

Last Supper Remembrance

(NOTE: Unless otherwise stated all scriptures are from NKJ)

Before we get started. This is a party. A Celebration of what Jesus has done for each of us. This is going to be a lot of fun. Thank you for allowing us to share this with you.

<<OPENING PRAYER>>

Tonight, we have come together to remember the Last Supper. We wish to get a feel for the traditions and events that Jesus and his disciples would have experienced that night. But as Christians, we don't need to observe the Jewish Passover Seder, as Jews do and did. We want to have fun tonight, but we also need to seriously remember what Jesus did for us. I hope we can highlight and retell portions of Jesus' last week leading up to the crucifixion and the victory of the resurrection.

Step 1: Candle Lighting (REMEMBER & OBSERVE)

The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid? (from Psalm 27:1 NKJ)

Traditionally, the two candles used in the Jewish Passover Seder represent the words '**remember**' and '**observe or keep**' this comes from Exodus 20:8 and Deuteronomy 5:12. Candle lighting was traditionally used to symbolically sanctify the celebration of Passover. Tonight, we will light these candles to help us focus on remembering & observing what Christ has done for us.

WE ALSO PRAY TO OUR HEAVENLY FATHER TO BLESS OUR FELLOWSHIP AND GUIDE OUR COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION. AMEN.

<LIGHT THE CANDLES>

While we light the candles, Let us all recite a candle lighting blessing.

(ALL RECITE) *“BLESSED ARE YOU OH LORD OUR GOD, KING OF THE UNIVERSE, WHO HAS GIVEN US JESUS THE MESSIAH, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.” AMEN*

Step 2: Explanation of the Four Cups and Four Promises

Traditionally a Jewish Passover seder has 4 cups which correspond to the four “I wills” recorded in Exodus 6:6-7 (NKJ).

1. Sanctification – *“I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.”*
2. Deliverance – *“I will rescue you from their bondage.”*
3. Redemption – *“I will redeem you with an outstretched arm.”*
4. Praise – *“I will take you as My people.”*

These four cups are a picture of God's deliverance of Israel in Exodus. For us as Christians this also points to our own deliverance since Jesus, our Messiah, is represented by these four cups and these four promises.

1. Sanctification – *“And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth.” (from John 17:19 NLT)*
2. Deliverance – *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (from John 3:16 NIV)*
3. Redemption – *He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. (from Ephesians 1:7 NLT)*
4. Praise – *Through Him then, let’s continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips praising His name. And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. (from Hebrews 13:15-16 NAS)*

Tonight, as Christians, we will primarily focus the **Cup of Redemption** which was most likely the cup Jesus used in the Last Supper remembrance which has become our communion cup.

Step 3. The Cup#1 of Sanctification (The Kiddush)

The first cup is part of the **Kiddush** (*ki-duhsh*) or Thanksgiving. God promised that He would bring His people out from under the cruel oppression of the Egyptians. For us as Christians, this parallels with God’s promise to bring us out of the bondage of sin and death through faith in the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Read from Romans 6:5-11

<SERVE CUP #1> <HOLD UP CUP #1 SANCTIFICATION>

Let us all recite a praise to our Lord for the cup of sanctification.

(ALL RECITE) “BLESSED ARE YOU, O LORD OUR GOD, KING OF THE UNIVERSE, WHO CREATES THE FRUIT OF THE VINE.”

<DRINK CUP #1 SANCTIFICATION> <SERVE MATZAH & APPETIZER #1 & #2>

Step 4: Explanation And Breaking Of The Matzoh

Traditionally, at the Passover table, there are three **matzoh** (*mat-zo*) ‘loaves’ that are wrapped together in a special pouch as a ‘unity of three’ and placed at the head table. The middle sheet of matzoh is removed from the other two and broken in half. One part remains on the table to be used during the meal, but the other half is wrapped in a white linen cloth and hidden away or “buried.” It is given a new name, **afikomen** (*uh-fee-kuh-muhn*) which means “*I will come again.*” It returns after dinner as the dessert and is “redeemed” or purchased back to the table. The Hebrew word for this action is called **tzafun** (*ca-fun*) meaning “*hidden or concealed.*” This is most likely the bread that Jesus used in the Last Supper which we commemorate with communion.

As Christians, we can see the symbolism in this, the three matzoh are the Father, Son and Spirit. The middle matzo symbolizes Jesus the son, who was broken on our behalf, buried, then rose again on resurrection Sunday.

<REMOVE THE MIDDLE MATZO, BREAK IT IN HALF, WRAP IT IN THE EXTRA CLOTH AND SET IT ASIDE.>

Notice the matzoh, has been symbolically, pierced, bruised, and striped. This is to remind us of the words of the prophet Isaiah when he spoke about the Messiah in Isaiah 53:5 (NKJ): *‘But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities; the punishment of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed’.*

<ASK EVERYONE AT THE TABLE TO HOLD A PIECE OF MATZAH>

Traditionally they would take a piece of matzoh and recite a praise to the Lord **(ALL RECITE)** *“BLESSED ARE YOU, O LORD OUR GOD, KING OF THE UNIVERSE, WHO BRINGS FORTH BREAD FROM THE LAND.”*

Step 5: The Reading Of The Story (Maggid)

Maggid (*mă`gēd*) means story or can also refer to the person telling the story (storyteller). Traditionally at Passover the Exodus Passover story is read. Since we are commemorating what Christ has done for us, instead of reading the Exodus story, let's read together the Passion Story from Matthew 26-28

Before we read our Maggid of the holy week. Tonight, is very special, it is Passover and it is a Wednesday on our calendar. As you may know the day of the week for Passover and the festival of unleavened bread changes each year according to the Hebrew calendar. Passover is the 15th day of the Hebrew first month of Nissan through 22nd. The Sunday after the first Sabbath day after Passover is the Feast of First-Fruits. For us as Christians, we celebrate Easter or resurrection Sunday that day, The Feast of First-Fruits. Let that sink in for a moment. Jesus is the sacrificial lamb of Passover, Jesus is the first-fruits of the resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15:20 (NKJ) *But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the **firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep.* And if that is not enough, a few short weeks from now is the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost.

Matthew 12:39-40 (NAS) *But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be **three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**”* Jesus very clearly predicts he will be killed and will spend 3 days and 3 nights in the grave before his resurrection.

So, let's fast forward to the final week with Jesus. Jesus is making his way into Jerusalem, the triumphant entry to Jerusalem recorded in all gospels. John 12, Luke 19, Mark 11, and Matthew 21. After this Jesus cleanse the Temple, teaches the Olivet discourse, and predicts the destruction of Jerusalem, then we pick up our story or Maggid (*mă`gēd*) with Matthew 26:17

[READ Matthew 26:17-30]

<<<INTERMISSION #1>>> < SERVE APPETIZER#3>

[READ Matthew 26:31-27:26]

<<<INTERMISSION #2>>> < SERVE APPETIZER#4>

[READ Matthew 27:27-28:20]

<SERVE APPETIZER#5> <SERVE CUP#2>

Step 6: The Cup #2 of Deliverance (or the Makkot, Cup of Judgement)

Exodus 6:6 (NKJ) *“I will rescue you from their bondage.”*

Now we arrive at what is called **Makkot** (*ma-got*), the second cup: the cup of deliverance. This cup is also referred to as the Cup of Judgement or Cup of Plagues.

The 2nd cup is a reminder of God’s mighty deliverance of His people and God’s judgement to Egypt in the form of plagues in Exodus.

What does the 2nd cup have in parallel with our Christian faith?

Matthew 26:39 (NKJ) He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

There are parallels for Matthew 26:39 in Mark 14:36 and Luke 22:42. This is the cup of God’s wrath upon man’s sin which was about to be poured out on Jesus. In the Old Testament the cup is used as a symbol of God’s wrath or judgement:

The cup however is also used as a symbol for experiencing God’s salvation in the Psalm 116 which is part of the **Hallel** (*hah-lel*) which is traditionally read or sang at the end of the Passover meal, here are a couple verses, Psalm 116:12-14 (NLT) *¹²What can I offer the LORD for all he has done for me? ¹³I will lift up the cup of salvation and praise the LORD’s name for saving me. ¹⁴I will keep my promises to the LORD in the presence of all his people.*

Jesus endured the wrath of God or drank the cup of God’s wrath so that our sins could be forgiven. Let’s drink the cup of deliverance and remember that our deliverance came about through our Savior Jesus who drank the cup of God’s wrath toward sin.

<DRINK CUP #2 DELIVERANCE>

Step 7: Redeemed Matzoh (Afikomen/Communion)

**<HAVE KIDS GO FIND THE AFIKOMEN MATZOH.
GIVE KIDS A COIN TO PURCHASE IT BACK OR REDEEM IT.
THEN UNWRAP MATZOH.>**

The **Afikomen** (*uh-fee-kuh-muhn*) is often thought to be the Greek word for “dessert,” to be eaten at the end of the meal. But there is another Greek word, so similar that some believed it to have been the original intent. The word is **epikomen-os** (*e-pee-kuh-muhn-os*), meaning, *‘the one we have waited for, in the fullness of time, has arrived.’* Jesus’ last Passover on earth was held in Jerusalem, hours before he became the ultimate Passover Lamb for all of us. Let’s share the **Afikomen and the Cup of Redemption** just like Jesus and His disciples did that night.

Just as Jesus did after dinner. Jesus took bread, he blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to his disciples. But what bread? He most likely took the **Afikomen** (*uh-fee-kuh-muhn*), the special loaf which was broken, hidden and redeemed. The **Afikomen** which means, *“I will come again.”* This bread that represents His body was bruised & broken, wrapped and buried, and as it is named *“will come again or return”* at the end of time.

<DIVIDE THE AFIKOMEN AND SHARE IT AROUND THE TABLE>

<PRAY FOR THE BREAD>

Luke 22:19 (NKJ) And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.

<<<EAT THE BREAD>>> <SERVE CUP#3>

Step 8: Cup #3 of Redemption (Communion)

Exodus 6:6 (NKJ) *“I will redeem you with an outstretched arm.”*

In the traditional seder, the next part of the feast is the **Ha-Geulah** (*ha-goo-lah*) or The Third Cup: The **Cup of Redemption**. This is also called the Cup of Blessing or **Ha-Geulah**. It is a celebration of God’s promise that He will redeem us. The Jews used this cup to symbolize the blood of the Passover Lamb. Jesus used this cup when he said, *“Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. (Matthew)*

Hebrews 9:22 tells us that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. In His passion and death, Jesus completed the atonement for our sins. Anyone who places their trust in Jesus and His work of redemption on the cross, passes from death to Eternal life.

<PRAY FOR THE CUP #3- REDEMPTION>

Luke 22:20 (NKJ) ²⁰Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

<DRINK CUP #3 - REDEMPTION>

Now I'm going to blow you away. Remember a Hebrew day begins at sunset, so night is first, followed by day. Jesus rose from the dead on Sunday morning about dawn.

Well, this year Passover is after dusk on a Wednesday. That night was the last supper, the over-night trial, and eventually on Thursday the day of preparation for the HIGH DAY or special Sabbath, Jesus was condemned, tortured, crucified and buried all before sunset on Thursday. Remember Hebrew days start at sunset. Thursday at dusk would begin the special HIGH DAY for the festival of unleavened bread. Therefore,

- Thursday dusk to dawn Friday was night 1.
- Friday dawn to Friday dusk was Day 1.
- Friday at dusk would begin the regular sabbath day. So Friday dusk to Saturday dawn was Night 2.
- Saturday dawn to Saturday dusk was day 2.
- Saturday dusk to Sunday Dawn was night 3
- Sunday at Dawn on the 3rd day Jesus rose again.

Amen, 3 days and 3 nights. The reason Mary and the other women had to wait until Sunday morning was two back-to-back sabbaths. Just like this year. Jews will observe their Passover tonight. This is the beginning of the day of preparation and tomorrow at dusk will begin the HIGH DAY or special sabbath for the festival of unleavened bread. Then at dusk on Friday night begins the weekly sabbath day which ends at dusk on Saturday evening. Then at dawn on the third day, Sunday morning, Jesus rose from the dead. Sunday morning resurrection Sunday morning. But it is more amazing than that. The day after the first regular sabbath day of the festival of unleavened bread is the feast of first-fruits. Jesus rose again as the first-fruits of the resurrection on the day of the feast of first-fruits. Can it be more beautiful than that?

And I know some of you are going to ask, so here it is. Many have actually back calculated to determine the dates of Passover in the time of Jesus. From 26AD to 34AD the most likely date range for the crucifixion. Two dates stand out. Passover was on Wednesday April 28th, 28AD and Wednesday April 25th, 31AD. Both possible dates of the crucifixion. Also, so you know, in this range of years, Passover also fell on Sunday twice, Friday twice, Monday twice and Thursday once.

<SERVE DESSERT>

Step 9 Praise and Blessing

(Exodus 6:7 NKJ) *"I will take you as my own people and I will be your God".*

The Fourth Cup is the cup of Praise or Consummation. This is usually consumed after the Jewish prayer Hallel or prayer of Praise which is a verbatim recitation from Psalms 113-118 that is recited by observant Jews on Jewish holidays as an act of praise and

thanksgiving. In fact, in Matthew Jesus and His disciples did this in Matthew 26:30 (NKJ) *And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

Tonight, for our Hallel (*hah-lel*) or our prayer of praise, let's sing Psalms just like Jesus and his disciples did that night. We will use Psalms 113, 100, 117, 121 to praise the Lord.

- ***Psalm 113 The Majesty and Condescension of God***
- ***Psalm 100 (NLT) Thanksgiving***
- ***Psalm 117 Praise the Lord***
- ***Psalm 121 Help comes from the Lord***

An alternative to reading the Psalms would be to sing them or play songs based on these Psalms. Here are a few examples you can find on YouTube we will be using this year.

- the song Who is Like the Lord <https://youtu.be/gk6GASkBEUQ>
- Chris Tomlin's song called Psalm 100 <https://youtu.be/qS1I2swMu9Y>
- Sons of Korah Psalm 117 <https://youtu.be/MPzJ8U1hd94>
- Casting Crown-Praise you in this Storm <https://youtu.be/0YUGwUgBvTU>

<SERVE CUP #4 -PRAISE >

We lift this fourth cup in praise to God for His completed work of redemption. This is also the cup which Jesus said He would drink anew with His disciples in His kingdom.

<DRINK CUP #4 -PRAISE > <CLOSING PRAYER>

I want to end our evening with this amazing praise from Numbers 6:24-26 (NKJ) *The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.*

MATERIALS LIST

Two (2) candles (STEP 1) *{any color, we use red or white}*
Four (4) cups (STEP 2) *{any cup, we use stemware}*
White Linen Napkin (STEP 4) *{any white cloth will work}*

FOOD PREP LIST

Grape Juice or Wine (STEP 2 thru END) *{enough for several cups each}*
Matzah minimum two (2) sheets per quest plus three (3)

(STEP 3 end) **Appetizer #1 & CUP #1**
(STEP 4 end) **Appetizer #2**
(STEP 5 Maggid-1) **Appetizer #3**
(STEP 5 Maggid-2) **Appetizer #4**
(STEP 5 Maggid-3) **Appetizer #5**
(STEP 6) **CUP #2**
(STEP 7) **Afikomen Shared (Communion)**
(STEP 8) **CUP #3 Redemption (Communion)**
(STEP 9 Hallel-1) **Dessert**
(STEP 9 Hallel-2) **CUP #4 (Closing)**

APPETIZER EXAMPLES

Classic Charoset

INGREDIENTS (4 servings)

- 3 medium apples, such as Fuji or Honeycrisp, peeled and finely diced
- 1 c. toasted walnuts, roughly chopped
- 1/4 c. golden raisins
- 1/4 c. sweet red wine, such as Manischewitz
- 1/2 tbsp. honey
- 1 tsp. lemon zest
- 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- Pinch kosher salt

DIRECTIONS: Combine all ingredients in a medium bowl and stir to combine. Let sit 30 minutes before serving.

Potato Kugel

INGREDIENTS (24 Servings)

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 10 medium potatoes, peeled & grated
- 2 medium onions, peeled & grated
- 5 large eggs
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper

DIRECTIONS: Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease a 9x13-inch baking dish with 1 tablespoon vegetable oil.

Combine grated potatoes and onions in a large bowl. Mix in eggs, 1/3 cup of vegetable oil, salt, and pepper until well combined; pour mixture into the prepared dish.

Bake in the preheated oven until golden brown and crisp on top, 1 1/2 to 2 hours.