

Exodus 1:8-14; 12:1-3, 8 (ESV)

⁸ Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹ And he said to his people, “Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” ¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel. ¹³ So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves...

¹ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ² “This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household...

⁸ They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it.

Matthew 27:22-36 (ESV)

²² Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said, “Let him be crucified!” ²³ And he said, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!” ²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” ²⁵ And all the people answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” ²⁶ Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified. ²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. ²⁸ And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ³⁰ And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹ And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him. ³² As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵ And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. ³⁶ Then they sat down and kept watch over him there.

Service for the Second Week in Lent

Bitter Herbs

Invocation

Shema Yisrael! Adonai Elohenu, Adonai echad! “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!” The LORD our God is one God in three persons, blessed Trinity! In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Blessing of the Candles

In the Hebrew tradition, before the Passover ceremony, the children light the candles and pray. This gesture symbolizes the coming of the Messiah as the light of the world. We welcome Messiah’s presence among us as the candles are lit.

Blessed are You, O LORD our God, King of the universe. You sanctify us by Your Word and allow us to kindle these lights. Bless our homes and our dear ones with the warmth and peace of Your Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lighting of the Candles

Opening Hymn

Go to Dark Gethsemane

LSB 436

A Passover Approach

Why is this night different from all other nights?

On all other nights we eat all kinds of herbs, but on this night why only bitter herbs?

At the seder we eat bitter herbs to remind us of the bitterness our ancestors experienced when the Egyptian taskmasters oppressed them.

Surely (Christ) took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:4-5)

Once we were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the LORD our God delivered us “with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm.” (Deuteronomy 5:15)

Once we were slaves of satan and sin, but the LORD our God delivered us with His arms outstretched on the cross.

Had not the Holy One, praised be He, brought our fathers out of Egypt, then we and our children and our children’s children would still be enslaved.

Had not the Holy One, praised be He, brought us out of sin, then we and our children and our children’s children would still be enslaved by the devil and destined for damnation.

Prayer of Kiddush (“Sanctification”)

Our God and God of our ancestors, we thank You for gathering us to celebrate Passover. We praise You for delivering us from the slavery of sin and bringing us into the liberation of the Gospel, all through the sacrifice of Messiah.

Praised are You, O LORD our God, King of the universe. You have given us life and sustained us and brought us to this season. Amen.

First Lesson

Exodus 1:8-14; 12:1-3,8

The Passion History

Matthew 27:22-36

Sermon Hymn *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed* **LSB 437**

Sermon *“The Bitterness of Suffering”* **Matthew 27:26-31**

Hymn Response *O Christ, Thou Lamb of God* **Page 198**

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Our LORD’s Prayer

The High Priestly Benediction **Numbers 6:24-26**

Yebarekka Adonai, weyishmereka; ya’er Adonai panayw ‘eleyka, wichunnekkka; yissa’ Adonai panayw ‘eleyka, weyasem leka shalom.

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn His face toward you and give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn *Christ, the Life of All the Living* **LSB 420**

(vs. 1, 5, 6)