

Exodus 12:14-20 (ESV)

¹⁴ “This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast. ¹⁵ Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶ On the first day you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day a holy assembly. No work shall be done on those days. But what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared by you. ¹⁷ And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever. ¹⁸ In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. ¹⁹ For seven days no leaven is to be found in your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a sojourner or a native of the land. ²⁰ You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread.”

Luke 23:13-25 (ESV)

¹³ Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, ¹⁴ and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. ¹⁵ Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. ¹⁶ I will therefore punish and release him.” ¹⁸ But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas” — ¹⁹ a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. ²⁰ Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, ²¹ but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” ²² A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.” ²³ But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. ²⁵ He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

Service for the Third Week in Lent

Unleavened Bread

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

O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken LSB 439
(vs. 1, 3,5)

A Passover Approach

Why is this night different from all other nights?

On all other nights we may eat either leavened or unleavened bread, but on this night why only the unleavened bread?

We eat unleavened bread (matzoh) because, when Pharaoh told our ancestors that they could leave Egypt, they had no time to bake bread with leaven, so they baked it without leaven.

Our sin is like leaven: a little bit permeates the whole. It slows us down from following God. We desire to leave our sin behind us as the Israelites left their yeast behind in Egypt.

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 12:14-20

The Passion History

Luke 23:13-25

Sermon Hymn

The Law Commands and Makes Us Know
See Insert TLH 289

Sermon

“*Sin Removed*” 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

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, 3,5)

The Law Commands and Makes Us Know
Old Hundredth

The Law commands and makes us know
That duties to our God we owe;
But 'tis the Gospel must reveal
Where lies our strength to do His will.

The Law discovers guilt and sin
And shows how vile our hearts have been;
The Gospel only can express
Forgiving love and cleansing grace.

What curses doth the Law denounce
Against the man that fails but once!
But in the Gospel Christ appears,
Pard'ning the guilt of num'rous years.

My soul, no more attempt to draw
Thy life and comfort from the Law.
Fly to the hope the Gospel gives;
The man that trusts the promise lives. Amen.