

LENTEN OBSERVANCES



MAUNDY THURSDAY SEDER MEAL

"Celebrating Passover - with Christian Understanding"



INTRODUCTION:

Jewish people observe the Passover, commemorating the Israelites' redemption from slavery in Egypt, which is told in Exodus 6-14, about the same time as Christians celebrate Easter. The Passover Meal (Seder) is centered in the home, and Jesus shared this meal with his disciples the night before he was crucified (Maundy Thursday),

For Christians, during Holy Week, we take the opportunity to remember Jesus' life, death and resurrection. God sent Moses to rescue the Israelites from slavery as God sent Jesus to rescue people from the slavery of sin and wrong-doing. Since Jesus was a Jew, through this meal we can see how important the Jewish faith was to him, how faithfully he kept the Feast and how he interpreted some of the traditions in the light of his own ministry.

SYMBOLIC FOOD:

<i>Jewish</i>	<i>Christian</i>
lamb - Blood of lamb & door posts	- Christ is sacrificial lamb
matzoh (unleavened bread) - speed of escape	- body of Christ
Bitter herbs (radish/endive) - hardships	- Christ's suffering
Greens (parsley/spinach) - nature comes to life in the spring	- resurrection
Haroses/sweet sauce - mortar for bricks	- sign of hope
Salt water - tears shed	- tears shed
Wine/grape juice - to mark celebration	- blood of Christ

