

Our Mission:

To share Christ with the world
and grow disciples for Jesus



Loving God and Loving Neighbor as Ourselves

Background:

This text describes how Israel should celebrate the Passover Meal. While this may seem to be a series of liturgical instructions specifying how all of Israel should participate in this ritual, there is more to be found here. There are specific instructions making sure that neighbor is looking out for neighbor. Everything is to be consumed and the privileged will not be able to hoard food for another day. Most importantly, each generation will be taught that they celebrate what God alone has done for them.

Theology Connection:

The Passover Meal is the foundation for our Christian concept of Communion. While Israel celebrates God's action to liberate them from bondage in Egypt, we would celebrate our liberation from all powers that might oppress us, including death itself. While this meal unites all of Israel as a unique people, we celebrate that Communion knits together the Body of Christ in a mystical union. While the Passover celebrates the journey toward a land promised, we celebrate in Holy Communion the promise that one day we too will inherit the Kingdom of God.

Application:

Martin Luther urged us to take communion as often as it is offered. While the mass was the participation in Christ's sacrifice by his counterparts in the Roman Catholic Church, communion was seen by Luther as a celebration of the risen Christ and his meaningful entry into our lives. Martin Luther understood communion as a means of God's grace freely given to all. This Sunday is known as World-Wide Day of Communion. May we not only participate in this sacrament, but might we see ourselves as extension of this sacrament for the sake of the world.

The Text: Exodus 12:1-13, 13:1-8

12 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, ² "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. ³ Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb[a] for his family, one for each household. ⁴ If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. ⁵ The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. ⁶ Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. ⁷ Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. ⁸ That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. ⁹ Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs, and internal organs. ¹⁰ Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. ¹¹ This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover.

¹² "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. ¹³ The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

13 The Lord said to Moses, ² "Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether human or animal." ³ Then Moses said to the people, "Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the Lord brought you out of it with a mighty hand. Eat nothing containing yeast. ⁴ Today, in the month of Aviv, you are leaving. ⁵ When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites and Jebusites—the land he swore to your ancestors to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey—you are to observe this ceremony in this month: ⁶ For seven days eat bread made without yeast and on the seventh day hold a festival to the Lord. ⁷ Eat unleavened bread during those seven days; nothing with yeast in it is to be seen among you, nor shall any yeast be seen anywhere within your borders. ⁸ On that day tell your son, 'I do this because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.'

Hi Confirmands!

Be sure to read the entire front page of Praxis. It has hints!

Based on this Bible passage, who are the main characters in this story and how do they behave?

Why is Communion associated with Passover? (Hint: **Theology Connection** front page, Luke 22, Matthew 26, and Mark 14.) Look at Exodus 13: 3, “³Then Moses said to the people, “**Commemorate** this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the Lord brought you out of it with a mighty hand. “

Commemorate – to call to remembrance

Moses tells the Israelites to commemorate The Passover because they have freedom from _____.

Communion commemorates our freedom from _____.

What would you like freedom from? Ask Jesus to help you with this. Questions/comments/answers?

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Blessings all around!

YOUTH

Please read Exodus 12:1-13 and 13:1-8

Those are pretty exact orders about the Passover. What else comes to mind is change...

“With any great change movement, those who passionately believe in it and get ready are the ones who will survive and thrive when it happens”

This is essentially the message that Moses delivered to the Israelites in Exodus 12. For four hundred years, God’s covenant people had suffered as slaves in Egypt. However, great change was coming. God had come down to set them free and guide them to a new life in the Promised Land. Through Moses, God called the Israelites to believe in His promise and get ready for the decisive moment of deliverance—their great change movement. God gave the Israelites the Passover (12:1-13) to signify their readiness for change.

What do you see as the reason for sprinkling blood on the doorframes?

What was the primary principle behind the requirement that only animals without defect be chosen?

Let us pray: Dear God, Thank you for traditions. Please help us thrive in change and please help us stay committed to you, In Your son’s holy name we pray,
AMEN!

CHILDREN’S

God commanded Moses to instruct the Israelites to take a lamb for their family on the tenth day of the first month. They could share the lamb with their neighbors if they had too much. The lamb needed to be perfect and cared for until the 14th day of the first month. The meat of the Passover lamb was to be roasted. The roasted lamb should be eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. There were to be no leftovers in the morning. God wanted the Israelites to eat quickly, so that everyone to be ready! God had special plans for the Israelites!

Think:

1. How do we know that God has plans for our lives?
2. Where would we find God’s plans for us? (In the Bible)
3. How do you feel knowing God has special plans just for you?

Remember:

God cares for us just like He cared for His children in Egypt long ago. Jesus died on the cross for all the wrong things we have done. If we believe in Him and ask Him to come into our hearts, He makes a way for us to go to heaven!

Pray:

Dear God,

Thank You so much for all of the wonderful plans that You have for us! We trust You and we love You.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen!