

**MINISTRY BY MAIL**  
**Lutheran Conference of Confessional Fellowship**  
[www.lutheranlccf.org](http://www.lutheranlccf.org)  
**Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023**

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(Hymns found in The Lutheran Hymnal, CPH, 1941)

Hymns: 367, 190:7, 358, 660, 644.

Lessons: Numbers 9:1-14, Hebrews 10:15-25, Luke 19:28-44.

Sermon Text: Exodus 12:1-14,

Sermon by Pastor Robert Mehltrittter

In the name of Jesus Christ, Dear Fellow Redeemed,

Passover is something that has been commemorated for about 3500 years. The last Passover should have been commemorated by physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob about 2000 years ago at the time of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. You may remember the artist's picture of "The Last Passover and the First Lord's Supper". But Passover and the pictures and lessons it teaches us are timeless.

At the time of our text, the people whom God had chosen to give birth to the Savior of all mankind had been living in Egypt for 430 years.

They had moved there, 66 people, at a time of famine, when Joseph, the eleventh son of Jacob, was second in charge in Egypt. They had moved there to escape famine at the invitation of Joseph and the Pharaoh who was especially appreciative of Joseph leading the Egyptians to prepare for famine.

Although the Israelites had grown to be a very large number of people, they had become slaves to the Egyptians.

Moses had been asking for opportunity to leave Egypt but his requests had been repeatedly refused and denied – despite nine terrible plagues which God sent upon the Egyptians.

But Pharaoh, the ruler of the Egyptians, kept God's people in bondage, in slavery, just as Satan keeps all people in bondage until they receive deliverance through faith in Jesus, the Passover Lamb.

And now God delivered them by blood.

To summarize the Passover, the Israelites were to select a perfect lamb from their sheep or goats and kill it. ***"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."*** Then they are to roast it and to eat it all with bitter herbs and unleavened bread while they are prepared to travel. Any part that is not eaten is to be burned up.

God said ***"On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn--both men 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. This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD--a lasting ordinance."***

In this way God put in place a celebration that was to last until the Lamb of God came who was to redeem them – and all mankind – from the slavery of sin, eternal death and the power of Satan.

Throughout their history until the Savior came some 1500 years later, this was to remind them that God had freed them from being slaves in Egypt.

Today we look briefly at

**THE PASSOVER**

- 1. The events of the Passover**
- 2. The meaning of the Passover**
- 3. The application of the Passover to Jesus Christ.**

The preparation for the Passover meant a new start for the Jewish calendar. This was to be a very important beginning, and they were no longer to use any Egyptian calendar. This was to be the beginning of their church-year and all their religious festivals were to be calculated according to this new calendar.

The first Passover prepared God's people for the tenth plague sent upon Egypt, when the Lord killed all the firstborn sons and animals of Egypt. Moses warned Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt ***"This is what the LORD says: 'About midnight I will go throughout Egypt. Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the slave girl, who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the [animals] as well. There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt--worse than there has ever been or ever will be again. But among the Israelites not a dog will bark at any man or animal.' Then you will know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel."*** Exodus 11:4-7 (NIV) But Pharaoh did not listen and did not let God's people go.

On the tenth day of this new calendar, ***"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."***

This lamb was to be separated from the rest of the flock for four days to keep it from contamination and infection so that it could be an unblemished lamb, a lamb without defect. This was not to be just any old lamb, but a flawless, perfect lamb.

There are many parallels between the Passover and Jesus:

The New Testament application of this is clear from the words of John the Baptist who, when he ***"saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"*** John 1:29 (NIV) Jesus, who did not sin at all, was a perfect, unblemished human. In him was fulfilled the picture, the type, the symbol of the Passover lamb without blemish or defect.

The Passover lamb was to be killed and the blood was to be spread where they could see it. This is the same way Jesus was killed, so that the people of Jerusalem could look up on the cross and see the blood of Jesus. Blood – what an ugly sight! Yet that was the way God chose to deliver his people from the slavery of the Egyptians, and the same way God chose to deliver all mankind from the slavery of sin, Satan and eternal death. We can look up to Jesus on the Cross.

The lamb was not to be butchered into pieces and none of its bones were to be broken but it was to be roasted whole. Remember that Jesus and the two malefactors crucified with him were to have their legs broken, to make sure that they died a painful death. But the soldiers did not break the legs of Jesus because he was already dead.

The blood was to be spread ***"on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs"*** and is a clear picture of the blood of Jesus Christ, which was spilled, as he said "poured out" for the forgiveness of sins. His blood was shed to wash us pure and clean from our sins. In the sacrament of the altar, we also drink that blood of Jesus Christ as an assurance of the forgiveness of our sins, as an assurance of deliverance from sin and eternal death.

Just as God delivered them by blood so we, too, are delivered by blood, the blood of Jesus.

God told them to prepare a flawless lamb, a perfect lamb "without defect". That is the picture of the sinless Son of God.

The lamb was to be roasted over the fire, not prepared in any other way. The roasting is a picture of the fires of hell. In this we are reminded of Jesus Christ suffering the pains of hell-fire for us, in our place, so that everyone who believes this will not suffer the fires of hell. Remember that the book of Revelation speaks of hell as a burning lake of fire.

The lamb was to be eaten up completely. This is a picture that we are to accept all of Christ and his message. We are not to just pick and choose what we like of the Word of God; as we do when we have a roast chicken dinner, and we like to pick and choose the parts of a chicken that we like best.

And the entrails, "the bad stuff" and the leftovers are to be burned – just as people "left over" because they didn't believe in Jesus as Savior will be burned forever in hell.

The bitter herbs of the Passover meal represent the suffering of Israelites as slaves in Egypt. They also represent the sufferings of this earthly life for us.

They were to prepare and eat unleavened bread – bread without yeast. Yeast is one of the pictures of sin. We are to get rid of the leaven, the yeast of sin in our lives and fight to keep it out, something we can only do with the help of the Holy Spirit. There was to be no yeast in the house for the celebration of the Passover.

Any of the lamb that was left till morning was to be burned. Again, a picture of the pains of hell that Jesus suffered.

The Israelites are to be prepared to leave quickly. God said ***“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.”***

They were to be ready to travel and leave behind things that they had acquired in Egypt. The things, the possessions of Egypt were not to be their goal. The gold and valuables they did take with them were later used in serving the Lord, especially in making a place of worship for the Lord.

Wouldn't we find it hard to leave every earthly thing we have acquired – except what we could carry? It is easy to wonder just what we would take with us if we were forced to leave our homes with only what we could carry. Our houses, our possessions, all our “things” of this world are not really the important part of our lives.

They were to be ready to leave on a moment's notice. So we, too, are to be ready to leave this earth on a moment's notice, really, without any notice at all. For the Day of Judgment will come upon all men like a thief in the night, unexpectedly. This world should be something we don't want to savor and hold dear. It should be a bitter place to live – and it is for the Christian – except that Satan makes it so pleasant for our sinful flesh!

Just as the Israelites in Egypt were to be delivered from the bondage, the slavery to the Egyptians, so believers are delivered from the slavery of this world, in which Satan, our sinful flesh within us, and people and temptations of the world make us slaves to sin.

Eternal death, not deliverance, will come upon all who do not believe that God will rescue them in this way.

But the real significant, the really important thing is the deliverance the Passover symbolized, represented, typified. It points to Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who was crucified to redeem you.

We do not celebrate the festival of Passover. But we do commemorate and celebrate the death of Jesus Christ, which happened at the time of a Passover commemoration. But for us the commemoration does not end with the slaughter of Jesus Christ, the very Lamb of God. For us it ends with that Lamb coming back to life on the third day, to assure us that we, too, will come back to life on the last day.

May the blood of Jesus be for each of you the assurance that God will pass over your sins and forgive them so that you may enjoy life forever in the Promised Land of Heaven! Amen.