

INTRODUCTION

Tonight, as we share this meal together, we follow the example of the people of God for thousands of years. The Jews in Egypt shared a special meal before the LORD led them out of captivity and each year they remember that event in the Passover. It was this meal that Jesus celebrated with his disciples on the night that he was betrayed and crucified. He instituted the Eucharist to be for us a continual way of remembering, until he comes again, his death for our salvation.

We begin just as the Passover begins, with the lighting of the Festival Candle.

THE FESTIVAL CANDLE *A candle is lit, and the following is said:*

In him was life, and that life was the light of all.
The light shines in the darkness,
But the darkness has not understood it.

**Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
Who has commanded us to kindle the festival lights.**

Jesus said "I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
But will have the light of life." So we pray:

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

God forgives you
Forgive others
Forgive yourself
Be at peace.

THE PASSOVER MEAL

Reading: Exodus 12:14-15 & 12:21-28 (the Jewish Passover)

We reflect before moving to the meal:
Be gentle when you touch the bread:
let it not lie uncared for, unwanted.
So often bread is taken for granted.
There is such beauty in bread;
beauty in sun and soil,
beauty of patient toil.
Wind and rain have caressed it.
Christ often blessed it.
So let us be gentle in touching bread.

Keep sober when you drink wine.
Let it not be wasted or taken in vain,
nor like water washed down the drain.
There is the deepest art in the creation of wine.
Choice of right soil; and dressing the vine.
Judgement or right time of harvest; transforming grapes into wine.
Christ saw it poured out and spilt as his blood.
Let wine not be misunderstood.

We thank God for the food with an ancient Jewish blessing:

**Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe,
who brings forth bread from the earth.
Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe,
who has sanctified us with Commandments and commanded
us to eat this bread.**

The meal is now shared, after which we continue:

LOVE AND SERVICE

Reading: John 13:1-15 (Jesus washes his disciples' feet)

SONG "A New Commandment"

A new commandment I give unto you,
that you love one another
 as I have loved you,
that you love one another
 as I have loved you.
By this shall all men know
 that you are My disciples,
if you have love one for another.
By this shall all men know
 that you are My disciples,
if you have love one for another.

A Prayer of Penitence:

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ taught us
that what we do for the least of his people
we do also for him:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as he was the servant of all,
who gave up his life for us,
yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen**

The groups proceed to share in the Eucharist at Holy Trinity Church



Holy Trinity Church

Worshipping, Nurturing & Adventuring in the Way of Christ

Fellowship Meal
on
Maundy Thursday