

# OBSERVING THE PASSOVER AT HOME

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Church of God International (Consolidated)

The New Testament Passover, sometimes called the Lord's Supper, is observed after sunset on the evening or beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nissan (Abib), the first month of the Hebrew sacred calendar, or if necessary, at the second Passover 30 days later (Numbers 9:11). Every baptised member of the Body of Christ should observe this ordinance along with fellow believers, but where this is not possible, one can keep it at home. The directions in this document are provided to help you with observing the Passover service in your home.

## Items Needed

You will need the following in preparation for the service:

- A towel and basin of water for each person participating in the footwashing service
- Some unleavened (without yeast or leavening agent) bread or Passover matzo
- A small amount of red wine. (Red grape juice or red non-alcoholic wine can be used if you cannot take alcohol).
- Your Bible and a pre-selected hymn

## Room Preparation

A room should be set up with seating for all those taking part in the service. The footwashing can be done in another room if available. Note: if you are the only person observing the Passover there is no need for the footwashing ritual.

Set up a table with enough unleavened bread and wine for the participants. The unleavened bread should be broken and placed on a tray or plate. Just prepare enough so each person can have a small piece. Pour a small amount, about a tablespoon of wine in a glass for each person. Cover the unleavened bread and wine with a white table napkin before the service begins.

## The Service

When the time to begin is come, everyone should quietly sit down. Take some time before the service begins to quietly reflect on the significance of this solemn but joyous occasion. To begin the service, the head of the household or person designated should open with prayer.

Read aloud the following passages: Luke 22:7-20; 1 Corinthians 11:17-26.

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## Foot Washing

At the Last Supper Jesus instituted the symbols of his broken body and shed blood in the form of the bread and wine. But before this he taught them a lesson in humility, service and spiritual cleansing through the footwashing ritual.

Read aloud John 13:1-17. If two or more people are participating, they should wash one another's feet. If one person is observing it alone, this part of the ordinance would be omitted.

## Introduction to the emblems portion of the service

When the foot washing is completed everyone should return to their seats. Take time to read aloud the following passages:

Isaiah 53:3-12; John 6:32-58; 1 Peter 2:19-25; 1 Corinthians 11:23-24, 27-32; Hebrews 4:14-16.

It should be pointed out that Christ's sacrifice was for the healing of our mind and body.

## The Bread

Uncover the unleavened bread and pray, asking God to bless this symbol of the broken body of Jesus Christ, which was broken because of our sins and that through the acceptance of it we can have healing.

Break the bread into small pieces and pass it around for each person to take a piece. Wait until everyone has eaten the bread before proceeding to the next step.

## The Wine

In preparation for the wine ceremony, read aloud some or all of the following verses: 1 Peter 1:18-21; Matthew 26:27-28; 1 John 1:7-9; Hebrews 9:11-15; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Cor 11:25.

Remove the napkin from over the wine glasses and pray asking God to bless this symbol of the blood of Jesus Christ shed for the remission of our sins. The wine should be passed to those participating. Each person should take a glass and drink it quietly and reverently. Remember this is a renewal of your covenant relationship with Christ.

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## Readings from Jesus' Last Words with his disciples

Read aloud sections from John 13:18 through John 17:26. Depending on the number of persons present, two or three could share in reading parts of the above passage from John's gospel.

## Closing Hymn

Matthew 26:30 tells us: "And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives." To close the service, simply sing a hymn. No need for a closing prayer. One of these hymns would be appropriate:

In Thy Loving Kindness, Lord	Christ our Passover
Jesus Paid It All	Alas! And did My Savior Bleed
Amazing Grace	Nothing But the Blood
There is a Fountain	Just as I am

Note: Any leftover bread and wine which was blessed for use in the service should be destroyed and/or disposed of. It should not be used for any other purpose.