

Wine. The Passover meal is based on four promises made in Exodus Chapter 6. These four promises are remembered with four cups of wine. These are drunk at special times during the meal.



1. The cup of sanctification or calling to be God's people. "I will bring you out"
2. The cup of thanksgiving. "I will free you"
3. The cup of redemption. "I will redeem you"
4. The cup of completion. "I will take you as my own people" A cup drunk in anticipation that God will come and restore Israel.



[There is also an Elijah cup. Filled to overflowing and left for Elijah to come and drink. Jewish tradition said that the Messiah would come after Elijah had returned so this cup is poured as a prayer for the Messiah to come.]

Unleavened bread - bread without yeast - called Matzah.
The bread reminds the people of many things. It is broken at the start of the meal and one piece is hidden, wrapped in a cloth.



The bread reminds them of the 'bread of affliction'. The suffering that they endured and the long wait that they had to be rescued.

The bread reminds them that God gives them all they need - their daily bread.



But what about the hidden piece? It's wrapped in a cloth. The children search for that. Then that is eaten with the third cup. It is the last food to be eaten.

Apart from bread and wine there are a lot of different things to eat.

Lamb. The main part of the meal along with bread. This was eaten with the herbs and all of it had to be finished. Just before God rescued the Hebrews from Egypt he told them to sacrifice a lamb and sprinkle the blood on their doorposts. The lamb helps them remember that. It is also a reminder of the relationship between God and people.

Parsley dipped in salty water. This reminded them of the tears of sadness the Hebrew people who were the slaves the Egyptians.



of
of

Bitter herbs dipped in haroset. Bitter herbs were made of horseradish and a type of lettuce.

This reminded them of the bitterness of slavery in Egypt.

Haroset is a kind of sweet sauce made from apple, cinnamon, honey and other sweet things. This reminded them of the mortar that they had to make to build the Egyptian storehouses and buildings when they were slaves. Because it looks like mortar!



Eggs. The main meal was begun with hard boiled eggs to celebrate the feast of life.

They also did a few symbolic things;

They would remember the plagues of Egypt by dipping their fingers in the wine in the second cup 10 times and putting a drop on their plates.



They would have their hands washed to remind them that God forgives them.



They said Grace after the meal.

So what about Communion? Which Cup did Jesus use? And which bread?



We believe that Jesus used the hidden bread which would have been wrapped in a cloth, to share with his disciples as a sign of his body. We believe that Jesus would have used the third cup, the cup of salvation to remind us of his blood and our forgiveness of sins. The symbolism is really powerful if you think about it.