



Passover tells the story of the Israelites' journey from slavery to freedom. You can taste and feel how different Passover is from any other night of the year. It is a celebration of Freedom. It is the night of liberation! In the Christian tradition Holy Thursday commemorates the night Jesus brought his disciples together to celebrate Passover. He knew it would be their last meal together. It too was different from any other night for it would include the offering of Christ's presence, in the form of bread and cup, to sustain and encourage the disciples until He would come again. Tonight we share the bread and cup, the symbols of the Seder and the washing of hands – all signs that point to God's love for us and the power of this Holy Week.

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VISION: Exploring Faith, Embracing Community
MISSION: Inviting All, Finding Your Place, Connecting to God, Demonstrating Care

☞ WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY ☞

***Praise Gathering**

SABBATH PRAYER

May the Lord protect and defend you.
May He always shield you from shame.
May you come to be in Yisroel a shining name.

May you be like Ruth and like Esther.
May you be deserving of praise.
Strengthen them, O Lord, and keep them from the stranger's ways.
{The MUSIC continues under the reading}

Candles:

Myra Kramer (*from the pulpit*)

Before sunset, candles would be lighted, often by the mother and this prayer offered:
O God, may the rays of these festival candles cast their glow upon the earth and bring the radiance of your divine light to all who still dwell in darkness and in bondage. May this season, marking the deliverance of our ancestors from Pharaoh, arouse us against anyone who keeps humankind in servitude. In gratitude for the freedom that is ours, may we strive to bring about the liberation of all humanity. Amen. (Myra lights candles on the "Seder" table)

May God bless you, and grant you long lives.
May God make you good mothers and wives.

May the Lord protect and defend you.
May the Lord preserve you from pain.
Favor them, O Lord, with happiness and peace,
O, hear our Sabbath prayer, Amen.

Hand Washing *Hand washing stations are set around the sanctuary space. Everyone is welcomed to participate.*

Song of Service

THESE HANDS

The sun and moon and ev'ry star are there to show me who You are.
I can be sure Your fingerprints are everywhere.
My every move, my every breath were meant to point to Your greatness.
There's nothing made that was not made to show Your power.

*These hands were made to praise You, these lips were made to lift You up.
I give to You my life in worship.
These feet were made to serve You, this tongue to sing of Your great love.
I give to You my life in worship.*

A tender thought, a caring deed, a gift of love to one in need;
Bringing honest acts of worship to You, Lord. (Chorus 2X)

Lifting holy hands in worship to You, Lord;
God, receive this humble sacrifice of praise. {Refrain}

TAG: *I give to You my life in worship.* ¹

Opening Blessing:

The first act of the Jewish Passover meal is a blessing. Vicky (*from the pulpit*)

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine.
Blessed are you, Lord God, who has chosen us among all peoples and sanctified us with Your commandments. In love you have given us solemn days of joy and festive seasons of gladness, even this day of the feast of the unleavened bread, a memorial of the departure

from Egypt. You have chosen us for Your service. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who has preserved us, and brought us to this season.

The Four Questions – Mah Nishtanah

Myra

The Passover Haggadah revolves around the four questions and four answers that are used to tell the salvation story. A child would ask a question, to be answered by a parent or an adult.

First Question

#1 Chase – Why is this night different from all other nights?

On all other nights we eat leavened products and matzah, on this night only matzah.

WHY?

George – chants the answer in Hebrew

Sadie – (Matzah) This is the bread of affliction which our fathers ate in the land of Egypt.

Let all who are hungry come and eat. Let all who are in need come and celebrate the Passover with us. May it be God's will to redeem us from all trouble and all servitude.

Second Question

#2 – Chase - Why is this night different from all other nights?

On all other nights we eat all vegetables, and on this night only bitter herbs. WHY?

George chants the 2nd answer in Hebrew

Bianca – (Maror) - Bitter herb (horseradish) - reminds us of the bitterness of slavery which the people endured in Egypt. They were to never forget their plight before God saved them.

Third Question

#3 Chase – Why is this night different from all other nights?

On all other nights we don't dip our food even once, and on this night we dip twice. WHY?

George – chants the 3rd answer in Hebrew

Sadie – (Karpas) – Fresh Greens

Passover was also an agricultural feast as they gave thanks for their rich bounty. However, on Passover they would eat these greens (parsley) by dipping the greens twice into the salt water that symbolized the tears of those who had been oppressed, and the hyssop dipped for sprinkling on the door posts of Hebrew dwellings, in preparation for the Exodus (Exodus 12:22).

Fourth Question

#4 Chase – Why is this night different from all other nights?

On all other nights we eat sitting or reclining, and this night we only recline. WHY?

George chants the answer to the 4th question in Hebrew

Bianca - Slaves ate standing up during the time of oppression while those they served would lie on a couch while eating. To symbolize their freedom from the bondage of slavery, on Passover they would recline leaning to the left as they ate the symbolic foods.

ANCIENT WORDS

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world;
They resound with God's own heart, O, let the ancient words impart;
Words of life, words of hope, give us strength, help us cope;
In this world where'er we roam, ancient words will guide us home.

*Ancient words, ever true, changing me, and changing you;
We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart.*

Our First Reading is taken from the Old Testament, the Book of Exodus

Exodus 12:21-24

Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb.
Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe.
Not one of you shall go out the door of his house until morning.
When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.
"Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants.

ANCIENT WORDS

Holy words of our faith handed down to this age,
Came to us through sacrifice; O heed the faithful words of Christ;
Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world;
They resound with God's own heart; O let the ancient words impart. (*refrain 2x*)

Tag: O let the ancient words impart. ²

Our Second reading is taken from the New Testament, Gospel ...please stand

**Luke 22:7-18*

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed.
Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."
"Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.
He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you.
Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'
He will show you a large upper room, all furnished.
Make preparations there."
They left and found things just as Jesus had told them.
So they prepared the Passover.
When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table.
And 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 finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."
After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you.
For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

VICKY: *Please be seated*

By faith, God's people were saved by the blood of the lamb that first Passover.

Tonight we remember the words of John the Baptist when he saw Jesus coming to be baptized? "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the Lord."

By faith, we are saved today through Christ who was willing to shed his blood for us and the world.

Glenn In the Eucharist we proclaim the words of St. Paul -
"Christ the Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore, let us keep the feast.

Remembering how, in the Passover Meal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me"

VICKY: Then, when the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

So now pour out your Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and the fruit of the vine. Make these gifts the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Glenn: By your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast, all together, at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your Holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen**

***The Lord's Prayer**

(Sung Responsively)

FWS 2278

Sharing the Meal

People will be invited to come in groups of 12 and surround the table. Once around the table, Vicky & Glenn will serve the bread with pieces of Matzah on each side of the table until all have bread and then invite them to dip the bread into the cup which will be at each place setting at the same time to symbolize our unity. After being served, a brief dismissal will be given each table.

Songs of Communion *Hungry (Falling On My Knees)*

Hungry I come to You for I know You satisfy.
I am empty but I know Your love does not run dry.
So I wait for You, so I wait for You

*I'm falling on my knees, offering all of me.
Jesus You're all this heart is living for.*

Broken, I run to You for Your arms are open wide
I am weary, but I know Your touch restores my life.
So I wait for You, so I wait for You. *(refrain 3x)*

So I wait for You, so I wait for You
So I wait for You, so I wait for You (*refrain*)

Hungry I come to You for I know You satisfy.
I am empty but I know Your love does not run dry.³

IN REMEMBRANCE

In remembrance of me, eat this bread. In remembrance of me, drink this wine.
In remembrance of me, pray for the time when God's own will is done.
In remembrance of me, heal the sick. In remembrance of me, feed the poor.
In remembrance of me, open the door and let your brother in, let him in.

Take, eat and be comforted, drink, and remember, too,
that this is my body and precious blood, shed for you, shed for you.

In remembrance of me, search for truth. In remembrance of me, always love,
in remembrance of me, don't look above, but in your heart, in your heart.
Look into your heart for God.

Do this in remembrance of me. Do this in remembrance of me.
In remembrance of me.⁴

As others are communing, the Praise Band will play then lead the congregation in the following song to conclude Holy Communion.

What Wondrous Love Is This (vs. 1, 2, & 4)

UMH 292

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.
2. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of life
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown for my soul.
4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on.

Our Service Continues

Glenn and Vicky and congregation helpers remove cross and candles to narthex table

All of the Chancel Table elements will be removed to the table in the Narthex. We wait for the celebration of Good Friday and Easter to come. Please remain in the sanctuary for prayer and meditation for as long as you want.

Special thanks to the Worship Design Team and Sadie Furman and Bianca Camiolo and Chase Reynolds and Myra Kramer and George Beckerman from Seaside Jewish Community for preparing and participating in this evening's worship service.

Holy Week Schedule

Good Friday, March 30

7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Schedule

Easter Sunday, April 1

Easter Son Rise Service at the Rehoboth Bandstand
Worship Celebration & Communion

6:15 a.m.
7:45 a.m.; 9:15 a.m.; 11:15 a.m.

Bulletins for the month of March are sponsored by Epworth.

The special Peace Candle on the Chancel shines to remind us of God's desire for peace throughout our world and our call to be God's peacemakers.

DVD and Broadcast Ministries: All Church Service at Epworth are presented using multimedia technology. The screens above the Chancel area are used for text, videos, photographs and live cameras. Each service is digitally recorded for archive purposes as well as for distribution to our homebound members on DVD. These recordings may also be broadcast or archived on our web page. Therefore, you may, at any time, be seen and recorded on camera - anywhere throughout the Sanctuary.

Praise Team Praise Team
Sound Ken Mahan, Sharon Wert, Josh Megee, Arne Jerfsten, Karen Kaufman
Ushers Head Usher: Jim Blakeslee
Usher Coordinator - Worship Pathway:

Worship Resources

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- ¹ *These Hands*: Jeff Deyo © 2000 Emack Music/Sonic Flood Music. - CCLI#3251827
² *Ancient Words*: Lynn Deshazo ©2001 Integrity's Hosanna! Music.
³ *Hungry (Falling on my Knees)*: Kathryn Scott © 1999 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire)
⁴ *In Remembrance*: Ragan Courtney / Buryl Red, © 1972 Broadman Press

Ministers: The Church Family... *Lay Leader:* Gwen Osborne
Senior Pastor: Rev. Vicky Starnes ... *Associate Pastor:* Rev. Glenn Catley
Director of Music Ministries: Doug Yetter ... *Accompanist:* Linda Hess ... *Coordinator of Caring Ministries:* Mickie McManamon
Communications & Technologies Manager: Kenneth Mahan ... *Office Manager:* Darlene Ford
Special Projects: Debbie Hunt ... *Administrative Assistant:* Diana Young ... *Sound Tech:* Josh Megee
Preschool Director: Betsy Plowman ... *Nursery:* Cathy Crawford ... *Interim Cemetery Superintendent:* Jay Stevenson
Custodian: Wanda Hudson ... *Maintenance:* Mike Harrigan



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Large-Print Bulletins & Hearing Assist Devices are Available
Please see an Usher for assistance
American Sign Language at 9:15 Service



Affiliated with other United Methodists for greater inclusiveness through the Reconciling Ministries Network
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worship@epworth
7:45 & 11:15 - Traditional 9:15 - Contemporary