

CHRISTIAN SEDER

To our Jewish neighbors, Passover is the greatest feastday of the Year. The celebration centers on the Seder meal. Easter is our Christian Passover and our Mass is a celebration of the Last Supper which was a seder meal with our Jewish Jesus. It is entirely proper that Christian families celebrate this traditional meal of freedom during Holy Week or Easter time. This Christian format is presented to help you in your celebration. Remember, Passover is a celebration of freedom. Do not get all tied up with details. Feel free to adapt to fit your family customs.

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Elements of a Seder Meal

1. Best linen and china. Best dress cloths.
2. Copies of this "Haggadah" for everyone.
3. Matza; unleavened bread. Buy or make your own, or use flat bread.
4. Bitter herbs. Radishes
5. Wooden cross centerpiece with flowers. (Instead of bare shank bone)
6. Karpus; a green salad in small bowls.
7. Waytzah; hard boiled eggs
8. Charoset; peanut and raisin mix.
9. Wine glasses and drink; wine or grape juice or spiced apple juice.
10. Invited guests
11. Bible
12. Urchatz; We use holy water
13. Candles; 7 arranged on table.
14. Good meal
15. Participants:
 - A. Mother, or older woman
 - B. Oldest daughter, or any woman guest.
 - C. Father, or presider
 - D. Oldest son, or guest
 - E. Child, or children
 - F. Reader
 - G. All others present

Our Ritual Meal

All stand around table for opening Scripture Reading. _____(name) Reader: Matthew 26:17-20 Moment of silence, then all sit down.

Presider: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Presider: Passover and Easter are our greatest celebrations of freedom. Passover celebrates God's deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt. Passover is the great foreshadowing of Christ's deliverance of us from the eternal captivity of darkness and evil.

All: Jesus is truly the Light of the World.

Mother: (In Hebrew) Bahruk Attah Adon Eloheynu..Blessed are you Lord God, Our creator and Savior. You light up our lives and set us free. (*Mother and older daughter light the candles.*)

Mother: Jesus, Light of the World, bless our family and guests and free us of all our fears.

All: Amen.

Kiddesh (first cup)

Reader: There will be 4 ceremonial glasses of refreshment during this meal. Let us hold our glasses high for the blessing.

Older son: A reading from Luke 22:17(read the verse)

All: Click glasses and say,"Thank you Jesus." All drink.

Urchatz--(ritual cleansing)

Reader: It was during this segment that Jesus washed the apostles' feet. We of the New Covenant will bless one another with holy water in remembrance of our cleansing Baptism.

All: Pass around holy water and bless those near us with the words, "May you be cleansed of all evil in Jesus' holy name." Answer,"Amen."

Karpas--(salad greens)

Reader: Salad greens remind us of Springtime. Like the first Passover with Moses ,was a new springtime of hope for God's people, so in a deeper way the first Easter with Jesus was a new Springtime of hope for all humankind. Let's raise our salads for a Blessing.

Presider: May Jesus our eternal Springtime bless this salad and all of us who eat of it. May we never loose sight of the great hope He puts into our hearts today.

All: Amen.(Eat salad)

Yahatz--(breaking bread)

Presider: Break's bread into enough pieces for all and passes it around.

All: Hold bread for blessing.

Older son: a reading of St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians Chapter 11 verses 23 and 24. (Read verses)

Moment of silence, and then eat bread.

At this point older daughter goes to door and opens it for a moment as a sign that the poor are welcome to share our food.

Maggid--(the 4 questions)

Child: What is so special about this meal?

Presider: This meal is special because we remember that God wants us to be free. He used mighty miracles to bring the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. This was just a sample of the freedom He brought us through Jesus. Always remember Jesus is our Savior. A savior is someone who sets people free. Religion should never be seen as something that binds and restricts anything good in our lives. Second cup : Click; "To Christian freedom"

Reader: Exodus 12:1-8 + vs.14

Takes holy water and traces a cross on the door posts as a sign of the blood of the lamb. (*Of Exodus 12:7*)

Child: Why do we have these special radishes?

Presider: The radishes are our bitter herb. They remind us of the suffering of the people in Egypt. Today sinful habits are another kind of slavery that causes suffering

All: Sin brings suffering that robs us of the freedom that Jesus won for us on the cross. We must be aware of sin.

All: Eat a piece of radish.

Child: What is this for? (Point to raisin and peanut mix)

Presider: This is our Charoset, a traditional part of Jewish seder. It represents the gravel used by the Hebrews in making mud bricks for the Egyptian slave drivers before God set them free. It tastes good to remind us that truly free people find good in every situation.

Child: Why do we have Easter Eggs at this meal?

Presider: Eggs are a sign of new life. That makes them perfect symbols for Passover and Easter time. We Christians who have a personal relationship with the risen Jesus activate His new life within us.

Reader: In Old Testament times a spotless lamb that was sacrificed in the Temple was brought home for the Passover meal. Jews today traditionally have an empty shank bone of a lamb as a reminder of the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD. For us Christians, Jesus is the spotless Lamb of God, who was sacrificed for our freedom. He is not missing from this meal. Instead of an empty shank bone, we have this wooden cross for our centerpiece.

All: Raise cups to Cross and say, " All praise and Thanksgiving to Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior." Sip.

(guest) Story of the Four Sons

Scripture commands we pass on the message of God to each new generation. In Jewish tradition they tell of four sons who respond to God's word in different ways. One son is wise, one is worldly, one is fearful, and one is foolish.

The wise son asks, "What are the rules and traditions that lead me to be all God created me to be?"

The worldly son asks as an outside observer, "What does scripture mean to all you religious people?"

The fearful son asks, "What is the easiest way to escape punishment?"

The foolish son does not even care enough to ask a question.

Reader: We have seven gems to always remember.

1. Passover, Holy Week, Easter, and the whole Christian message are about freedom.
2. God is designer and maker of everything and each of us. He knows best how we work. His commands are manufacturer's directions for successful operation.
3. Our highest purpose is to praise God. That's why God gave us free will. Praise is meaningless unless freely chosen.
4. This freedom makes us capable of choosing sin. Sin, however, always erodes our freedom in some way. All sin enslaves us to some degree.
5. Forgiveness restores freedom lost by sin; Our forgiveness of others and God's forgiveness of us.
6. Our freedom or slavery in life becomes fixed forever in death.
7. Jesus is God's only provision for our everlasting escape from slavery. He is our only way to the eternal freedom in God's Kingdom.
 - (A) The events of Holy Week and Easter are intimately involved with our salvation as individuals and as a people.
 - (B) The explanation and means of this salvation comes down through the years from Christ by means of His Church and Bible.
 - (C) Church and Bible are incomplete without each other.
 - (D) Jesus rose and never died again. That's a fact. He is physically alive today in His people united as Church by His Holy Spirit.
 - (E) Jesus is the only one free enough to go to Heaven. Only by somehow being part of His Mystical Body, can we make it to the eternal freedom the Father created us to enjoy.
 - (F) We can have a personal relationship with Jesus that comforts and assures our hearts, and prepares us for the great Passover banquet to come.

HALLEL--(Psalm 113)

- Men** Praise the Lord all you servants of the Lord. Praise the Name of the Lord.
- Women** Blessed be His name, now and forever.
- Men** From sun up to sun down, let His holy name be sung.
- Women** He is ruler of all the World. He is king of the Universe. There is no one like our God.
- Men** He looks down to the Heavens and Earth. When we are in trouble, He lifts us up and sets us in a place of honor.
- Women** The Lord rewards us with wonderful children.
- All** Praise the Lord, our Savior.

HA-MOTZI--(BLESSING OF FOOD)

Presider: Blessed are you , our Creator and Savior. With confidence we call your blessing on this gathering and the good food you have provided. Grant that we who share this Passover banquet may, without exception, sit together one day at your eternal banquet. In Jesus' holy name. Amen. ____All: Amen and amen. Thank you, Lord.

Presider: We now begin our supper with the traditional egg.

Presider: Let us enjoy our food and fellowship.

After meal:

Reader: In modern Jewish Seder the Children look for a hidden piece of bread called Afikomen. This is related to the missing Passover lamb. For Christians the Lamb of God is not missing. Jesus is alive among us,so this is a good time for children to put on a little skit, song, choral reading, or other presentation.

Elijah Cup.

Presider: In Jewish tradition an extra cup is poured at this time for the prophet Elijah in hope he will come to announce the messiah.

Presider: As Christians we look for the second coming of Jesus in Glory.

All: Hold up cup and say,"Come Lord Jesus, Come again in Glory."

_____ & _____ (guests) At this time, parents or grandparents may tell brief stories of family history and traditions. Some families will want to witness to how the Lord worked in the family, or of the importance of God and Church to our ancestors.

DAYYENU-(closing ceremony)

Stand with cups, or go to front room.

Dayyenu, pronounced dah-yeh-noo, means, "It would have been enough."

Raise cups for proclamations and sip between each.

Presider: Had God just saved us from slavery and not taken care of us in the wilderness.

All: Dayyenu dayyenu, we would have deserved no more.

Presider: Had He just fed us manna and not made us His Chosen People.

All: Dayyenu dayyenu, we would have deserved no more.

Presider: Had He sent prophets or angels and not His only son ,Jesus.

All: Dayyenu dayyenu, we would have deserved no more

Presider: Had Jesus just taught us and not died for our sins.

All: ayyenu dayyenu, we would have deserved no more.

Presider: Had He died but not risen to free us from death.

All: Dayyenu dayyenu, we would have deserved no more.

Presider: Had He freed us in resurrection, but not sent His Holy Spirit.

All: Dayyenu dayyenu, we would have deserved no more.

Presider: Had he sent His Spirit but not become alive in us.

All: Dayyenu dayyenu, we would have deserved no more.

Presider: Had He lived in us but not set a place for us at His eternal supper.

All: Dayyenu dayyenu, Praise be to you Lord God. We are free. We are saved. It is true. It is true.
Thank You Lord. Amen