

# Maundy Thursday Seder Meal with Hosanna!

## Why no traditional Maundy Thursday worship service?

Maundy Thursday is an intimate experience that is hard to celebrate together during a pandemic. Instead of trying to do this from a distance, we're connecting with the Passover tradition that served as the backdrop for Jesus' last days.

## What is a Seder Meal?

The Seder Meal is a traditional Jewish meal held during Passover that is not so much about eating as it is about recalling God's saving work in the past and the present with prayer, storytelling, and food. It recalls the story of God freeing the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

## How do I hold a Seder Meal?

- 1) Gather the materials necessary for a Seder Meal.**
  - See the ingredients on the back page.
  - Beginning Saturday, March 27, we'll have kits available outside for pickup with these ingredients: matzah, fresh parsley, horseradish, romaine lettuce, haroset, a bone
- 2) Follow a Seder Haggadah (guidebook).**

Several options are available for pickup during in-person worship, from the bin outside our front doors, or via download at [www.hosannatogether.org/seder](http://www.hosannatogether.org/seder).
- 3) Use the hymns we're providing to sing** during your Seder Meal at [www.hosannatogether.org/seder](http://www.hosannatogether.org/seder).

Although traditionally done with family and neighbors, a Seder meal can be held on your own (especially during a pandemic).

## The Passover and Holy Week:

Many of the Gospels describe Jesus celebrating the Last Supper in the midst of the Passover. In the Gospel of John, Jesus is even killed on the Day of Preparation, when the Passover lambs would have been killed in preparation of the Passover meal. Like Jesus, those lambs would have been unblemished and had no broken bones. Christ, the paschal lamb (Passover lamb), sacrificed himself to take away the sins of the people and free them for new life.

## For a traditional Seder Meal, you'll need the following ingredients:

- **Matzah** (unleavened bread) to remind us how quickly the Israelites had to prepare for freedom.
- **Karpas** (parsley or vegetable) to represent spring.
- **Maror** (horseradish) and Chazeret (romaine lettuce) to remind us of the bitterness of slavery.
- **Haroset** (an apple, wine and nut mixture) to remind us of the hard work the Israelites did in Egypt.
- **A shankbone** to remind us of the Passover meal the Israelites ate before they left Egypt.
- **A roasted or hardboiled egg** to represent new beginnings.
- **A cup of wine** (or grape juice) to remind us of God's redemption.

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## A note about religious tradition...

This meal is a part of our shared history with our Jewish sisters and brothers. However, we do not wish to appropriate and twist the religious traditions of others. Rather than blending our own meaning and prayers into this tradition, the Haggadot (seder meal guidebooks) we share are written by Jews. As it is for Jews, this meal is a way for us to know better our God who of promise, love, and liberation, not just in the New Testament, but throughout the entire Bible.

# Passover



The Passover meal involved **the death of a lamb**.



The Passover involved **blood**.



God commanded Israel to **eat the Passover meal every year**.



When celebrating Passover, Jewish people eat **specific foods**.



When celebrating Passover, Jewish people **retell the story** of God freeing them from slavery in Egypt.



The Passover meal is a way for Jewish people to **remember** what God has done for Israel.

# Holy Communion



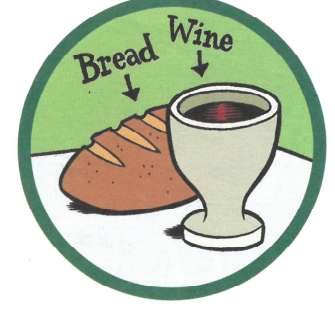
Holy communion involves **the death of Jesus, the Lamb of God**.



At the last supper, Jesus referred to the wine as **“the new covenant in my blood”** (Luke 22:20).



Jesus commanded us to **“Take and eat,”** and to **“Do this...”**.



When celebrating holy communion, Christians use **specific foods**.



When celebrating holy communion, Christians **retell the story** of Jesus by repeating his promise (often called the words of institution).



Holy communion is a way for Christians to **remember** that God gives us the gifts of grace and new life.