



PASSOVER MEAL



**The Parish of
Moulsecoomb**

**You can find the Audio for this celebration at
our YouTube Channel,**

[Click Here for Our Channel](#)

or by following the link on our home page

www.parishofmoulsecoomb.co.uk

THE STORY OF THE EXODUS

You can find the story in Exodus 1:8-14, Exodus 12:1-13, and Exodus 14:19-30

THE CANDLE LIGHTING

The leader welcomes everyone to the Passover, which is a celebration of the way that God rescues us from slavery.

Everyone is asked to keep silence as they get ready to receive God's blessing at this Passover meal.

The leader lights the candles saying:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
Of your goodness we have the gift of light
to lighten our darkness.

The light is passed all around the tables until every candle is lit.

We sing:

**Bless the light, My lord
And bless this Passover.
Bless the light my Lord,
It leads us into life.**

The leader says:

May the brightness of these small lights
remind us of the great light of your love
which brings us hope and joy.
Blessed be God for ever!

THANKSGIVING

We fill our glasses and raise them as we pray:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this wine to drink,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

Blessed be God for ever!

We wash our hands

As we wash our hands in the bowl of water we pray:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
You alone can make us clean.
You alone can make us holy.

Blessed be God for ever!

Eating a springtime herb

The leader dips some of the parsley into the salty water, saying:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
Each springtime through your goodness
the earth brings forth plants and fruit,
to renew the world we inhabit.

Blessed be God for ever!

Everyone dips some parsley in salty water and eats it.

SHARING BREAD

The leader picks up the three pieces of matzo and puts aside half a piece for unexpected guests, saying:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this bread to eat
which earth has given and human hands have made.
Let us always share our bread with the hungry.
We remember now all those who are persecuted or poor.
Next year may we and they be free.
Our Passover cannot be complete
until all God's people are free.
Blessed be God for ever!

This is the bread of pain and affliction
which our ancestors ate in Egypt, when they were slaves,
and which our oppressed brothers and sisters eat now.
Take this, all of you, and eat it.

The leader breaks the bread with those around, and everyone else shares the bread near them with one another, dipping it in the salty water. The piece of bread put aside is now hidden, for the children to find later on.

Let someone open the door
to show that we welcome all who are hungry
in body or spirit.

Let all who hunger for bread and for freedom,
for truth and for inner peace,
come and share in the bread
which our God provides for us.

THE STORY AND THE MEANING

One of the children asks

Why is this night different from all other nights?

Long ago, our ancestors wandered in the desert. To find food and shelter they went down into Egypt. Our numbers grew, and we were ill-treated. Our ancestors became slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt.

But we called to God, and the Lord heard us. God rescued our people, bringing us out of slavery into the promise of freedom and redemption. Our terrible suffering was brought into a time of happiness and blessing.

Why do we eat only flat bread without yeast tonight?

When Pharaoh let the people go they had to escape in a great hurry. They had no time to wait for their bread to rise, so they baked it flat, like the bread we are eating tonight.

Why do we have hard boiled eggs tonight?

The eggs remind us of the suffering and oppression in Egypt. Everything else in boiling water becomes soft or disintegrates. But an egg becomes hard, like the Israelites. The more it is boiled, the harder it becomes. The egg also symbolizes new life.

Why do we eat bitter herbs tonight?

The bitter herbs remind us that life was bitter and sad for the people when they were oppressed as slaves in the land of Egypt. When we taste the bitter herbs, we taste the bitterness of every person who is sad and oppressed and longs to be free.

The green herbs remind us of all the fresh green plants of springtime which bring new life into the world. Our God looks after us and loves us.

Why do we have sweet and sticky things to eat?

The haroset, the sticky stuff, reminds us of the bricks and mortar made by the Hebrew slaves in Egypt.

The sweetness reminds us of the sweetness of freedom when God brought us out of slavery. It reminds us of the sweetness of God's goodness and love which always triumphs over evil.

Why do we dip our parsley and bread into salt water?

The salt water reminds us of tears which people cry when they are very sad. As we taste the salty water we remember the tears of the people when they themselves were slaves, and the tears of everyone who is not free or at peace with God.

Why is there a lamb bone?

Because the people ate lamb that last night in Egypt, just before they were rescued. They put its blood on their doorposts and so they were protected from the plague of death that night. This was the tenth and last plague before Pharaoh agreed to let Moses and the people go.

As each plague is mentioned, everyone dips a finger in their wine and drips it on their plate to remember the suffering:

Blood.....frogs.....vermin.....flies.....cattle..... disease.....
boils.....hailstones.....locusts.....darkness.....
death of every first-born

Let us remember and express our compassion for the Egyptians who suffered those plagues. They were our enemies, but still they were children of God and fellow human beings, and we feel sorry for everyone who suffers whether they are friends or enemies. We remember all who suffer tonight.

Why are we taking so much trouble over this meal tonight?

Because thanks to God's loving rescue we have all been set free from slavery and sin! In spite of all the tears and sadness in our world there is a great deal to thank God for, and we want to enjoy thanking him as well as we can for all he has done in our lives.

We all respond:

Blessed be God for ever!

We all drink and our glasses are refilled.

Now we are ready to enjoy the Passover Meal.

**We'll taste the bitterness of pain and oppression
and the sweetness of hope and freedom.**

**We'll eat thankfully of all God's gifts
and rejoice that we can share this time
and this food in God's company.**

THE MEAL

Please come and enjoy the food that we have brought to share.

Exodus tells us that the Passover should be eaten:

"with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly, it is the Passover of the Lord."

Exodus 12.11

HIDE AND SEEK

After the meal the children search for the hidden piece of matzo and the one who finds it is given a reward. This piece of bread is broken and shared out among everyone. The bread is held as the leader says:

This bread is broken and shared to remind us of the Passover lambs which were sacrificed and shared to give the people strength for their journey and protection from the plague of death.

We sing:

Jubilate, ev'rybody,
serve the Lord your God in all your ways
and come before his presence singing,
enter now his courts with praise.
For the Lord our God is gracious,
and his mercy everlasting.
Jubilate, Jubilate, Jubilate Deo!

THANKSGIVING AFTER THE MEAL

The Bible tells us that when you have eaten and are satisfied you should thank the Lord our God for the good land which we have been given. We have eaten and are satisfied, so let us thank God now.

All:

O Lord our God we praise you
and thank you for feeding us in body and spirit.

Women and girls:

We thank you for the good earth
and its fruitfulness.

Men and boys:

We thank you for the friendship we have shared tonight
and for the loving kindness you shower on us each day.

All:

We thank you for freeing us from slavery and sin
through the gift of your forgiveness.

We pray that all God's children may be freed
from hatred and hunger, oppression and guilt,
free to live contentedly in your love. Amen.

Luke 22:7-13

Let us go in God's peace.

Peace for us and peace for all people in the world.

No more war. No more oppression.

Justice and peace for everyone.

Let it be so.

Amen. Let it be so.

We sing:

You shall go out with joy

and be led forth with peace,

and the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you.

There'll be shouts of joy

and the trees of the field

shall clap, shall clap their hands.

And the trees of the field shall clap their hands,

And the trees of the field shall clap their hands,

And the trees of the field shall clap their hands,

And you'll go out with joy!

We hope you enjoyed the Passover Meal.

Many blessings for the rest of Holy Week and Easter

PLEASE DO NOT TAKE THIS BOOKLET AWAY WITH YOU