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

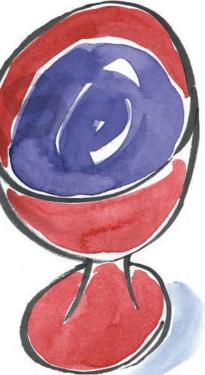
PRAYERS

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 UNLEAVENED BREAD The egg symbolizes the desire DEFINITIONS The unleavened bread is the bread of haste, made for freedom to which hard with eagerness to experience the Lord's deliverance. labor gave birth. PARSLEY WINE O Lord our God." A symbol of springtime, Wine is drunk to parsley is placed in salt honor the Lord, water, a sign of the recognizing his tears that need to be benefits, and shed before joy can be the goodexperienced. ness that makes everything possible. BITTER HERBS MIXED FRUIT Bitter herbs, usually red shredded horseradish, rep-Mixed fruit, called resent the bitterness the Israelites endured before their charoseth (which is made of apples and walescape from Egypt. nuts), helps us to remember the mortar which the Is-SHANK BONE raelites were forced to make when The shank bone of the Passover Lamb brings to mind the deliverance which the Lord God they were slaves in Egypt. wrought for us by the blood of this sacrifice. It is served on the plate reserved for Elijah.





Baruch Attah Adonai Elohenu. A phrase in the ancient Hebrew language, meaning, "Blessed are you,

Seder. A Hebrew word meaning "order" or "arrangement," since all the rituals of the meal are done in a very specific sequence.

Passover. An 8-day holiday commemorating the night the angel of death "passed over" the homes of the Israelites in Egypt whose doorposts were marked with the blood of a lamb. The Seder meal is traditionally eaten on the first day of Passover.

