

Notes: April 12 2014 – Shabbat Ha Gadol

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Meet and Greet
2. Introduction (if new people)
3. Ma Tovv
4. Open in Prayer for service
5. Liturgy – Sh'ma +
6. Announcements
7. Praise and Worship Songs
8. Message
9. Aaronic Blessing
10. Kiddush
11. Oneg

Children's Blessing:

Transliteration: *Ye'simcha Elohim ke-Ephraim ve hee-Menashe*

English: *May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe*

Transliteration: *Ye'simech Elohim ke-Sarah, Rivka, Rachel ve-Leah.*

English: *May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.*

Introduction: Shabbat Ha Gadol

The Sabbath before the Passover.

Shabbat Ha-Gadol is the Shabbat before [Pesach \(Passover\)](#).

Traditionally, this was one of the few times of the year that a [rabbi](#) gave a lengthy sermon (in modern times, we get one every week).

The sermon was usually about preparations for Pesach, and this special Shabbat commemorates a preparation for the original Pesach in Egypt. Shabbat Ha-Gadol (The Great Sabbath) commemorates the 10th day of Nissan, when the Hebrew slaves took the lambs that they were going to offer for Pesach and tied them up outside their homes, to keep until they offered it on the 14th (Ex. 12:3-6).

According to tradition, this was a dangerous thing to do, because Egyptians worshipped sheep, but miraculously, instead of slaughtering the Hebrews, the Egyptians instead fought with each other over whether the Hebrews should be sent away already.

Exo 12:3 Speak to all the assembly of Isra'el and say, 'On the tenth day of this month, each man is to take a lamb or kid for his family, one per household –

Exo 12:4 except that if the household is too small for a whole lamb or kid, then he and his next-door neighbor should share one, dividing it in proportion to the number of people eating it.

Exo 12:5 Your animal must be without defect, a male in its first year, and you may choose it from either the sheep or the goats.

Exo 12:6 " You are to keep it until the fourteenth day of the month, and then the entire assembly of the community of Isra'el will slaughter it at dusk.

During the time of Yeshua, we read in John 11...

Joh 11:55 The Judean festival of Pesach was near, and many people went up from the country to Yerushalayim to perform the purification ceremony prior to Pesach.

Joh 11:56 They were looking for Yeshua, and as they stood in the Temple courts they said to each other, "What do you think? that he simply won't come to the festival?"

Joh 11:57 Moreover, the head cohanim and the P'rushim had given orders that anyone knowing Yeshua's whereabouts should inform them, so that they could have him arrested.

The purification ceremony prior to Pesach. Those who had become ritually unclean because of having touched a dead body had to purify themselves by immersion ([Num 9:10](#), [Num 9:13](#)). Sometimes the purification required seven days ([Num 31:19-20](#)).

Joh 12:1 Six days before Pesach, Yeshua came to Beit-Anyah, where El`azar lived, the man Yeshua had raised from the dead;

Joh 12:2 so they gave a dinner there in his honor. Marta served the meal, and El`azar was among those at the table with him.

Joh 12:12 The next day, the large crowd that had come for the festival heard that Yeshua was on his way into Yerushalayim.

Psa 118:23 This has come from Adonai, and in our eyes it is amazing.

Psa 118:24 This is the day Adonai has made, a day for us to rejoice and be glad.

Psa 118:25 Please, Adonai! Save us! Please, Adonai! Rescue us!

Psa 118:26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of Adonai. We bless you from the house of Adonai.

Psa 118:27 Adonai is God, and he gives us light. Join in the pilgrim festival with branches all the way to the horns of the altar.

Psa 118:28 You are my God, and I thank you. You are my God; I exalt you.

Psa 118:29 Give thanks to Adonai; for he is good, for his grace continues forever.

The Passover occurred once, many years ago. Every Passover since has been a memorial to Adonai (Lord) in which the God of Yis'rael redeemed His people from the bondage of slavery. It is through this Feast of Adonai that Yeshua Ha Mashiach would redeem Yis'rael and the nations from the bondage of our transgression that led to a separation from our Creator.

Lev 23:4 " These are the designated times of Adonai, the holy convocations you are to proclaim at their designated times.

Lev 23:5 " In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, between sundown and complete darkness, comes Pesach for Adonai.

Lev 23:6 On the fifteenth day of the same month is the festival of matzah; for seven days you are to eat matzah.

It is a Feast that is to be remembered and celebrated from generation to generation – forever:

Exo 13:14 When, at some future time, your son asks you, 'What is this?' then say to him, 'With a strong hand Adonai brought us out of Egypt, out of the abode of slavery.

We are instructed to prepare our homes by removing the chametz (leaven) from our homes:

Exo 12:15 " For seven days you are to eat matzah - on the first day remove the leaven from your houses. For whoever eats chametz [leavened bread] from the first to the seventh day is to be cut off from Yis'rael.

Types of leaven include:

- Yeast
- Baking Powder
- Baking Soda
- Cream of Tartar

Note: Many products include yeast extract, which is used as a flavor enhancer. Yeast extract does not have an active leavening agent. However, Exodus 12:15 does not distinguish between active and inactive leaven. Use of yeast extract during Passover is a gray area. It is extremely challenging to find products today that do not include this flavor enhancer.

During this Passover season, we not only prepare our homes, but must also prepare ourselves.

Passover is the beginning of a new year, a new season. It is a time, like when we come into Yom Kippur, we are to reflect upon ourselves, just as Sha'ul (Paul) conveyed to the Corinthian congregation:

1Co 5:6 Your boasting is not good. Don't you know the saying, "It takes only a little chametz to leaven a whole batch of dough?"

1Co 5:7 Get rid of the old chametz, so that you can be a new batch of dough, because in reality you are unleavened. For our Pesach lamb, the Messiah, has been sacrificed.

1Co 5:8 So let us celebrate the Seder not with leftover chametz, the chametz of wickedness and evil, but with the matzah of purity and truth.

On the eve of Passover, the home is searched by the head of the home for leaven. This is the final act before the Passover. It represents a final inspection. Let us prepare our hearts for this Passover Seder as we recall the story of Adonai leading His people from slavery to freedom. Likewise we will see Yeshua follow the same path during the

Passover.

The special haftarah reading for this Shabbat is Malachi 3:4-24. This messianic prophecy regarding the end of days and the return of the prophet Elijah is read at this time because it is believed that Elijah will return at Pesach. This is why we include a cup for him in our [seder](#) rituals.