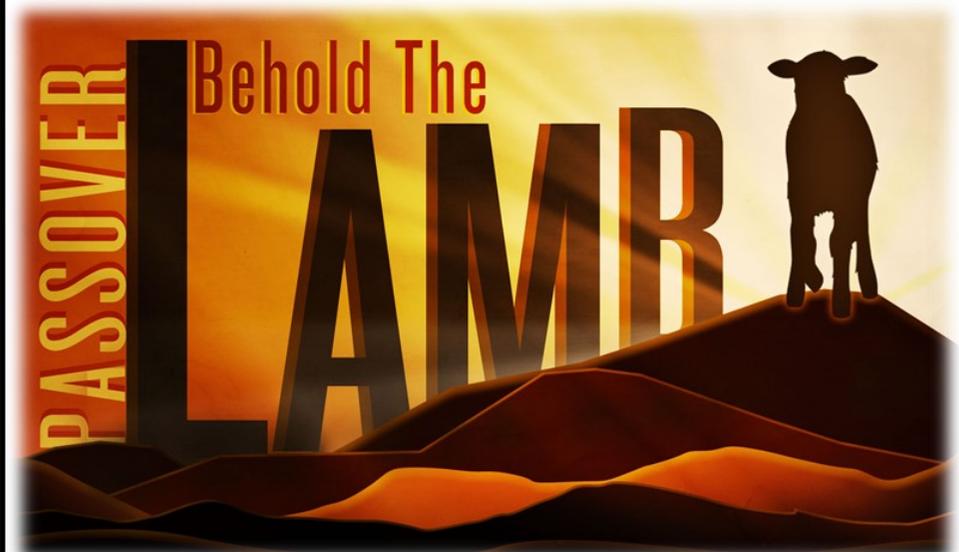
***All to drink the fourth cup***

**9<sup>th</sup> Reading – Hebrews 13:20-21** (*Everyone join in*)

May the God of peace,  
who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
the great shepherd of the sheep,  
by the blood of the eternal covenant,  
make you complete in everything good  
so that you may do his will,  
working among us that which is pleasing in his sight,  
through Jesus Christ,  
to whom be the glory for ever and ever.  
Amen

**(Based on 'Passover Celebration' published by CMJ)**

# A Modern Day Passover Celebration



## INTRODUCTION

Passover is an annual festival to celebrate the Exodus from Egypt. Celebrated by Jews all over the world.

### Why are we celebrating today?

Jesus' last meal with his disciples was a Passover Seder from which he instituted the Lord's Supper.

The focal point of the meal is the Seder plate which has the following items:



Item	Represents
Parsley	hyssop
Bitter herbs—horseradish and crisp lettuce or celery	bitterness of slavery
Small bowl of salt water	tears of slaves
Hard boiled egg	hardness of life
Lamb shank bone (could use some other bone or cardboard shape)	Paschal lamb
Three Matzoh crackers or some other crackers	unleavened bread
Charoset (see recipe)	mixture representing bricks in Egypt.

redemption from the Egyptian bondage; henceforth, when you perform this action, thank God for your redemption from a greater bondage, the bondage of sin. 'This do' no more in remembrance of Egypt but 'in remembrance of me.' 11

### Celebrant

Let us eat together from the matza which was hidden, the afikomen, the last piece of the meal to be eaten.

**Children:** distribute pieces of the matza.

**Celebrant:** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

**All drink from the third cup together**

### 8th Reading – Matthew 26:30

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

### Song (optional)

From heav'n you came, helpless babe,  
entered our world, your glory veiled;  
not to be served but to serve,  
and give your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,  
he calls us now to follow him,  
to bring our lives as a daily offering  
of worship to the Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears,  
my heavy load he chose to bear;  
his heart with sorrow was torn,  
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

Come see his hands and his feet,  
the scars that speak of sacrifice,  
hands that flung stars into space  
to cruel nails surrendered.

So let us learn how to serve,  
and in our lives enthrone him;  
each other's needs to prefer,  
for it is Christ we're serving.

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950) 1983 Kingsway's Thankyou Music

**Celebrant:** Thus did Hillel during the time the Holy Temple stood. He took the unleavened bread and bitter herbs and ate them together that he might perform what is said, 'with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs shall they eat it.' **All eat sandwich**

**Celebrant:** Let us together eat the eggs to begin our meal. In this way we celebrate the feast of life. And then let us all enjoy our meal.

## THE PASSOVER MEAL

**When the meal has finished the children look for the afikomen**

### THE BLESSING AFTER THE MEAL

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Reading – Deuteronomy 8:10

When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God.

**Celebrant:** Brothers and sisters, let us give a blessing.

**Everyone: Blessed be the name of the Lord for ever and ever.**

**Celebrant:** Traditionally this cup is known as 'the cup of redemption'. Brothers and sisters, we move into this part of the seder aware that at about this stage Jesus began to move into the deepest mystery of all. He must have shocked his disciples with His interpretation of this third cup and the afikomen. Let us move forward with Him.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Reading – 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you that the Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, broke it and said, 'This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Reading

With hindsight the disciples might have understood what Jesus said as 'Up to this time whenever you broke the bread it reminded you of the bread of affliction which your fathers ate in Egypt; but henceforth when you break the bread let it remind you of the breaking of my body which is going to take place for you tomorrow on the cross.

In the past, whenever you broke the bread, you thanked God for your

### To make Charoset:

2 firm eating apples (Granny Smith or similar)  
1/2cup of raisons (these are substitute for walnuts which are usually used)  
1/2 teaspoon of cinnamon  
2-3 table spoons red grape juice  
1 tablespoon of honey

Peel the apples and remove the core . Discard the core and peel and grate the apple. Put all the ingredients into a bowl and mix well.

During the meal together you will drink from four cups of grape juice or wine These remind us of the promises made to the Israelites:

**Cup of Sanctification** – I will bring you out

**Cup of Praise and Deliverance** – I will rescue you

**Cup of Blessing and Redemption** – I will redeem you

**Cup of Completion** – I will take you as my people

In a Jewish household the whole house would be cleaned of any leaven (yeast products). The mother would do this before the Passover and the father would search and if he found any would burn it the next day.

### You will also need:

Candles or T-lights

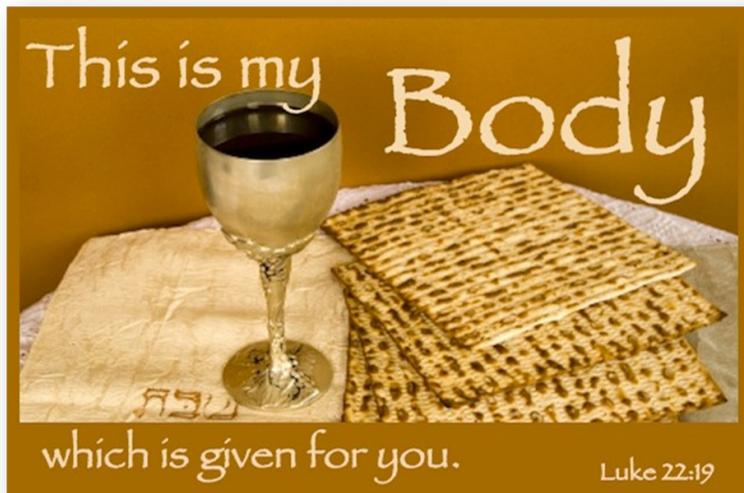
Napkins

You will need a spare place at the table.

A bowl, towel and jug of water.

You will need to appoint a celebrant who take the lead.

If you are doing this with children take a piece of Matzoh or cracker and hide it for the children to find.



## CELEBRATION

### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Luke 22:14-16

When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.'

### Lighting the Festival Candles

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us by your commandments and commanded us to kindle the festival lights.

### Blessing the Grape Juice—all glasses to be filled with juice or wine

#### Celebrant:

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who created the fruit of the vine.

Let us also give thanks for this Passover feast which remembers the departure from Egypt and freedom of the children of Israel from slavery. Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us and enabled us to reach this season.

### Everyone to drink from the first cup.

## RITUAL HAND OR FOOT WASHING

(Washing of the hands or feet begins)

#### Celebrant

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who hast sanctified us with thy commandments.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Reading – John 13:1&4-5

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.



### Spend a moment washing one another's feet or hands

## BLESSING FOR DAILY BREAD AND UNLEAVENED BREAD

### Celebrant -taking the matzoh and holding it high

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us with your commandments and commanded us to eat unleavened bread.

Blessed art thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

### The Celebrant takes pieces of the lettuce and dips them in the charoset and gives to each person, but we do not eat yet.

**Celebrant:** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has sanctified us by Your commandments and commanded us to eat bitter herbs.

### Each person takes two small pieces of matzoh, with horseradish between them, and then dips in into the charoset. All hold the sandwich during the blessing.

**Everyone:**  
**Why? Because even the suffering of our enemies pains us. God himself is grieved at the wickedness of those who oppose him, and therefore the need for Judgment.**

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**Children**  
**As the children name the plagues the adults dip a finger in their grape juice and drop it on their napkin**

<b>Blood</b>	<b>Flies</b>	<b>Hail</b>	<b>Slaying of</b>
<b>Frogs</b>	<b>Pestilence</b>	<b>Locusts</b>	<b>the firstborn</b>
<b>Gnats</b>	<b>Boils</b>	<b>Darkness</b>	

These are the ten plagues which God brought on the Egyptians:

**Song (optional)**

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul,  
 Worship His holy name,  
 Sing like never before,  
 O my soul, I'll worship Your holy name.*



The sun comes up it's a new day dawning,  
 it's time to sing your song again,  
 whatever many pass and whatever lies before me,  
 let me be singing when the evening comes.

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger,  
 Your name is great and Your heart is kind,  
 for all Your goodness I will keep on singing,  
 ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

And on that day when my strength is failing,  
 the end draws near and my time has come,  
 still my soul will sing Your praise unending –  
 ten thousand years and then forevermore.

Thankyou Music (Admin. By Integrity Music) worshiptogether.com. songs (Admin. By Integrity Music)

**Celebrant:**

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Creator of the fruit of the Vine.

**All drink the second cup**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – Exodus 3: 1-10**

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush, he looked and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burnt up.'

When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land; a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, and Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.'

**WASHING THE HANDS** - only the Celebrant washes their hands here

**Ritual dipping of the Parsley**

**The Celebrant takes a piece of parsley, dips it in the salty water and gives it to each person present, remembering the years of slavery.**

**Celebrant:** Blessed are You. O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Creator of the fruit of the Earth. - **everyone eats the parsley**

## TELLING THE STORY

*Glasses are filled a second time, but we do not drink yet*

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading – Exodus 12:1-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household.

If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one, the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.

Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs.

You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord.

The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

**Celebrant:** Why is this night different from all other nights?

**Children:**

on all other nights we may eat leavened or unleavened bread;  
on all other nights we may eat any species of herbs,  
but on this night only bitter herbs;  
on all other nights we do not dip even once,  
but on this night twice;  
on all other nights we eat and drink sitting or leaning,  
but on this night we all lean.

**Everyone: Why?**

**To remember that we were all slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, and that if the Lord had not brought our fathers out, they and we and all our children would still be there in bondage.**

**Song (Optional)**

There is a Redeemer,  
Jesus, God's own Son,  
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Holy One.

*Thank you, O my Father,  
for giving us your son,  
and leaving your Spirit  
till the work on earth is done.*

Jesus, my Redeemer,  
name above all names,  
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
O for sinners slain.

When I stand in glory,  
I will see his face,  
and there I'll serve my King for ever,  
in that holy place.



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**Celebrant:** Our own hard hearts can separate us from God's rich blessings – though not from his love – if we refuse to submit to him in love and obedience. The Lord comes in judgment on people, as he did on Pharaoh and the Egyptians. As we remember the ten plagues, for each plague mentioned we dip a finger into our grape juice & spill that drop of juice on our plates.