

# SEDER SUPPER

## JEWISH/CHRISTIAN CELEBRATION OF PASSOVER

### NEEDED:

ROAST LAMB & / SHANK BONE  
PARSLEY  
RADISHES  
BOILED EGGS  
1 ROASTED EGG  
APPLES  
CINNAMON  
HONEY  
CHOPPED WALNUTS  
MATZAH  
PURPLE/RED GRAPE JUICE  
SALT WATER  
WHITE CANDLES IN HOLDERS  
FRESH FLOWERS  
GRAPES  
PITA BREAD  
SEDER PLATE / LARGE PLATTER

## **HAROSSET (APPLE MIXTURE)**

**FOR 12-18 PEOPLE (reduce quantities as needed)**

1 1/2 C. CHOPPED APPLES

1 1/2 C CHOPPED NUTS

3 TSP. CINNAMON

3 T. SUGAR / HONEY

RED GRAPE JUICE (WINE) FOR MIXING

BLEND/MIX TOGETHER

## **Seder Introduction**

Each year at Springtime, the Jewish People all over the world gather around their family tables to celebrate the Feast of Passover. After joyfully preparing the ritual foods for the service, they recite ancient prayers and sing Psalms. They taste the foods which are rich in meaning and flavor. They retell and remember their story- the journey of the Hebrew people, their journey from slavery in Egypt to freedom in their homeland. They celebrate a God who has delivered them and made them His own chosen people.

The Jewish Passover begins tomorrow at sundown.

Each year at Springtime, Catholic Christians all over the world gather in their Churches during Holy Week to celebrate the Paschal Feast at the Table of the Lord. Throughout the Triduum celebrations, we also pray ancient prayers, sing the Psalms, and listen to the retelling of the Exodus story and read once again Christ's Passion, the story of God's saving power through the sacrifice of Jesus, our Paschal Lamb. We also, will eat the ritual foods, His Bread of Life in the Eucharistic Feast. We also, celebrate deliverance from our own slavery to sin, our death to sin, and journey to New Life with Jesus' Resurrection. We celebrate Passover with each Mass and every time we receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

Tonight/Today we will participate in a Jewish-Christian Passover Seder. We do not pretend to be Jewish or to mimic the Jewish Passover service. However, we will recite parts of the Jewish Passover service and taste of the ritual foods. We will hear the story of our ancestors' deliverance from slavery to freedom. By participating in this Seder, we hope to better appreciate what a wondrous and mighty thing God has done for us in giving us freedom from sin and New Life with Him. In this service you will begin to notice similarities between this Jewish ritual meal and our own Eucharistic meal at Mass.

Please take just a minute to pass a portion of all the ritual foods to each member of your family. You will be instructed throughout the service as to when to taste the food and when to take a sip of juice.

*Assign parts of the service as needed to fit your family size.*

# **THE SEDER SERVICE**

## ***A JEWISH-CHRISTIAN PASSOVER MEAL***

### **Lighting of the Festival Candles**

**Hostess / Mother** (lights candles and prays):

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.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has permitted us to live and has kept us safe and brought us to this holy season.

May our home be made Yours, O God, by shining upon us in blessing and bringing us peace.

**All:** Christ, the Light of the World, be with us.

### **Blessing of the Feast**

**All:** sing or say ***Shalom*** (“*peace*”)

Shalom, O my friends, Shalom, O my friends

Shalom, Shalom.

We’re glad you are here. We’re glad you are here.

Shalom, Shalom.

**Leader / Father:**

Praise to You, Lord, for in Your great love for us, You have given us feasts- joy-filled holy days and holidays. You gave us this special feast of the Passover to remind us of the freedom you gave us and our forefathers when You brought them out of the land of Egypt. You let them know Your steadfast love. This love You made known and continue to make known to us in Christ.

### **Kiddush: Blessing of the Wine**

**Leader (holds glass up):**

Let us give praise to God! Bless You, O Lord our God, for the grapevine and for its fruit.

Let us eat and drink and be satisfied.

Thank you for bringing us to this night. Continue to show us Your love by letting us live through other seasons and holy days.

We will sing new songs of praise to You.

**All (lift glass):**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who created a thing of beauty and good taste, the fruit of the vine.

(all take a sip)

### **Karpas and Maror: The Green Herbs and Bitter Herbs**

**Youngest Child:**

On other nights we eat all types of vegetables and use various other dressings;  
Why tonight do we eat especially the bitter herbs and dip our herbs in salt water?

**Leader:**

The karpas, the green herbs, remind us of Spring and the Maror, bitter herbs, remind us of the bitterness of the slavery which our Jewish fathers experienced during their slavery in Egypt.

The salt water reminds us of our tears, when we cried out to God and God heard us  
And helped us. He continues to do so even now.

**All:** (dip a green herb (parsley or celery) and a bitter herb (radish) in the salt water)  
Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the Universe, who gave us all the fruits  
of the soil.

(all eat the herbs)

### **The Beytza Egg**

**Second Youngest child:**

What is the meaning of the Beytza?

**Leader (holds up the roasted egg):**

The Beytza is the roasted egg offered at the Temple of Jerusalem at the Passover Festival. It symbolizes the continuous cycle of life.

(All take a bite of egg)

## **Matzo /Matzah: The Bread**

**Leader (unwraps a piece of unleavened bread or Matzo and lifts it):**

This is the poor bread that our fathers ate in the land of Egypt.

Let anyone who is hungry come in and eat;

Let anyone in need come and celebrate the Passover with us.

God showed His steadfast love for us;

We wish to share love with others.

May God help us to know His love.

**Fourth Youngest Child:**

Why is this night different from all other nights? On this night we eat bread without yeast in it. Why, this evening, do we eat unleavened bread?

**Leader:**

In their haste to leave the slavery of Egypt, the Jews had no time to wait for the yeast to cause the bread to rise, so they made bread without yeast.

(Leader breaks bread / matzo, and then each person takes a piece and holds it)

**Leader:**

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

(all eat a piece of bread )

**Leader (dips another piece of bread into the Haroset & all do the same):**

We dip our bread into the Haroset, the sweet apple mixture, to remind us of the mortar the Jewish slaves used between the bricks when building the Pharaoh's cities.

This sweet mixture also reminds us that God can bring sweetness into even the bitterest of circumstances.

## **The Hagadah:**

### **The Story of Our Freedom and Deliverance from Egypt**

**Third Youngest Child:**

On other nights we eat without any special festivities.

Why, on this night do we hold this Passover celebration?

**Leader (tells the story of Exodus):**

We were once slaves in Egypt. But God, our Father, saw our suffering. He heard our cries and led us out of slavery. He led us into the desert and lived among us, showing us great signs and wonders. When we were hungry, He fed us with manna. When we were thirsty, He gave us water. He led us into the Promised Land. And in His great Love for us, He made a covenant with us. God said, "I will be your God and you will be my people." We agreed and the Lord made us His people.

**Hostess:**

Just as our Jewish forefathers experienced God's continuing action and concern, from the time of their deliverance from Egypt through the wondering in the desert, we experience God's love throughout our lives. He hears us when we pray. He has made a New Covenant with us through Jesus' death and resurrection. Jesus said, "I have loved you just as my Father has loved me. Live on in my love... Love one another as I have loved you."

**Zeroah: The Lamb Bone**

**Youngest Child:**

What is the meaning of the Zeroah?

**Leader (holds up the leg bone of Lamb):**

The Zeroah represents the paschal lamb. Our forefathers sacrificed the paschal lamb to the Lord on the night when the hand of death struck the first born male in every Egyptian family. Our Jewish families were spared by sprinkling the blood of a sacrificed lamb over their doorposts, so the angel of death would pass over their home. The Jews passed over from death to freedom.

**Hostess:**

At the Last Supper, Christ and his apostles celebrated their Passover meal or Seder meal a day early. Then on Good Friday, at the very hour that the paschal lambs were being sacrificed in the Temple, Jesus, the Lamb of God, was being sacrificed on a cross to save us from death. The Old Covenant between God and His people was sealed by the blood of lambs; but the New Covenant was sealed by the Blood of the Lamb of God, God's Son, Christ the Messiah.

(All stand for the Hallel)

**The "Hallel"**

**The Psalms of Praise and Prayers of Thanksgiving for Deliverance from Egypt**

**Reader:** Hallelujah! Praise, O you servants of the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord!

**All:** Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forever.

**Men:** From the rising of the sun, to the going down thereof; The Lord's name is to be praised!

**Women:** The Lord is high above all nations; His glory is above the Heavens.

**Men:** Who is like the Lord, our God, that is enthroned on high.

**Women:** He looks down upon heaven and earth.

**Men:** Who raises up the poor out of the dust; and lifts up the needy out of the dunghill.

**Women:** That He may set him with princes; even with princes of His people.

**Men:** Who makes the barren women to dwell in her house; as a joyful mother of children.

**Women:** Hallelujah!

**Reader:** Israel came forth out of Egypt; the house of Jacob from a people of strange language.

**All:** Judah became His sanctuary; Israel His dominion.

**Leader:**

Please be seated. Our Seder is now complete, just as our redemption is complete. We rejoice with thanksgiving, until we meet again "next year in Jerusalem." In keeping with the custom, raise your cup and drink.

**All:** Next year in Jerusalem!

## **The Festival Meal** **The Solemn Blessing and Eating of the Meal**

**Leader:** We have discovered much about the Passover and Exodus from Egypt through the retelling of this story. We tell the story again and again each year. Jesus, also celebrated the Passover every year. He transformed the Jewish Passover meal into the celebration of our Eucharistic Meal. Now we come to the Table of the Lord to eat of the Paschal Lamb and drink of His Blood, and we tell the story of His sacrifice each time we celebrate the Eucharist together at Mass.

(All raise your cup and take another sip.)



**Hostess:**

May the Lord bless this meal we are about to eat and grant that our sharing of this Seder meal bring us together in a communion of faith and love.

Amen.

*All eat and enjoy a meal. Remain seated for the final blessing.*

**Leader (extends hands over the family and prays the blessing from Numbers 6:24-26):**

*“May the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and have mercy on you. May the Lord look upon you and give you peace.”*

**All: Amen**