

GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF THE PASSOVER HAGGADAH

Adopted by the Commission on Worship, July 1987. The Department of Liturgics prepared this statement as a response to the growing use of the Haggadah in congregations as a Maundy Thursday celebration.

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1. A study of the Passover Haggadah by Christians can be useful for teaching, as background for understanding and appreciating aspects of the Old Testament and the context for Christ's death and his institution of the Lord's supper.
2. However, the Passover belongs to the Jews and not to us, and we need to take care to use it in a way that does give unnecessary offence to Jews.
3. If the Passover Haggadah is studied or enacted, it needs to be considered in its complete and authentic form.
4. If the Passover is enacted, it does not belong to our worship in connection with the holy communion service, because Christians have never celebrated the Lord's supper in connection with the Passover, and the communion service does not derive its meaning from the Passover, but from Christ's death and resurrection.
5. Since Christ is our Passover Lamb, he has both fulfilled and abolished the Old Testament Passover together with all the worship of the Old Testament.
6. The Lord's supper is not primarily a remembrance of the exodus of Israel from Egypt, as the Passover is, but instead it is the remembrance and gift of Christ as our Passover.