



Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

Image by Christine Sponchia from Pixabay

CELEBRATING BELONGING TO THE LORD

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

From Today's First Reading

Although Moses and Aaron performed various wonders in Pharaoh's presence, the LORD made Pharaoh obstinate, and he would not let the children of Israel leave his land. The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This month shall stand at the head of your calendar; you shall reckon it the first month of the year. Tell the whole community of Israel: On the tenth of this month every one of your families must procure for itself a lamb, one apiece for each household. If a family is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join the nearest household in procuring one and shall share in the lamb in proportion to the number of persons who partake of it. The lamb must be a year-old male and without blemish. You may take it from either the sheep or the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, and then, with the whole assembly of Israel present, it shall be slaughtered during the evening twilight. They shall take some of its blood and apply it to the two doorposts and the lintel of every house in which they partake of the

lamb. That same night they shall eat its roasted flesh with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. It shall not be eaten raw or boiled, but roasted whole, with its head and shanks and inner organs. None of it must be kept beyond the next morning; whatever is left over in the morning shall be burned up. This is how you are to eat it: with your loins girt, sandals on your feet and your staff in hand, you shall eat like those who are in flight. It is the Passover of the LORD. For on this same night I will go through Egypt, striking down every first born of the land, both man and beast, and executing judgment on all the gods of Egypt—I, the LORD! But the blood will mark the houses where you are. Seeing the blood, I will pass over you; thus, when I strike the land of Egypt, no destructive blow will come upon you. This day shall be a memorial feast for you, which all your generations shall celebrate with pilgrimage to the LORD, as a perpetual institution."

EXODUS 11:10-12:14

Reflection

The detailed preparation of this ancient Passover ritual meal includes a number of symbolic elements like the night/darkness, the unleavened bread, the lamb, and the community ready to leave on a walking journey (complete with staff in hand). The meal is to be eaten "like those who are in flight," so this journey is taken for freedom's sake. The ritual is intended to be a reminder that this Passover time is the feast of Israel celebrating its coming together as the Yahweh's liberated people.



Gray sheep
Photo by Kat Smith

For Pondering

- What symbols of your freedom as one who belongs to God do you celebrate? When/how often do you celebrate? What is included in your celebration? Who is invited to join your celebration?
 - What is your current experience of being one of “Yahweh’s liberated people”?
 - What prayer arises in you right now?
-

For Prayer

IN TUNE WITH GOD
[adapted]

*O dear God,
be with me,
and help me
strive to come close ---
to be fully committed
to you.*

*Let every part of me
--physical, emotional and spiritual ---
join
in focused determination
to fulfill your will.
May my thoughts,
my emotions,
my words,
and all my actions
be wholly in tune with you.*

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