

**EVE OF PASSION FRIDAY
AND THE CELEBRATION OF THE MYSTERIES OF PASSOVER**

Anthem of the Chancel

The memorial of your many kindnesses.

Your Church celebrates the Memorial of your dear Passion, O our Savior, which was completed for our deliverance. Keep her children from harm.

Your name is remembered in all generations.

Your Church celebrates the Memorial of your dear Passion, O our Savior, which was completed for our deliverance. Keep her children from harm.

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; from everlasting, and for ever and ever.
Amen.*

O Christ, who by your Cross saved our race from error, lo your Church is re-enacting your Passion. Make her worthy to rejoice in your Resurrection.

The Lections

Exodus 12:1-20

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This month shall be for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month they shall take every man a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household; and if the household is too small for a lamb, then a man and his neighbor next to his house shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old; you shall take it from the sheep or from the goats; and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs in the evening. Then they shall take some of the blood, and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat them. They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled with water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. And you shall let none of it remain until the morning, anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. In this manner you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will smite all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you, upon the houses where you are; and when I see

the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall fall upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

"This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as an ordinance for ever. Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread; on the first day you shall put away leaven out of your houses, for if any one eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. 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 every one must eat, that only may be prepared by you. 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 an ordinance for ever. In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, and so until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. For seven days no leaven shall be found in your houses; for if any one eats what is leavened, that person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a sojourner or a native of the land. You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread."

Zechariah 9:9-12; 11:4-5,12-13; 12:9-end; 13:7-end

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on an ass,

on a colt the foal of an ass.

I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your captives free from the waterless pit.

Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Thus said the LORD my God: "Become shepherd of the flock doomed to slaughter. Those who buy them slay them and go unpunished; and those who sell them say, 'Blessed be the LORD, I have become rich'; and their own shepherds have no pity on them."

Then I said to them, "If it seems right to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them." And they weighed out as my wages thirty shekels of silver. Then the LORD said to me, "Cast it into the treasury"—the lordly price at which I was paid off by them. So I took the thirty shekels of silver and cast them into the treasury in the house of the LORD.

"And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of compassion and supplication, so that, when they look on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a first-born. On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo. The land shall mourn, each family by itself; the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the Shimeites by itself, and their wives by themselves; and all the families that are left, each by itself, and their wives by themselves. . . .

"Awake, O sword, against my shepherd,
against the man who stands next to me,"
says the LORD of hosts.

"Strike the shepherd, that the sheep may be scattered;
I will turn my hand against the little ones.

In the whole land, says the LORD,
two thirds shall be cut off and perish,
and one third shall be left alive.

And I will put this third into the fire,
and refine them as one refines silver,
and test them as gold is tested.

They will call on my name,
and I will answer them.

I will say, 'They are my people';
and they will say, 'The LORD is my God.'"

The Shuraya

All who hate me whispered together about me;
They imagined evil against me.
They contemplated an evil thing:
He who lies down will not henceforth rise again.
Even my friend, a man in whom I trusted,
Who ate of my bread, whom I greatly trusted, has acted treacherously against me.
But you, O LORD, be gracious to me,
And raise me up, and I shall requite them!

The Apostle

1 Corinthians 5:7-8; 10:15-17; 11:23-end

Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us, therefore, celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

I speak as to sensible men; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For any one who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we should not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are chastened so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another—if any one is hungry, let him eat at home—lest you come together to be condemned. About the other things I will give directions when I come.

The Zumara

I cried with my voice to the LORD, with my voice I made supplication to the LORD,
I poured out my entreaty before him. (2)
When my spirit is faint, you know my pathways!
In the way of my footsteps they have hidden snares for me. (2)

The Gospel

Matthew 26:1-5; 14-30

When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, "You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of man will be delivered up to be crucified."

Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and took counsel together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be a tumult among the people." . . .

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain one, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at your house with my disciples.'" And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the passover.

When it was evening, he sat at table with the twelve disciples; and as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." And they were very sorrowful, and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me, will betray me. The Son of man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Is it I, Master?" He said to him, "You have said so."

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Anthem of the Mysteries

Come, let us glorify the Lord.

With the eye of the mind and of love let us all look upon Christ through the symbols and types which he gave to us when he was led away to the suffering of the Cross. The living Sacrifice is placed upon the holy Altar, and like angels the priests celebrate the Memorial of his death with voices of thanksgiving, saying, Glory to him for his ineffable gift.

Look to him and hope in him.

With the eye of the mind and of love let us all

They Consecrate with the Hallowing of Mar Nestorius

Anthem of the Bema

In sorrow let us receive the Body and Blood of Christ the Son, who suffered for us.

Verses:

Blessed are you, even you, O last evening, for the evening of Egypt is fulfilled in you.
The Mystery which Moses ministered in Egypt found fulfillment in Christ the Son.
The people ate the lesser Passover, and our Lord fulfilled the great Passover.
The disciples stood between two lambs, and they slew the Lamb and broke the Body.

Teshbokhta, which was composed by St. Ephrem

O our Lord Jesus, worshipful King, who conquered by your passion the tyrant death,
Son of God who promised us new life in the Kingdom on high,
Remove from us all harm, and make tranquillity and mercy to dwell in our land,
That on the day of your appearance we may live before you and go out to meet you, according
to your will.
We will confess your name with hosannas for your goodness to our race,
For your mercies have been multiplied to our humanity, and your love has shone forth upon
our mortality.
You have canceled our debts through your atonement; glory be to your name for your gift.
Blessed is your honor from within your place, you who forgive debts because of your mercies.
By your grace make us all worthy to confess and worship your Godhead,
And we will lift up glory to your Lordship at every hour, amen and amen.

(Know that after they receive a little nourishment they complete this whole night with a Vigil, as our Lord said to his disciples, Watch and pray, lest you enter into the trial.)