

Take-Home Page

Prayers and Rituals

A Table Blessing from the Small Catechism of Martin Luther

After eating [the children and the members of the household] should fold their hands and recite devoutly:

“Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good, for God’s mercy endures forever. God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry. God is not impressed by the might of a horse, and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner, but finds pleasure in those who fear the Lord, in those who await God’s steadfast love.”

Then recite the Lord’s Prayer and the following prayer:

“We give thanks to you, Lord God our Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord for all your benefits, you who live and reign forever. Amen.”

Sing your congregation’s musical version of “Lamb of God” as a family mealtime prayer.

(Sing two times:) **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

(Last time:) **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Bring the Bible Story Home

In Exodus 12:1—15:21 we hear the story of God’s dramatic rescue of the Israelites, freeing them from slavery in Egypt. The Jewish people still celebrate the Passover every year with a special meal. The name Passover recalls that God “passed over” the homes of Israelites who had painted blood from a lamb above their front doors, sparing their firstborn sons from death. Just as a meal connects the Jewish people to the saving events of the Exodus, so does holy communion connect us to the saving work God has done through Christ, our Passover lamb, and the saving work God continues to do today.

- Taste matzo, the unleavened bread used at present-day celebrations of Passover (available in many grocery stores).
- Listen for the lamb imagery in the songs that are part of our pattern of worship: “Glory to God,” “This is the feast,” and “Lamb of God.”

- Passover happens near Easter (consult a calendar for this year’s date). Research whether a Passover meal (sometimes called a seder meal) is being offered by a local Jewish group to the larger community and consider attending. If no opportunity like this exists in your community, do some online research to find images or video of a Passover meal.



- Some of the prayers used at the communion service make reference to God’s saving work in the Exodus. For example, one thanksgiving at the table includes the words, “Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea” (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 111). Listen for these references.



Serve

Make a batch of communion bread for your congregation’s celebration of holy communion. This recipe is also printed on page 20 in the *Fed and Forgiven Communion Handbook*.

Unleavened Communion Bread

1½ cups flour	3 tbsp shortening
½ cup whole wheat flour	3 tbsp honey
¾ tsp baking soda	¾ cup water
½ tsp salt	

Mix dry ingredients. Cut in shortening. Add honey, then water. Mix by hand. Turn onto a floured surface and knead for a bit. Divide and shape into 4 balls. Roll or press to ¼ inch even thickness. Cut a shallow cross through the top. Bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees on a cookie sheet.

