

## **Passover**

**In advance, purchase or prepare a sufficient amount of unleavened bread. Also have ready a sufficient amount of natural red wine. There must be no leaven present at Passover. Wine has no leaven remaining—the leavening agent has gone out. Be sure you obtain a natural, unfortified wine. Alcoholic content will be between 10% and 13%. Wines containing 19% to 20% are fortified with grape brandy and should not be used. The label will tell you the percent of alcohol. It should be a red wine—preferably claret or burgundy, but any natural red wine could be used.**

**Be prepared to observe the sacred ordinance in the early evening, soon after dark. Be sure the hall is prepared very neatly, and clean. Have a sufficient amount of the unleavened bread, and very small glasses of wine prepared on a table. Place not more than a tablespoon of wine in each small glass, and prior to the ordinance have these emblems covered with an immaculate white napkin.**

**When the time has arrived for the ordinance, the Church should assemble quietly and solemnly. No adults should participate except truly converted sons of God who have been baptized. There**

**should be no visiting, talking, laughing, joking, or conversation. This service is the most solemn occasion of the entire year. All should come into the room reverently.**

**Begin the service by reminding the brethren of the solemn meaning of this occasion and that they should partake of this service only if they have real faith in the symbols of Christ's suffering and death. Next, the following scriptures should be read and expounded: Luke 22:7–8 and 14–15; then Matthew 26:17, and 26–30; then Paul's instructions in I Corinthians 11:23–30. Next, John 6:53–54, noticing this ordinance is**

**commanded as necessary for all Christians. Then John 13:1–17. These scriptures are the most necessary, and represent the basic requirement. Each minister should feel free, within this overall frame-work, to add whatever additional scriptures he feels necessary.**

**Explain and give the example of foot washing—then have the service. Explain and give the real meaning of the bread and the wine—then administer.**

**For the foot washing ceremony, wash pans and clean towels should be provided prior to the service. The men should retire to a different room for this part of**

**the service. Then, have the pans, towels and water removed and the hall again put in neat order.**

**Then, read and expound briefly the scriptures concerning the broken body of Christ. Remove the napkin from over the bread and wine, and bowing head, give thanks and ask God in prayer to bless the BREAD, as a symbol of His body, broken for us (for physical healing). Then break the bread into small bits. Have the deacons pass this to each one. After being served each person should quietly and solemnly eat the small piece of bread.**

**Read and expound briefly the scriptures concerning the blood of Christ. Then, over the wine pray, giving thanks and asking God to bless it to this sacred use as the symbol of His shed blood for the remission of our sins. Then have the deacons pass the wine. Each member should take a glass and quietly and reverently drink it. It is a renewal of your acceptance of the blood of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins. The deacons should then collect the glasses on the tray. After they are returned, cover them and the unused bread again with the napkin.**

**Then read aloud portions from John 13:18 on through the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter of John. These are the words Jesus spoke to His disciples after His last Passover supper with them, just before He was seized to be taken and crucified. Since it is rather long, you may, in advance of the service, mark certain portions of these chapters to be read instead of reading all of it.**

**After this scripture reading, lead in a hymn, preferably a Psalm, and dismiss quietly without conversation. It is good for you to remind the others at the start of the service that this is the most solemn and sacred occasion of the year—the**

**anniversary of the death of our Lord and Saviour, and a service observed in MEMORY of His death.**

**After the service has ended, and the people have left the hall, you should destroy any portion of the bread and wine left over which was taken into the room for the service and which has been blessed. Do not take the bottles into the hall where the service is held, but only the small amount poured previously into the little glasses. If you know the exact number of people partaking of the service, there will be none left over to be destroyed. Only such wine or bread actually taken into the room for the**

**service, and prayed over during the service, need be destroyed! None of the bread or wine blessed by the prayer as the body and blood of our Saviour ought to be consumed for any other purpose after the service. Burn the remaining bread and pour any remaining wine down the drain, or on the ground outdoors.**

**One final point is that we do not recommend opening and closing the Passover Service with prayer since the example of Jesus' Passover does not include this.**