



A CHRISTIAN PASSOVER MEAL

Joyously we come together to celebrate Jesus Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection. Because of His crucifixion we have symbolically been passed over by the shedding of His blood! Praise be to God!

Standing Sanctification: **(In Unison)**

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who has chosen us from the beginning of time, exalting us by making us holy through the blood of the Lamb of Christ. In love You have given us, O Lord our God, Sabbaths for rest, holidays for joy, festivals for gladness... and the Son for our redemption.

You give us this feast of unleavened bread, the season of our freedom, in commemoration of the Jewish Liberation from Egypt and of universal liberation from sin and its punishment. Blessings to our God who saw fit to deliver us!

(Toasting of the first cup)

Serving of the Matzah

Question #1 (Child or youngest person): **“Why are we eating unleavened bread, or matzah, tonight?”**

Leader:

We eat the matzah to remind us of the fact that the Israelites did not have time to wait for yeast to rise because they had to be ready to move when God said. For us as Christians, it reminds us to live lightly, always ready to go when the call comes, for in the twinkling of an eye, like a thief in the night, Jesus is going to return and we will all go home.

“We eat matzah because tonight we remember Jesus. By whose stripes we are healed. Yeast leavens, or puffs up, as pride and sin inflates our hearts.

Yeast reminds us of the words from 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 **(in unison)** **“Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast – as you really are. For Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the festival, not with old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.”**

Tonight we eat unleavened bread, bread without yeast, to remember Jesus who was without sin.”





HE IS RISEN!

(Break the matzah in half)

(In Unison) : “Because He was broken for us.”

Serving of Maror (the bitter herbs)

Question #2 (Child or next youngest person): **“Why are we eating bitter herbs?”**

Leader:

“For on that long ago night, that night of Passover for the children of Israel, God said that ‘bitter herbs they shall eat’ (Ex. 12:8) and so we do too. To remember the bitterness of the cruel slavery of the Israelites to Pharaoh, to recall the bitterness of our ugly bondage to sin.

These herbs also serve as a reminder to us Christians of the many who have gone before us and have suffered even unto death that we may know the joy of the good news of Jesus. Most importantly, we think on the suffering of Christ on the Cross for each of us, **how Jesus, our Bread of Life, has paid the price and absorbed our bitter sins.”**

Psalm 22 prophesies the anguish our Lord endured for our deliverance **(in unison)**:

“Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me. I am poured out like water and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth you lay me in the dust of death. Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and feet. I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.”

So in our celebration, we remember the great cost of our redemption.

Serving of the Karpas (parsley greens dipped in salt water)

Question #3 (Child or next youngest person): **“Why tonight do we dip our herbs twice?”**

Leader:





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“This parsley stays green year round and represents the continual rebirth of growing things. As Scripture states, God causes all things to grow (Col. 2:19). While the green reminds of the growth of new life in spring, it serves to remind us Christians of the new life He has given us in His Son.

(In unison) “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4)

“Our fathers dipped hyssop branches into the blood of the Passover lamb and marked their doorposts.”

(Dip a parsley sprig into the salt water)

As they wept salty tears for their life of slavery, they painted the door lintels with the blood, that the Angel of Death may pass over. **For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins.**

And like this parsley that stays green year round, we too have eternal life because of the sacrifice and Resurrection of Christ. As we dip the parsley into the salt water, we ask to remember the cost of our new and eternal life as Christ drank the bitter vinegar on the Cross.”

(Dip the parsley again, this time into a small glass dish of apple and raisins)

“But now we have hope. Because of the blood shed by the thorns piercing Jesus’ brow. Because of the blood from the wounds of the nails, that we, in faith, mark on the door of our hearts. Now we wipe away our tears, for we have new life in Christ. We have been rebirthed into His hope.”

Serving of Elijah’s Cup (the single goblet of wine in the center of table)

Leader:

In the center of the table is placed a goblet of wine that is reserved by the Jews for the coming of Elijah. The Israelites believed he would foretell the coming of the Messiah. This





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cup remains to welcome Elijah and his announcement of the Messiah's return. But our Lord said in Matthew 11:14 that John the Baptist, "he is the Elijah who was to come." John the Baptist proclaimed Christ's coming – the arrival of Jesus as our Messiah! So for us as Christians, we do not leave the cup untouched, but we each share in it and in the joy that hope has come true! The Messiah has come to us! He is alive to give our lives eternal joy, promise and hope of an eternity with Him!

(Pass Elijah's Cup around the table to drink)

Question #4 (Child or next youngest person): **"Why are we eating this meal reclining?"**

Leader: "Because our Passover Lamb has bought our freedom.

"Tonight we remember that we are no longer slaves, but children of the very King of Kings. Free men, royalty, recline while eating. So, as Jesus who reclined at the Last Supper, we too lean back this night, for we are free to come before God who is upon the Throne!"

Serving of the Lamb:

Leader:

As the Jews needed the blood of a lamb on their doorpost for the angel of death to Passover them, so we need the blood of the lamb on our hearts for the angel of death to Passover our souls. And we have a lamb... as John the Baptist proclaimed, "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). And he was a voluntary sacrificial lamb for Jesus said: "No one takes my life from me, but I lay it down of my own accord." (John 10:17-18)

"What does that mean? It means that Jesus planned His own sacrifice. It means that Jesus intentionally planted the tree from which His Cross would be carved. It means He willingly placed the iron ore in the heart of the earth from which the nails would be cast. It means He voluntarily placed his Judas in the womb of a woman. It means Christ was the one who set in motion the political machinery that would send Pilate to Jerusalem. And it also means that He didn't have to do it--- but He did. This is the ropes used to tie His hands and the soldiers used to lead Him were unnecessary. Had they not been there, had there been not trail, no Pilate, no crowd, the very same crucifixion would have occurred. Had Jesus been forced to nail Himself to the Cross, He would have done it. For it was not the soldiers who killed Him, nor the screams of the mob. It was His devotion to us." (~ *Max Lucado, God Came Near, pg 79-81*)





HE IS RISEN!

We take of this lamb, representing the voluntary sacrifice of Jesus, God's own gift of a perfect lam, for our sins, that punishment may Passover us.

(In Unison) Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise Him who has set the captives free! The Tomb is Empty! He is Alive! The Lamb has come and taken away the sins of the world!

(Toast around the table): Next Year! In the New Jerusalem!



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To Set a Table for a Christian Passover:

Needed (Lay out on a plate)

1. matzah (or [Wholewheat Unleavened Bread](#))
2. heavy shank bone of lamb
3. sprigs of lush green parsley
4. juice of the vine (wine, grape juice, non-alcoholic wine)
5. horseradish in dish (bitter herbs)
6. chopped apples and raisins in dish (called haroset) [Haroset \(Chopped Apples & Raisins\) for Passover](#)
6. boiled egg
7. small dish of salted water
8. a goblet of cup of wine (or juice of the vine) in the center of the table

Menu:

[Roast Leg of Lamb with Rosemary](#) [Balsamic Roasted Red Potatoes](#)

[Baked Asparagus with Balsamic Butter Sauce](#)

Baby carrots

And for dessert: [New Life](#)