

Sunday Service ~ May 18, 2025

Service for Swansea & Charlestown Presbyterian Church

Welcome & Prayer

*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.
They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.
In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. (Psalm 19)*

Almighty God, you are a God who made all things, for the benefit of your glory. In the beginning you made the world around us, and made us to have a special place within your creation. "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." Lord, we live in a world where there are many distractions that draw us away from worshipping You. Thank you that even though we are disobedient you continue to love us as your children and continue to show us your mercy. We give you thanks and praise that because of your grace you have redeemed us and displayed a love to us that we cannot earn, and that is not deserved. We give you thanks that through Christ's obedience, and His death on the cross, that the price for sin has been paid – once, for all so that what was once unclean can be made clean. Thank you, Lord, that through the resurrection of Christ and his defeat over death, we can be confident that those who place their faith in Jesus will also be raised to eternal life with You. Father God, we pray that as we continue to study your word in the bible today that we will have soft, teachable hearts that yearn to learn how you would have us live as your people. In Christ's name we pray, Amen

Song – Come People of the Risen King

[Come People of the Risen King \(with lyrics\) - Keith & Kristyn Getty - YouTube](#)

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| <p>1. Come, people of the Risen King
Who delight to bring Him praise
Come all and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in</p> | <p>3. Come, young and old from every land
Men and women of the faith
Come, those with full or empty hands
Find the riches of His grace
Over all the world, His people sing
Shore to shore we hear them call
The Truth that cries through every age:
"Our God is all in all"!</p> |
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Chorus

*Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ, rejoice!*

2. Come, those whose joy is morning sun
And those weeping through the night
Come, those who tell of battles won
And those struggling in the fight
For His perfect love will never change
And His mercies never cease
But follow us through all our days
With the certain hope of peace

Bible Reading – Exodus 11:1-12:13 (NIV)

"Now the Lord had said to Moses, 'I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that, he will let you go from here, and when he does, he will drive you out completely. 2 Tell the people that men and women alike are to ask their neighbours for articles of silver and gold.' 3 (The Lord made the Egyptians favourably disposed toward the people, and Moses himself was highly regarded in Egypt by Pharaoh's officials and by the people.) 4 So Moses said, 'This is what the Lord says: 'About midnight I will go throughout Egypt. 5 Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the female slave, who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle as well. 6 There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt—worse than there has ever been or ever will be again. 7 But among the Israelites not a dog will bark at any person or animal.' Then you will know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel. 8 All these officials of yours will come to me, bowing down before me and saying, 'Go, you and all the people who follow you!' After that I will leave.'" Then Moses, hot with anger, left Pharaoh. 9 The Lord had said to Moses, "Pharaoh will refuse to listen to you—so that my wonders may be multiplied in Egypt." 10 Moses and Aaron performed all these wonders before Pharaoh, but the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let the Israelites go out of his country. 12 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, 2 "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. 3 Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. 4 If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbour, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. 5 The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. 6 Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. 7 Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. 8 That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. 9 Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. 10 Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. 11 This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover. 12 "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. 13 The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

Announcements

Visit from Compassion. Today we have Renier Van der Klashorst from Compassion visiting us for all three services. Compassion is a Christian organisation that is Christ Centred, Child focused and Church Based. They aim to assist children and their families living in poverty, mainly through child sponsorship.

Digital and AI Ministries It was great to having one of our link missionaries Josh Montzka visiting us last week. Today between 4-5pm at the Charlestown Public School he will be running a seminar on Digital Ministries and AI. All invited.

Focus for Month: Mission. How do we support a wholistic mission strategy? By not just having four link missionaries (Josh Montzka – Power to Change, Webbs – CMS Broome, Parsons – CMS Japan and Applebys – Pioneers Indochina) but also linking in with other outreach focused organisations like A Rocha Australia (Christian Conservation), Samaritans Purse (Operation Christmas Child), TEAR fund and Compassion (working through Church with the world's poor). We also aim to raise up the next generation of missionaries and so are currently supporting Matt Wigney (short term in Nigeria), Phoebe Baldwin (QuizWorx) and by sending a short-term mission team each year to Vanuatu where we work with our partners there – Hog harbour Presbyterian and Walaha apostolic. What part of our mission can you be

involved in?

Charlestown Church has moved. For the next 4-5 months we will be meeting at Charlestown Public School, on the corner of Smith St and Fredrick Sts. Please have a look around for the extra jobs that need to be done (set up, car park attendant, clean toilets afterwards, sweep floors, first aid office etc) and see if you can help out with something.

New City Catechism: Question 21. What sort of Redeemer is needed to bring us back to God? One who is truly human and also truly God. Scripture Proof – Isaiah 9:6 *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

Men’s Breakfast @ Swansea. Please keep Saturday 7th June free. More details in the next couple of weeks.

Sermon Series for Term 2 (all 3 services) ~ EXODUS – Saved for Worship

25.5	Exodus 13-15	Praising the Lord who saves
1.6	Exodus 16-18	Wandering for the saved
8.6	Exodus 19-20	Terms of worship
15.6	Exodus 21-24	Saved into a covenant
22.6	Exodus 32-34	Saved from failure

RENEW Women’s Conference. Saturday 31st May 9:15am – 12:30pm. Has now been fully sold out. Which is great news. Please pray for the speaker Greta Gaut as she prepares her talks on 2 Timothy. For transport options please speak to Linda Small.

Days Off. Audric is currently taking Wednesday off and Stephn Saturdays off. They are always available in an emergency but if your query can wait, please respect their time away from work.

Pastoral Prayer

Pray for Morocco (Population 38 million, Christians, 33,000). Christians in Morocco can face severe pressure from their family and local community to recant their faith. Without official permission or recognition to gather in public, they must meet in house churches. Pray for God to help the Moroccan Church be salt and light. Pray that Christians will be wise and courageous as they live for Jesus. Pray for hope and peace for converts from Islam facing family and community pressures.

Hamilton Presbyterian. Give thanks for the growth in the morning service and for new people coming each month. Pray for more families to come. Pray for wisdom regarding rethinking about Alive at 5, the fortnightly teenage Bible study, the new radio Rhema show David is beginning at the end of June and for more labourers at Scots Kirk. Please pray that God will be glorified in all they say and do and that their labours would bear fruit.

Pray for our new Federal Government. Pray that Anthony Albanese and his cabinet will realise that they have been given a task to run this country under the leadership of the Lord God Himself. Pray that they will govern wisely and do what is best for our nation not for his political party.

Pray for the new Pope Leo XIV. We pray that You would place a deep hunger in his heart for Your Holy Word — the Scriptures that are living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword. Stir within him a longing to know Christ and to make Him known, not through traditions of men, but through the clear truth of the Gospel as revealed in Your Word. Give him courage to stand boldly for biblical truth, even when it is unpopular, and to lead with humility, grace, and fear of the Lord. Fill him with the Holy Spirit & help the Catholic Church recover a love for Grace Alone through Faith alone in Christ Alone, according to the Scripture alone, for God’s Glory Alone.

Bible Reading – Exodus 12:14-42 (NIV)

“This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord—a lasting ordinance. 15 For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through

the seventh must be cut off from Israel. 16 On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat; that is all you may do. 17 "Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. 18 In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day. 19 For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And anyone, whether foreigner or native-born, who eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel. 20 Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread." 21 Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. 22 Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. 23 When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down. 24 "Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. 25 When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. 26 And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' 27 then tell them, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.'" Then the people bowed down and worshiped. 28 The Israelites did just what the Lord commanded Moses and Aaron. 29 At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well. 30 Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead. 31 During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the Lord as you have requested. 32 Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me." 33 The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. "For otherwise," they said, "we will all die!" 34 So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing. 35 The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. 36 The Lord had made the Egyptians favourably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so, they plundered the Egyptians. 37 The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Sukkoth. There were about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. 38 Many other people went up with them, and also large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds. 39 With the dough the Israelites had brought from Egypt, they baked loaves of unleavened bread. The dough was without yeast because they had been driven out of Egypt and did not have time to prepare food for themselves. 40 Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt was 430 years. 41 At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the Lord's divisions left Egypt. 42 Because the Lord kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honour the Lord for the generations to come.

Song – On that Day <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owzl2czzdc>

I believe in Christ, risen from the dead
 He now reigns victorious,
 His kingdom knows no end
 Through His resurrection, death has lost its hold
 I know on that final day, I'll rise as Jesus rose
 On that day, we will see You
 Shining brighter than the sun

Chorus

On that day, we will know You
 As we lift our voice as one
 'Til that day, we will praise You
 For Your never-ending grace
 And we will keep on singing on that glorious day

What a blessed hope, though now tired and worn
 We will spend eternity
 around our Saviour's throne
 Though we grieve our losses,
 we grieve not in vain
 For we know our crown of glory
 waits beyond the grave

Bridge

Hallelujah, what a day it will be!
 For at home with You, my joy is complete

As I run into Your arms open wide, I will see
 My Father who is waiting for me

Hallelujah what a day it will be!
 For at home with You, my joy is complete
 As I run into Your arms open wide, I will see
 My Father who is waiting for me
 My Father who is waiting for me

Chorus x2

And we will keep on singing on that glorious day

Sermon – A Symbol of Salvation! (Stephen T)

Canadian preacher Don Carson once talked about the original Passover by saying *“Picture two Jews, by the name of Smith and Brown. Remarkably Jewish names. The day before the first Passover they’re having a little discussion in the land of Goshen, and Smith says to Brown, “Boy, are you a little nervous about what’s going to happen tonight?”*

Brown says, “Well, God told us what to do through his servant Moses. You don’t have to be nervous. Haven’t you slaughtered the lamb and dabbed the two door posts with blood & put blood on the lintel? Haven’t you done that? You’re all ready and packed to go? You’re going to eat your whole Passover meal with your family?”

“Of course I’ve done that. I’m not stupid. But, it’s still pretty scary when you think of all the things that have happened around here recently. You know, flies and river turning to blood. It’s pretty awful. And now there’s a threat of the first-born being killed, you know. It’s all right for you. You’ve got three sons. I’ve only got one. And I love my Charlie, and the Angel of Death is passing through tonight. I know what God says; I put the blood there. But it’s pretty scary, I’ll be glad when this night is over.” And the other one responds, “Bring it on. I trust in the promises of God.”

“That night, the angel of death swept through the land. Which (Jew) one lost his son? And the answer of course is: neither. Because death doesn’t pass over them on the ground of the intensity, or the clarity, of the faith exercised. But on the ground of the blood of the lamb. That’s what silences the accuser... It’s not the intensity of our faith but the object of our faith that saves. They overcome him on the ground of the blood of the lamb.”

Slide 2

Today we are coming to the one of most important chapters in the whole of the Bible. It is so important that God changes the start of the Jewish year so that right at the beginning of each and every year they might remember what happens in Exodus 12, the salvation that he graciously gave to the people of Israel. And that salvation is given to the Jews by grace and they exercise that salvation by faith. But it is not the strength of their faith that is important but who their faith is in. It must be in the Lord God Himself who is the Saviour of His people.

Yet the Exodus is not a stand-alone story in the Bible. We will see today it is actually there to point to God’s ultimate salvation, where Christ our Passover lamb saves us from our slavery to sin. So, we need to have faith in Him. And we will find out it is not the strength of our faith that is the important thing, whether it is strong or weak. The important thing is that we have faith in Jesus, that He and He alone is the one who saves us, through his blood. From firstly

Slide 3

1. The Horror of Death

Because this salvation comes in the midst of the 10th & last plague that God sends on the people living in Egypt. But this is not simply the last round of a fight between Pharaoh and Moses, and between the gods of Egypt and the God of Israel. It's the pivotal point, not just in the book of Exodus but in the whole history of God's people up until this point. It becomes the great paradigm, the archetype of God's salvation throughout Scripture. And so, whereas the first 9 plagues whizz through pretty quickly, this tenth plague is where the action slows down. We can't afford to just drive past as if we are on a bus tour with many other wonders still to come. We must stop and linger and first consider the horror of death.

4 "So, Moses said, "This is what the Lord says: 'About midnight I will go throughout Egypt. 5 Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the female slave, who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle as well. 6 There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt—worse than there has ever been or ever will be again."

This is bad news for every household in Egypt. This very night death will visit every single one of them. From the richest to the poorest. From the slave girl to Pharaoh himself. And what's worse it will visit the first born, the heir, the one who is to inherit all the wealth and privileges of the father. This important one will be under the curse of death.

Slide 4

Judgement is coming upon the land of Egypt & their so-called gods. Judgement, they well & truly deserved. For just as Egypt once tried to kill all of Israel's males, so now God will kill all of Egypt's first-born. In the past Egypt refused to acknowledge the cries of God's people. Now God will no longer hear the cries of the people of Egypt. Egypt is getting a bit of divine poetic justice and there is nothing worse than getting what you deserve from a holy God.

It seems harsh and to our modern ears we hate to hear about anyone dying because of God's judgement. But rather than be worried about the judgement of God, maybe we need to instead ponder the restraint and the mercy of God. What is extraordinary is that any Egyptians are left alive, not that He judges some. What's really perplexing, you know, about the narrative of the judgment and death of the firstborn, is the restraint of God. The restraint of God in the face of the pervasive sin festering in every human heart.

But what is even more amazing is that the people of God escape judgement. For their sins deserve death as well. But at the very same time that God judges the Egyptians, he saves the Israelites. You see the same act of judgement for those who don't acknowledge God, actually brings about the salvation for those who do acknowledge God.

Slide 5

And isn't that what is happening also at the cross? On the cross, Jesus receives the divine punishment that the sins of the world deserved. The first-born son of God dies because he is coming under God's righteous anger and receiving the wages owed for the sins of the whole world. Yet at the very same time, this Jesus is saving God's people by defeating sin, defeating the devil and defeating death so that those who are in Christ, will one day rise again and receive eternal life! They also escape the horror of death through the blood of the lamb.

Slide 6

2. The blood of the lamb

For before the Lord comes to the land of Egypt and strikes down each and every firstborn, the people of God are to select a lamb for each family, one that is a year-old male without defect, so it joins the life of the family for four days.

6 *“Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. 7 Then they are to take some of the blood & put it on the sides & tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs”*

Slide 7

12 *“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. 13 The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.”*

7 *“Then you will know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.”*

Slide 8

The difference between judgement and salvation is the presence of the blood of the lamb. Yes, there will be a death in every house in Egypt. There will not be any house where blood is not shed. But the question is will it be the blood of the first-born son or the blood of the perfect lamb? You see here is an act of substitution. God graciously offers his people the chance to have a lamb to be killed in their place.

It's a straight swap. It's a bit like going to a swap meet, where you can take something of value that you don't want and swap it for something that you did want. We don't do it much today but it used to be one of the main sources of getting what you wanted. It was a barter system. But here it is a barter system on steroids. God is giving his people the chance to swap the death of their first-born son with the death of an ordinary lamb. And so, throughout Egypt, the blood of the lamb was the difference between life and death.

Slide 9

Now the sacrifice of the lamb is a sign of unfinished business. Because I doubt anyone here thinks that is a fair swap. A person is worth far, far more than an animal, aren't they? Well, it's a mystery that points forward to the cross. Where the swap is reversed. There, as Jesus Christ, the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world swaps places with you and me, the marvel is that God Himself is worth far, far more than one human life. And yet he graciously is willing to swap his son's life for our lives. Jesus dies so that we might live.

Slide 10

Now let's think for a moment, what if the Israelites hadn't painted the lintel and the sides of the door with blood? Well then, the destroyer would have come and killed the Israelites first born as well. You see the difference wasn't ethnicity, it was faith. Faith that trusted God's word and so killed that innocent lamb and then splashed its blood around their house. The difference between life and death is found in that blood. Whether you received God's protection or God's wrath was determined by the blood of the lamb.

You see God did not promise to spare Israel because they were sufficiently religious or moral in contrast and by comparison to their pagan oppressors. No, God promised to spare them only if the blood of the lamb marked their households. Only those who were living under the lamb's blood would not face the wrath of God. So, the only grounds for hope in all of Egypt was if you took refuge under the blood of the Passover lamb.

Slide 11

Once again this looks forward to the cross, where Jesus sheds his blood for you and me. That blood is the difference between life and death, between heaven and hell. The judgement of God is coming to all of us no matter what our ethnicity is, no matter how many times we have gone to church. But the destroyer will pass over our judgement, if he sees that we have put our trust in the blood of the lamb of God. If Jesus has died in our place. Without the shedding of blood there is no deliverance from sins penalty, there is no escaping death or God's eternal judgement, & there is no forgiveness. For grace is not experienced without atonement. Our faith can't be in ourselves & our own actions it must be the blood of Jesus.

Slide 12

3. Which leads thirdly to the symbol of salvation

8 "That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, & bread made without yeast. 9 Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire; with the head, legs & internal organs. 10 Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. 11 This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet & your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover."

This was a family festival. Where each family selected a lamb, roasted it and ate it together. And there are no priests involved, or temples or altars, it is done in the family home. Each and every family home is involved in this service of worship. Where they do and eat exactly what God tells them to do and eat. For they are not spectators but participants. They are part of the drama. They eat the food, and drink the wine and look at the blood being painted on the doorframes of their own house. This symbol is meant to touch them personally.

Slide 13

And the Passover festival leads straight on to the Festival of the Unleavened Bread. "16 On the first day hold a sacred assembly, & another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat; that is all you may do. 17 "Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come"

One festival, the Passover leads to the sacrifice of the lamb and the eating of this family meal together. The other festival starts on the very same day and goes on for another week. You see this salvation is something you look forward to as well as look back on. This is something that you get yourself ready for and it is something that is going to change what you do as a result of what has happened.

Slide 14

And it's something that they will keep doing, year in year out. Because you don't want to forget. Lest we forget. It is not the means of salvation but it is the pointer to our salvation. And it proclaims that salvation to every member of the family. That is why the children have a role in it. They ask why are we doing this? What does it all mean? And the answer is that it reminds us of what God has done for us. How God has saved his people. How the blood of the lamb takes away the horror of death for those who will put their faith in Him.

And so, you can see why on the last night of his life, Jesus eagerly desired to eat the Passover meal with his disciples. The paradigm of salvation in the OT actually was pointing to the NT where the reality of salvation was for all God's people. This is my body, Jesus says, broken for you. This blood is the blood of the new covenant, shed for you. We eat together as the family of God. We participate in the drama, we all caught up in what is happening. That body was broken for me. That blood was shed for me. This Jesus has died for me.

Slide 15

4. Which leads fourthly to The Blessings of God's People

For after they have had their Passover meal and after God's judgment visits each and every house in Egypt, Pharaoh has finally had enough. *31 "During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses & Aaron and said, "Up! Leave my people, you & the Israelites! Go, worship the Lord as you have requested. 32 Take your flocks & herds, as you have said & go & also bless me."*

You see the Jews did not escape slavery in Egypt, they were allowed to leave their slavery by Pharaoh himself. They don't crawl out with the tail between their legs, they march out the front door with dignity. For they have been legally freed from their slavery. They no longer belong to Pharaoh; instead, they now belong to God Himself!

Slide 16

And to the victor goes the spoils. They leave without a fight but they leave with the riches of Egypt. 35 *“The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. 36 The Lord had made the Egyptians favourably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so, they plundered the Egyptians.”*

The people were so glad to get rid of them, they paid them off! God’s judgment on Egypt is total. Their gods are humiliated, Pharaoh is reduced to begging, and Israel leaves the land enriched with the treasure of their former captors. God’s people are blessed & even Pharaoh recognises it and asks Moses for his blessing. God has reversed the roles. He has lifted high the oppressed and brought down the proud. But it is not just God’s people who are blessed.

Slide 17

37 “The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Sukkoth. There were about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. 38 Many other people went up with them, and also large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds.”

Some non-Israelites travel with them. Were they representatives of other oppressed nations also in Israel or were they also Egyptians who had seen the mighty power of God in the plagues and put their trust also in the Lord? Maybe, maybe some of them had even splashed blood on their doorframes and so had escaped the death of the first born as well? We don’t know, it doesn’t say. But at the end of chapter 12 there are provisions for non-Jews to participate in future Passover celebrations. If they are willing to be circumcised and become Jews, they can also enjoy the blessing of being part of the people of God.

Slide 18

5. The fulfilment of Jesus.

Which is another pointer to Jesus. For in the NT, it is not just those who are descendants of Israel who are part of the people of God but all those who have the faith of Abraham who can be a part of God’s people. They are the ones who can escape their slavery to sin. They are the ones who can be saved because of the blood of Jesus Christ. And they receive the blessings that were due to the faithfulness of Jesus, they receive every spiritual blessing in Christ. For Jesus is our Passover lamb. Which leads us lastly to

Slide 19

6. The yeast of the new feast.

For there is a lot of talk in Exodus 12 about how the bread must be prepared without yeast. For example, Exodus 12:19-20 *“For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And anyone, whether foreigner or native-born, who eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel. 20 Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread.”*

So why no yeast? Well, it takes time for the yeast to turn flat bread into a loaf of bread. And the Israelites didn’t have that time. In fact, the later rabbis required that this bread be made from start to finish in under eighteen minutes or it be thrown out. For everything was to be done in haste. They ate with their sandals, their cloak tucked into their belts and with their staffs in their hands. They were to be ready for God to do his work, right here, right now.

Slide 20

And in the NT, yeast becomes a symbol of sin. Those who are saved, need to leave sin behind. They need to be in a hurry to become holy. Paul says this in 1 Corinthians 5, *“Don’t you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? ⁷ 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. 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.”*

There is no time to waste. God is doing his work of salvation in us. Taking us from sinners to saints. And so, we need to be ready for him to do that work in us. Open to do that work in us. In a hurry to become holy. That is the way to celebrate that Christ is our Passover. That is what we look forward to as we eat together as a family the Lords Supper. We do this in memory of him until he comes again, when we will become like him, holy and perfect.

Slide 21

So, friends this passage tells us we need to look back at the great salvation God has bought for us from death to life, through his blood. We look forward to the consummation of that salvation when we will be with him for ever. And in the meantime, we should be in a hurry to be holy by doing what Peter says in 1 Peter 1:13 *"Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do."*

Slide 22

Do you know that during the Passover meal, the Jewish people recite the Dayenu, a reminder of all their blessings in a call and refrain that goes like this...

Had God brought us out of Egypt and not executed judgement upon them.

That would have been enough for us.

Had He executed judgement against them and not done justice to their idols

That would have been enough for us.

Had He not slain their firstborn and not given us their property

That would have been enough for us.

Had He not divided the sea for us and not brought us through it dry

That would have been enough for us.

Had He not helped us for forty years in the desert and not fed us manna

That would have been enough for us.

Had He given us the Sabbath and not brought us to Mt Sinai

That would have been enough for us.

Had He not given us the Torah, the Law and not brought us into the Land of Israel

That would have been enough for us.

You see it is important to count our blessings. Well let's do the same by doing a similar call and refrain but based on the words of Ephesians 1. I'll do the call and you do the refrain...

If you had just chosen us before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in your sight, *it would have been enough for us.*

If you had just predestined us to be sons, if you just adopted us to be your sons and daughters, *it would have been enough for us.*

If you had just given us your glorious grace, *it would have been enough for us.*

If we just had redeemed us through the blood, *it would have been enough for us*

If you had just given us forgiveness of sins, *it would have been enough for us.*

If you had just made known to us the mystery of his will, *it would have been enough for us.*

If you had just given us our hope in Christ, *it would have been enough for us.*

If you had just given us the promised Holy Spirit, a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance, *it would have been enough for us.*

But you have done more, you have given us every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Song – Nothing but the blood of Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4Sd5BL4j0A>

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>7. What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus</p> <p>8. For my pardon this I see
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
For my cleansing this my plea
Nothing but the blood of Jesus</p> | <p>3. This is all my hope and peace
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
This is all my righteousness
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Chorus</p> <p>4. Glory, glory this I see
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
All my praise for this I bring
Nothing but the blood of Jesus</p> |
|---|--|

*Chorus: Oh! Precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus*

Benediction

11 “This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord’s Passover.” (Exodus 12:11)