

Exodus 1:6-14 (ESV)

⁶ Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. ⁷ But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them. 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.

John 13:21-38 (ESV)

²¹ After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." ²² The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. ²³ One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table close to Jesus, ²⁴ so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. ²⁵ So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶ Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷ Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." ²⁸ Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹ Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰ So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night. ³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." ³⁶ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward." ³⁷ Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." ³⁸ Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.

Service for the Fourth Week in Lent

Charoseth Sauce

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

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

LSB 423

A Passover Approach

Why is this night different from all other nights?

On all other nights we do not even once dip our food, but on this night why do we dip our food twice?

At the Passover seder meal, we dip food twice: in salt water to remind us of our bitter tears and in charoseth sauce to remind us of the mortar and clay bricks our fathers made in Egypt.

[Jesus has] shared in [our] humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. (Hebrews 2:14-15)

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 1:6-14

The Passion History

John 13:21-38

Sermon Hymn

Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted **LSB 451**

Sermon

“The Burden of Betrayal” **John 13:21-30**

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, wichunneka; 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 Breaking of the Bread



This scene depicting the Passover meal in the upper room on Maundy Thursday is one of the many metal statues located at the Groom Cross between Interstate 40 and old Route 66 going west out of Groom, Texas. It was built by Steve Thomas of Pampa, Texas in 1995. Mr. Thomas, disgusted with the huge billboards advertising pornography locations along I-40 wanted to make a public profession of faith along the Interstate. Originally he wanted to put up his own billboard with Bible verses but could never find the appropriate verse. Instead, inspired by a cross built by a rancher in Ballinger, Texas, Mr. Thomas knew that he would build a cross. Built on private property donated by Chris Britten to avoid legal issues with the ACLU at a height of 190 feet, the Groom Cross is reported as being the biggest cross in the northern hemisphere.