

A Haggadah for A Christian Seder

(say'der)

To our Jewish neighbors, Passover is the family feastday of the year. The celebration centers around the Seder Meal. Easter is our Christian Passover and our Mass is a celebration of the Last Supper, which is a Seder Meal with our Jewish Jesus. The death of Jesus on the cross is the final and complete offering to God of what was only foreshadowed in previous centuries by the offering of the Passover Lamb.

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 celebrate our Old Testament roots and our New Testament freedom. Through Jesus we *pass over* to salvation. Passover is a celebration of freedom. Feel free to adapt this Haggadah to fit your family customs.

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Elements of a Seder Meal

1. Best linen, best china, best dress cloths. (or respectable equivalents.)
 2. Copies of this Seder Haggadah for everyone.
 3. Matzah. Bread of affliction. (unleavened bread; purchased or homemade flat bread)
 4. Maror. Bitter herbs. (radishes or horseradish)
 5. Wooden cross centerpiece. (instead of Jewish charred shank bone of a lamb.)
 6. Karpus. (bits of parsley or a green salad.)
 7. Bowls of salt water and bowls of sweet dressing.
 8. Waytzah. (slices of Easter egg)
 9. Haroset. (Charoset) (Apple nut pudding or raisin/peanut mix.)
 10. Kiddush. Wine glasses and wine. (or grape juice, or spiced apple juice)
 11. Enthroned Bible
 12. Invited guests. (open to neighbors and to the poor and needy)
 13. Urchatz. Ritual cleansing. (we use holy water)
 14. Menorah. (or seven candles arranged on the tables)
 15. Elijah's decorated chair with fancy cup and pillow.
 16. Festive banquet. (any good meal)
 17. Participants:
 - Mother or older woman, (or seven women if candles are on separate tables)
 - Older daughter(s). (or any young woman)
 - Father (of family or a Presider) (and/or pastor)
 - Four Sons, plus an older son.
 - Children. (one to ask each question)(4 - 8)
 - Reader (s) (and one guest reader)
 - All others present.
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(Ritual meal begins.)

_____ Presider: Call to order and brief welcome..

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All; Amen

_____ Mother (s) (Candle lighting ceremony.)

Bahruk Attah Adon Eloheynu. Blessed are you Lord God. Our Creator and Savior. You light up our lives and set us free. (light candles, pause.) Jesus, light of the world, bless our family (s) and free us from all our fears.

ALL: Amen.

Reader: _____ A reading from the Holy Gospel of St. Matthew Chapter 26: verses 17-20 (pause)

ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD THE DISCIPLES ASKED JESUS, “ WHERE DO YOU WANT US TO PREPARE FOR THE PASSOVER ?” JESUS ANSWERED THEM SAYING, “GO INTO THE CITY AND FIND A CERTAIN MAN AND TELL HIM MY TIME IS AT HAND; I WANT TO KEEP THE FEAST WITH MY DISCIPLES AT YOUR HOUSE.” THE DISCIPLES DID AS JESUS ASKED AND MADE READY THE PASSOVER MEAL. WHEN EVENING CAME, JESUS SAT DOWN WITH HIS DISCIPLES AND THEY ATE TOGETHER. The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Presider: _____ *The Last Supper was a Passover Seder meal. Passover celebrates God’s deliverance of His people from their slavery in Egypt. It is the great foreshadowing of Christ’s deliverance of all of us from eternal captivity to darkness and evil.*

All: Jesus is truly the saving light of the world.

Kiddush (first cup)

Presider: _____ There will be four ceremonial cups of refreshment during this meal. Please raise your glass for the following reading.

Older Son: _____ A reading from the Holy Gospel of Luke Chapter 22: verses 14-17 (pause)

WHEN THE TIME CAME, JESUS SAT DOWN WITH HIS TWELVE APOSTLES AND SAID TO THEM, “IT IS WITH GREAT DESIRE THAT I EAT THIS PASSOVER MEAL WITH YOU BEFORE I SUFFER. I WILL NOT EAT IT AGAIN UNTIL IT IS FULFILLED IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.” THEN JESUS TOOK THE CUP AND GAVE THANKS, SAYING, “ SHARE THIS CUP AMONG YOU.”

All: Click glasses. Thank You Jesus. All drink.

Urchatz (Ritual Cleansing)

Presider: _____ It was during this next segment that Jesus washed the apostle's feet. We will symbolically cleanse one another with holy water, remembering our Baptism.

All: Pass around holy water and bless those near you on the forehead. *May you be cleansed of all evil in Jesus' holy name.* When blessed, answer: *Amen.*

Maggid (the children's questions)

Karpas (Salad Greens) Que. #1

Child: _____ **Why do we have these salad greens?**

Presider: _____ The salad greens teach us an important lesson. They remind us of springtime and new life. The first Passover was a new springtime of hope for God's people. In a deeper way the first Easter was a springtime of hope for all humankind. Easter brings us a new life with God that never ends. In this ceremony we will taste bits of green salad twice. First let us dip a bit of green salad in salt water and taste it. This represents the bitter sweat of slavery. (dip and eat.)

Now let us hold up another piece of green salad for a blessing.

Pastor: _____ (or Presider) *May Jesus, our eternal springtime, bless these greens and all of us who eat them. May we never lose sight of this great hope He puts into our hearts today.*

All: Amen (Dip your blessed salad piece in sweet dressing and eat it.)

Yahatz (breaking bread) (Matzah) Que. #2

Child: _____ **Why don't we eat regular bread at this meal?**

Presider: _____ There is a historical and a symbolic lesson in this. At the first Passover God's people left Egypt so quickly they had no time to let their bread rise, so their bread was flat. Flatbread or Matzah is now seen as the bread of the poor and of afflicted travelers and refugees. Our everyday regular bread is made with yeast, which, in this meal, is a symbol of sin. Like the bread of Holy Communion, we use unleavened bread at a Passover Seder..

Presider: _____ (or in large groups, an older man at each table breaks flatbread into enough pieces and passes it around.) Hold in hand but do not eat it yet.

Older Son: _____ A reading of St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 11: verses 23-24. FOR I'M TELLING YOU WHAT I WAS TOLD BY THE LORD, THAT JESUS, ON THE NIGHT HE WAS BETRAYED, TOOK BREAD, AND GIVING THANKS, BROKE THE BREAD AND SAID," TAKE AND EAT. THIS IS MY BODY WHICH SHALL SOON BE DELIVERED FOR YOUR BENEFIT. DO THIS IN COMMEMORATION OF ME."

Moment of silence and then eat the bread.

(A reminder is appropriate here that the full reality of what we experience in this Seder is available only in the Mass.)

Older Daughter: ----- (goes to the door and opens it for a moment as a sign that the poor and lonely are welcome at our table and in our hearts.)

Welcome! Welcome!

All: (Stand for a moment as a sign of respect for the poor, the helpless, the refugee and the homeless, and of the homebound and the lonely.)

Que. #3 Child: _____ **What is so special about this meal?** (Que. # 3.)

Presider: _____ This meal is so special because we celebrate God's gift of freedom to His people. God used mighty miracles to bring His people out of slavery in Egypt. Today we Christians celebrate an even deeper freedom brought to us by our Savior, Jesus. Always remember; a Savior is someone who sets people free. Jesus sets us free so we can become everything God created us to be. True religion never binds us or restricts anything good in our lives. God's commandments lead us to freedom.

Second cup: *Toast: To Christian freedom!* (drink)

Child: _____ **Why do we have these radishes?** (or horseradish) (Que.# 4.)

Presider: _____ The radishes are our Maror, or bitter herbs. They remind us of the hardships of God's people in Egypt. Today our sinful habits are another kind of bitter slavery that robs us of the freedom Jesus won for us .

All: *taste a bit of radish.*

Child: _____ **What is this for?** (pointing to peanut/raisin mix.) (Que. # 5.)

Presider: _____ This is our Haroset, a traditional food at a Jewish Seder. It represents the gravel used by the Hebrews in making mud bricks for their slavemasters. It tastes good to remind us that truly free people can find good, even in hardships.

All: taste Haroset.

Child: _____ *What does the wooden cross teach us?* (Que. # 6)

Presider: _____ In Old Testament times a spotless lamb was sacrificed to God in the Temple and brought home for the Passover Seder. Since the Temple was destroyed and burned by order of the Roman Emperor in the year 70 A.D., most Jews now simply display a charred lamb bone instead of an eatable lamb. A sacrifice apart from the Temple would be unthinkable to them. For us Christians, Jesus, our Spotless Lamb of God, is not missing. He was sacrificed once and for all, on the cross for our freedom from sin and hell. Instead of a charred bone, we proudly display a rugged cross for our centerpiece.

Child: _____ *Why do we have Easter eggs?* (Que. # 7.)

Presider: _____ Eggs are a sign of new life. This makes eggs a perfect symbol of Passover and Easter.

All: *Taste a bit of egg.*

Little Child: _____ (option) *What about Easter Bunny?* (Que. # 8.)

Presider: _____ That's a good question. Most of our ancient ancestors were pagans and not Jews. Easter Bunny can remind us of the many people around the world who still do not know about Jesus.

All: *Thy Kingdom come, O Lord.*

Reader: _____ A reading from the Book of Exodus, chapter 12: verses 1-8 & 14

THE LORD SPOKE TO MOSES AND AARON IN THE LAND OF EGYPT. THIS MONTH SHALL BE CONSIDERED THE FIRST MONTH OF THE YEAR. SPEAK TO THE ASSEMBLY OF ISRAELITES AND TELL THEM: ON THE TENTH DAY OF THIS MONTH, LET EVERY MAN CHOOSE A LAMB FOR HIS FAMILY. IF HIS FAMILY IS TOO SMALL TO EAT A WHOLE LAMB, HE SHOULD JOIN WITH A NEIGHBOR SO THEY CAN EAT THE WHOLE LAMB TOGETHER. CHOOSE A MALE LAMB WITHOUT BLEMISH. IT MAY BE TAKEN FROM THE SHEEP OR THE GOATS. KEEP IT UNTIL THE FOURTEENTH OF THE MONTH, AND IN THE EVENING, SACRIFICE IT TO GOD IN THE PRESENCE OF THE WHOLE FAMILY. NOW TAKE THE BLOOD OF THE SACRIFICED LAMB AND SMEAR IT ON BOTH SIDES AND THE TOP OF YOUR DOOR FRAME, AND IN THAT HOUSE EAT THE ROASTED LAMB. EAT IT WITH UNLEAVENED BREAD AND BITTER HERBS. THIS DAY SHALL BE A MEMORIAL THAT YOU KEEP AS A FEAST OF THE LORD FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS. **The Word of the Lord.**

All: *Thanks be to God.*

(now repeat verse 7.) NOW TAKE THE BLOOD AND SMEAR IT ON YOUR DOORPOSTS.

Older Son: _____ Takes holy water and traces a cross over the entrance doorposts as a sign of the protection of the Precious Blood of our Lamb, Jesus.

Guest: _____ **The Story of the four sons.** (Optional)

Scripture commands us to pass the message of God on to each new generation. Jewish tradition tells of four sons and their differing response to God's Word..

1. The Wise Son asks, "What are the traditions that help me become all God created me to be?"
2. The Worldly Son asks, as an outside observer, "What does this mean to all you religious people?"
3. The Fearful Son asks, "What is the easiest way to avoid God's punishment?"
4. The Foolish Son doesn't even care enough to ask a question.

Older Daughter (s) _____ & _____ (two, alternately) (optional)

We find Seven Gems of Wisdom to Remember.

1. *Passover, Holy Week, Easter, and the whole Christian message are about freedom.*
2. *The events of Holy Week and Easter are intimately involved with our salvation as individuals and as a united people.*
3. *A Savior is someone who sets us free. To be saved by Jesus, our Savior, means to be rescued and set free from a real captivity.*
4. *God created us all to be happy with him forever.*
5. *Somehow our human race has fallen into a slavery that separates us from our Creator. Jesus brings us the needed freedom to pursue our fulfillment in God's plan.*
6. *All Old and New Testament stories are about God's process of freeing us from this captivity to sin so we can become what we are created to be.*
7. *Jesus, in the Holy Week events, completed our rescue 2000 years ago half way around the world. We can connect to this in our day and place through Faith and Sacraments.*

All: Jesus, my Lord and Savior.

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 the 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.*

Elijah Cup

Presider: _____ In Jewish tradition a special cup is filled at this time and set before an empty chair with a fancy pillow for the prophet Elijah. This is in hope he will come to announce the Messiah. For us Christians the Messiah is Jesus, and we look forward to His coming again in glory.

Hold up cups. *Marinatha. Come Lord Jesus* (toast and drink.).

Ha-Motzi (Blessing of the Food)

Presider: _____ Blessed are You, our Creator and Savior. With confidence we call Your blessing on this gathering of Your people, and on the good food You have provided. Grant that we who share this Passover Seder may, without exception, sit together again one day at your eternal banquet. **All: Amen.**

(Option: Sing meal prayer to the tune of Amazing Grace.)

**Bless us O Lord, and these Thy gifts ... Which we do now receive.
Draw us together around this food ... And You O Lord be here.**

**Be welcome here, our brother Lord ... And through our sense enjoy
This food and folk You so enjoyed ... In Galilee of old.**

**And Lord, through Your amazing grace ... Please grant that we this meal
Foreshadow now the promised food ... Of Your eternal feast.**

**And this we pray in the sweet name ... Of God in Trinity;
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost ... Amen. Yes Lord, Amen.**

Presider: _____ We now begin our supper. Let us enjoy our food and fellowship in God's holy presence. **All: God rules the world and sets us free.**

EAT MEAL

After Meal

Commentary

Pastor / clergy: _____ If available, a pastor or clergyman might present his insights at this time.

Reminiscence

Older Son: _____ At this time, guests, parents and grandparents are invited to share stories of family and parish history, and the importance of Church to our ancestors. (We may want to plan with a few people ahead of time at least to get this started. In larger groups we might choose to begin with about five minutes of free talk on this topic. After this each table or small group may choose a representative to report to the whole assembly.

Afikomen

Mother: _____ In a modern Jewish Seder the children look for a hidden Afikomen (piece of bread) at this time. This is related to the missing Passover lamb. For us Christians, the Lamb of God is not missing. Jesus is alive among our children. This time is traditionally devoted to some sort of children's activity. (puppet show by teens for the children, skit by children, song, choral reading, Bible game, Easter egg hunt, or other games, etc.)
(option) You may choose to delay this children's event until after the closing ceremony

Dayyenu (closing ceremony)

Pronounced dah-yeh-noo, meaning, "It would have been enough."

All stand with cups and take a sip after each response.

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.

_____ Had He just fed us with manna and not made us His chosen people.

All: Dayyenu, Dayyenu. We would have deserved no more.

_____ Had He given us kings to lead us and not promised a Messiah.

All: Dayyenu, Dayyenu. We would have deserved no more.

_____ Had He sent prophets and angels and not His only Son.

All: Dayyenu, Dayyenu. We would have deserved no more.

_____ Had Jesus just instructed us and not died for our sins.

All: Dayyenu, Dayyenu. We would have deserved no more.

_____ Had He died for our sins but not risen to free us from death.

All: Dayyenu, Dayyenu. We would have deserved no more.

_____ Had He freed us from death and not sent His Holy Spirit.

All: Dayyenu, Dayyenu. We would have deserved no more.

_____ Had He sent His Spirit and not became alive in His Church

All: Dayyenu, Dayyenu. We would have deserved no more.

_____ Had He become alive for us in His Church and not set a place for us at His eternal supper.

All: Dayyenu, Dayyenu, Praise be to you O Lord God. You have saved us. We are free. It is true. It is true. Thank You Jesus. Amen/

End of Seder