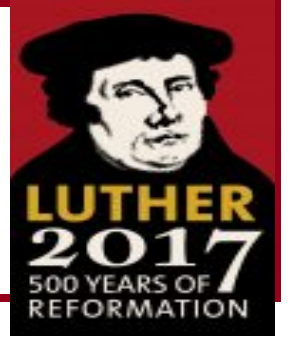


The Passover Lamb of God

Exodus 12:1-16 Matt 26:17-20, 26-30 1 Cor. 5:6-8

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Do you remember the 10 Plagues that God brought on Egypt? Pharaoh had defied the Lord; he refused to listen to Moses the prophet, and he would not let the Israelites leave Egypt. **So God sent the 10 Plagues, meant to show the power and the glory of the one true God, and lead Pharaoh to repentance.**

Each of the 10 Plagues corresponded to an Egyptian god or goddess, showing how that Egyptian god or goddess was powerless and unable to help the Egyptians. The 10 Plagues were:

1. Water turned into blood
2. Frogs from the Nile
3. Lice from the dust
4. Swarms of flies
5. Death of the cattle and livestock
6. Boils and sores
7. Firestorm of hail from the sky
8. Invasion of locusts
9. Three days of complete darkness

The **tenth plague** was the worst of all: the death of the firstborn sons. This plague was different though, for with it, God gave the entire world a glimpse of the Messiah, a foreshadow of the Savior to come. **The tenth plague is the story of the Passover.**

God told His people to sacrifice a lamb and put the blood of the lamb on the doorposts of their homes. The Israelites were to **eat the lamb** with their families, and that night, the Angel of Death would “Passover” their homes and spare their firstborn sons.

In this tenth plague, the Israelites were saved, and the Egyptians died. Even Pharaoh's firstborn son died that night.

This **salvation event** was remembered each year. It was **a special meal** to remind them of God's great love and mercy that spared the Israelites. God turned this 10th plague on the Egyptians into an act of mercy, grace, and salvation for the Israelites --- and taught them about the Messiah to come, the Savior of the world.

**The Passover lamb pointed forward to Jesus,
the "Passover Lamb of God",
who saves all people from death!**

The day we celebrate as Good Friday, the day Jesus died, was one of those yearly Passover celebrations. This time, Jesus Himself is the Passover Lamb. **God provided His Son for you, Who shed His blood on the cross, so that death "passes over" you.**

Through faith, the blood of the Passover Lamb of God is placed over you, and you will not die, but live forever. Through faith in Jesus Christ, death "passes over" you! The Old Testament Passover lamb pointed forward to Jesus, the "Passover Lamb of God", who saves all people from death.

On Jesus' last night on earth, the night in which He was betrayed, Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament Passover, and He began something new. He gave His People a **new celebration** to remember, **a new meal** to eat in the **New Testament times: *the Lord's Supper.***

Just as God told the Israelites to **eat** the Passover lamb, so too, God tells us to **"take and eat"** and **"take and drink"** of Jesus, our Passover Lamb in the Lord's Supper. In bread and wine, we **"take and eat"** and **"take and drink"** Christ's body and blood, our Passover Lamb. In Holy Communion, we share in the sacrifice as we **"take and eat"** and **"take**

The Lord's Supper is "the medicine of immortality, and the antidote to prevent us from dying; also that which causes us to live forever in Jesus Christ."
Bishop Ignatius of Antioch
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and drink". In the Lord's Supper, death "**PASSES OVER**" us as God forgives our sins. Holy Communion is the new "Passover" meal of salvation where Jesus gives of Himself to His People: the Holy Christian Church.

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

The Sacrament of the Altar is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself, for us Christians to eat and to drink. LUTHER'S [SMALL CATECHISM](#)

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night 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, after supper he took the cup, saying, "**This is my blood** of the new testament; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-25

Holy Communion is the new "Passover" meal of **salvation** where Jesus gives of Himself to His People: the Holy Christian Church.

Holy Communion is not only **food for salvation**, but it is also **strength for sanctification**. It is the basis and power for your daily life in Christ! When Jesus forgives your sins, He also sets you apart to live a holy and godly life. You are sanctified: you are set apart to live a holy and godly life!

Get rid of the **old yeast**, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. **For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.** 8 Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with **malice and wickedness**, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. 1 CORINTHIANS 5:8

St. Paul teaches us that Holy Communion is not only **food for salvation**, but it is also **strength for sanctification**.

One part of the ancient Passover celebration was that the Israelites were not to eat **yeast** for an entire week. **Yeast** represented the corruption of sin, all kinds of **malice** and **wickedness**. Refraining from yeast was a way for the Israelites to remember that they were God's people; and He had saved them and given them new life.

Just as there was to be no trace of yeast in the Israelite homes; so too there is to be no trace of sin in your life. This was so important, that if an Israelite did eat something made with yeast during this festival, he was to be “**cut off from the community of Israel**”.

Now that we have **Christ as our Passover Lamb**, we too are God’s People and He has saved us and given us new life. We are to get rid of the “**yeast**” in our lives --- not *physical yeast* like in bread, but *spiritual yeast*: that is, any trace of sin, malice, and wickedness. You are not to let sin have a foothold anywhere in your life! Sin is like **yeast**, it will grow and spread and it will overtake you. And if it overtakes you, you will be **cut off from the Kingdom of God**.

- † **Be very careful** so that you do not minimize some sin in your life
- † **Be very careful** so that the world and its evil does not influence your thoughts, attitudes, or actions
- † **Be very careful** with other people, and who you let get close to you and influence you

Sin is like **yeast**, it will grow and spread and it will overtake you. And if it overtakes you, you will be **cut off from the Kingdom of God**.

The only way to remove the “**yeast of sin**” from your life is through **confession and absolution**. Through confession and absolution, you are cleansed of sinful yeast as you hear the **powerful words of forgiveness**. In **absolution**, you hear that you belong to God and that He saved you through His Son Jesus Christ. In Holy Communion, you are **absolved** of your sins as you “take and eat” and “take and drink” the Passover Lamb of God. Death “passes over” you so that you can live a new life!

Today, come to the Table of the Lord and eat the Meal that our Passover Lamb prepared for you. Holy Communion is both the **food of salvation** and your **strength for holy living!**
Amen!