



We are excited that you are considering having a Maundy Thursday dinner at your home. We realize this is probably a new tradition that you have not participated in before. The following pages will walk you through why this particular day is significant, as well as the importance of the Passover meal that Jesus shared with His disciples that night.

Right up front we want to encourage you: Take your time with this meal. If you're doing it with children, let them ask questions and wonder about what's going on. You may not know the answers, but it's good to create that space. Try not to rush. If you are participating in this meal with older kids, teens, or even just adults, take your time. Let the symbolism sink in. Jesus takes something that was rooted in hundreds of years of Jewish tradition and shows that it was all pointing to him. Let the Scriptures penetrate your soul.

We cannot wait for you to experience God in an entirely new way!

## What is Maundy Thursday?

Thursday of Holy Week is known as Maundy Thursday. The word Maundy comes from the Latin word for *mandate*. It is used of the Thursday before Easter because on this night, after Jesus washed his disciples' feet, he gave them the Mandate: "Love one another as I have loved you."

The purpose of these meals is for all who participate (adults and children) to connect their imaginations and feelings with what it must have been like as Jesus, in the shadow of the cross, began a new tradition—communion—in the midst of an old tradition—Passover. By sharing a sample of a Passover meal, dinner, and communion in homes, we are placing ourselves in the kind of intimate setting where the events of the first Easter week took place.

## What is Passover?

“The Passover was the Jewish Independence Day and it was observed each year to remind the people of how God had shown them incredible grace in rescuing them from Egypt. As they celebrated the feast, it was expected that their children would ask about what they were doing and this was a chance for one generation to pass on the story of deliverance to the next.

We are going to have a short and simplified Passover ceremony, for it was during this ceremony that Christ had his last supper with his followers, giving them a new symbol (communion) to take the place of the old. But the old and new are connected because:

1. **Everyone, at one point, was a slave.** Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (John 8:34-36)
2. **Everyone needed to be redeemed from slavery, and saved from their sins, through the giving of a sin-substitute.** “For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.” (1 Corinthians 5:7)

### Format of the Evening

- You will reenact a simple Passover, since this is the meal that Jesus ate with his disciples on Thursday evening, and its symbolism points to him as our Passover Lamb.
- You will do the communion readings and take communion together.

### Preparing a Sample Passover Meal

You should be able to purchase all of the following items at the local grocery store. There are six items in the meal and you will need to have enough for everyone to have a taste of each item.

1. Matzot bread—this is bread without yeast. It comes in boxes and is found in the international section.
2. Roasted lamb—small lamb chops/ribs are perfect for the meal. Cook them on a grill for a roasted appearance and flavor.
3. Roasted egg—easiest to purchase brown eggs and hard-boil them.
4. Moror—this is a word for a bitter herb. Horseradish is typically used. Crushed horseradish from the condiment section is what is needed. If you’d like to add an authentic touch, purchase one horseradish root from the produce section to show everyone where it came from and to reinforce the picture of a bitter root.
5. Charoset (Karolet)—is a mixture of apples, walnuts, wine and cinnamon.

## Recipe

1 cup chopped apples (2-3 apples), 1 cup black walnuts, 1 cup chopped, dried dates (or 1/2 cup dates and 1/2 cup figs Raisins or other dried fruit, such as apricot, can be added), 1 tsp. ground cinnamon, 1/4 tsp. ground cloves, 2 tsp. Honey, 2 tsp. red wine vinegar, 1 tsp. lime juice

Core, peel, and cut apples into 1" chunks. Run apples and dates and other fruit through food grinder using coarse blades (you will likely have to alternate the apples with the dried fruit). Add nuts, spices, honey, vinegar and lime juice. More liquid may be added if necessary or to taste. This recipe yields about 12-14 well-rounded tablespoons of Charoset.

6. Karpas—a green vegetable, parsley is a good choice. You will need a bowl of heavily salted water to dip this in as part of the ceremony.

## Instructions and Readings for the Meal

### Light Candles

*If you can set a few white candles on the table, in the tradition of Passover, the Lady of the House would light them at this time).*

### 1st Cup of Wine

*(During the ancient Passover/Jewish Passover, they drank four cups of wine. We do not suggest you have everyone drink four full cups of wine! Rather, provide one glass of wine or grape juice to each person and have them take four sips, one at each designated time.*

*“The first cup of wine is called the cup of blessing, it was praise to God for bringing the people out of slavery.” Say a prayer here, thanking God for this occasion and for offering to rescue all of us from slavery to sin.*

### Dipping of the Karpas (Parsley)

*“We will now dip these greens in the salt water and taste them. The greens remind us that Passover happens in the Spring, the season of new life, but the salt reminds us of the sweat of slavery, that the work was hard.” Everyone should dip and taste.*

### The Passover Story

This is the story of the First Passover:

The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into

a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.<sup>9</sup> And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.” (Exodus 3:7-10)

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. 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. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats.

“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. 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. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. 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. 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. 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.” (Exodus 12:1-13)

During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the LORD as you have requested.” (Exodus 12:31)

## **2nd Cup of wine**

“The Second Cup of wine was to remind the people that God had delivered them from the status of servants and the cycle of poverty that came with it.”

## **Eating of the Bitter Herbs**

“As a reminder of the bitterness of slavery, we take a piece of the Matzo bread, bread made without yeast, and we dip it into the bitter herbs, called Moror.”

*(Everyone participates)*

## **Eating of the Charoseth**

“As a reminder of the mud that our spiritual ancestors had to use to make bricks in their slavery in Egypt, take a piece of matzo and use it to eat some Charoseth.

*(Everyone participates)*

## **The Passover Supper** (Lamb and Egg)

“Now we eat the lamb, which reminds of the sacrifice that was made for our freedom. We also eat the roasted egg. For the Jews the egg reminds them of a special offering made during the festival weeks so it is connected with their celebrations and freedom.”

*(Everyone participates)*

## **3rd Cup of Wine**

“This cup was to remember that God had redeemed the people—taken them from a place of slavery and made them free.”

## **4th Cup of Wine**

“This cup was a cup of praise because God would not just set them free but take them away to the good land to be with himself. As this was the final cup, they would say a prayer together from what we call the psalms. Psalm 118 was part of this and it has a phrase that is repeated over and over, ‘his faithful love endures forever.’ Please say that with me and then we’ll all say it together whenever I read it.”

**Psalm 118** (Please note this is an abbreviated version of the psalm.)

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.

Let Israel say:

“His love endures forever.”

Let the house of Aaron say:

“His love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the LORD say:

“His love endures forever.” (v. 1-4)

You are my God, and I will praise you;  
you are my God, and I will exalt you.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his love endures forever. AMEN (v. 28-29)

## **Communion**

*Make sure you keep at least one Matzo for this.*

“Now we are going to share communion. Communion was Jesus’ alteration of the Passover meal; in many ways he took over the symbolism of sacrifice and freeing slaves and used them to point to himself.

Communion is for all of us who have faith in Jesus and who are committed to follow him. There is no shame in passing on communion if you’re not sure about such things. We now pause for a moment so that if you have anything you need to tell God about, anything that’s not right that needs to be given to him, you can do that and receive his forgiveness” (*Pause long enough for people to have time to make short, silent prayers of confession*).

“And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” (Luke 22:19)

*Take the Matzo, break it, and give each person a piece.*

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. (Luke 22:20)

*Take a cup of wine or non-alcoholic wine and pass it around, instructing each person to dip their bread in the wine and take communion.*

### **Prayer of thanks for Christ’s sacrifice**

“We close our communion with one last scene. The word Maundy comes from the Latin word that means mandate. During the last supper Jesus gave us a mandate to love each other.

“Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

“No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.”

Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

“Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”

Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. (John 13:3-17)

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35)

*Close with a prayer that God will help us love each other in the ways that Jesus did.*