

# THE SEDER MEAL

A meal to celebrate and remember the Passover night when God rescued the Children of Israel from slavery in Egypt

## WHY DO WE OBSERVE THIS FEAST?

Moses said, "You shall observe this rite as a perpetual ordinance for you and your children. When you come to the land that the LORD will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this observance. And when your children ask you, 'What do you mean by this observance?' you shall say, 'It is the passover sacrifice to the LORD, for he passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt, when he struck down the Egyptians but spared our houses.'" And the people bowed down and worshiped.

—Exodus 12:24-27

## PRAYERS

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe, for you kept us alive and sustained us and brought us to this season. May this place be made holy by the light of your presence, shining upon us in blessing and giving us peace. Amen.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe, for you feed all with your goodness, with grace and lovingkindness and with compassion. You give food to all flesh, and your mercy endures forever. Amen.

### EGG

*The egg symbolizes the desire for freedom to which hard labor gave birth.*

### PARSLEY

*A symbol of springtime, parsley is placed in salt water, a sign of the tears that need to be shed before joy can be experienced.*

### UNLEAVENED BREAD

*The unleavened bread is the bread of haste, made with eagerness to experience the Lord's deliverance.*

### WINE

*Wine is drunk to honor the Lord, recognizing his benefits, and the goodness that makes everything possible.*



### BITTER HERBS

*Bitter herbs, usually red shredded horseradish, represent the bitterness the Israelites endured before their escape from Egypt.*

### SHANK BONE

*The shank bone of the Passover Lamb brings to mind the deliverance which the Lord God wrought for us by the blood of this sacrifice. It is served on the plate reserved for Elijah.*

### MIXED FRUIT

*Mixed fruit, called charoseth (which is made of apples and walnuts), helps us to remember the mortar which the Israelites were forced to make when they were slaves in Egypt.*

