



PASTOR'S NOTES

Jesus Is Our Passover

Matthew 26:17–29

For over three millennia, Jewish families gathered each year to remember how God rescued Israel from slavery in Egypt. But when Jesus gathered with his disciples in the upper room, he revealed the meal's ultimate meaning. See Matthew 26:17-19, 26-29

Passover Anticipated Christ.

The Passover meal was a living rehearsal of the redemption God provided. Traditionally, the father would retell the Exodus story, using the food, meal order, and a series of questions to recount the narrative.

Bitter herbs recalled slavery, unleavened bread their hurried deliverance, the lamb substitution, and the cups God's promises.

Yet from the beginning, Passover was designed by God to point beyond itself. It anticipated a greater deliverance, and on the night recorded in Matthew 26, Jesus revealed that he was its fulfillment.

At the center of the Passover meal was always the lamb. During the first Passover, in Exodus 12, God instructed every household to take a male lamb without blemish. Its blood was applied to the doorposts, and that night the Lord passed through Egypt in judgment, bringing death to every home not marked by the blood of the lamb.

Their rescue rested entirely in what God had provided for them, and that is exactly how salvation still works today. Our hope is fully in the substitutionary sacrifice that God has provided for us in Jesus Christ.

Just as the blood applied in faith to the doorposts of Israelite homes caused God's judgment to pass over those inside, so the blood of Jesus brings freedom from judgment to all who repent and believe in him. *For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.* (1 Corinthians 5:7 ESV)

Passover Explained Christ's Death.

Another central element of the meal was the unleavened bread, or matzah. They were to eat bread without yeast because, on the night of their deliverance, the people left Egypt in haste and did not have time for their dough to rise. Over time, unleavened bread also came to represent separation from sin.

When Jesus took the bread in the upper room, he said, *"Take, eat; this is my body."* He was not merely distributing part of the meal. He was showing his disciples that the bread pointed to him. Jesus is the sinless offering provided for our salvation.

The meal also included bitter herbs. Those herbs reminded Israel of the bitterness of slavery. They reminded the people of tears, oppression, hardship, and pain. As Jesus sat with his disciples, he knew the bitterness that lay immediately ahead, the betrayal in the room, and the cup of God's wrath he was soon to experience. For Jesus came to free us from sin and take our guilt and the Father's judgment upon himself.

During the Passover evening, the people observed ceremonial washing, symbolizing purification. During the meal, Jesus rose from the table and washed the disciples' feet (John 13), showing that he came to serve and cleanse. John 13 records that powerful moment. In washing their feet, Jesus showed both that he came to serve and cleanse.

The Passover meal also involved cups of wine shared at significant points in the evening. Jewish tradition later associated four cups with the promises of Exodus 6:6–7: "I will bring you out," "I will deliver you," "I will redeem you," and "I will take you to be my people."

The third cup, the Cup of Redemption, is especially important for understanding the Lord's Supper. During that cup, the promise of God to Israel is recalled: "I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment."

Jesus took the cup after supper, he said, *"Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."* (Matthew 26:27–28) Jesus was saying that the redemption Israel had celebrated for centuries was finding its eternal fulfillment in his own blood.

Salvation comes to us by grace, but that grace cost the Son of God everything. Communion causes us to look again at the cross, to contemplate the cost, and consider how Jesus hung in the place of guilty sinners and bore the punishment that we deserved.

Passover Anticipated Christ's Resurrection.

The Afikomen: Early in the evening, the middle of the three pieces of matzah is broken. One part is wrapped and hidden until later, then brought back and shared as the final taste of the meal. This tradition pointed to the body of Christ broken, buried, and then raised again.

The Redeemer who poured out his blood has been raised and now lives and reigns. Passover finds its fulfillment not only in the death of Jesus, but in his resurrection and life.

Passover Anticipates Christ's Return and Kingdom Feast.

Then, at the close of the meal, Jesus pledged not to drink the fourth cup until we gather together in the kingdom of God. And he wanted them to know that joy was coming. The story of redemption has always been moving forward toward the kingdom of God in all its fullness.

Communion reminds us that we are waiting for Christ's return, the resurrection of the body, and the restoration of all things. We are waiting for the marriage supper of the Lamb, when Christ himself will set the table, and we will celebrate the Lamb and the salvation he has provided for us.



MeadowBrook CHURCH

Sunday, March 29, 2026 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com



Join us on Resurrection Sunday, next Sunday, for worship at 8:00, 9:30, or 11:00 AM. *(Life Groups will not meet)*

If your schedule is flexible, we encourage you to consider 11:00 AM as your first choice, 8:00 AM as your second, and 9:30 AM as your last option, as it is typically our most crowded service.

As a service to others and a convenience to yourself, consider parking at Martin's (beginning at 6:30 AM) and being shuttled quickly to MeadowBrook's front door. The service will run throughout the morning.

With record attendance expected, it's the perfect time to jump in and serve! Text SERVE to 256-442-3550.

Let's gather together to worship and celebrate our risen Savior!

 **CONNECT** *people to Christ and His church*

Welcome If you are our GUEST, we'd like to CONNECT with you! Please fill out a CONNECTION CARD and stop by GUEST CONNECTIONS for a FREE gift!



Stop by Guest Connections or Ministry Central to pick up MeadowBrook's 2026 2nd Quarter Global & Local MISSIONS PARTNER Prayer Booklet


Good Friday at MeadowBrook

FRIDAY, APRIL 3 at 6:30 PM

Our Good Friday service will be a meaningful evening of reflection on Christ's work on the cross. As we gather, we will remember his sacrifice through Scripture, prayer, and singing hymns and songs together. During the service, we will partake in Communion as we reflect on the depth of his love, the hope we have in our Redeemer, and express our gratitude for this gift of grace.

 **GROW** *them as disciples and equip them to*

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

TODAY
8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105
9:00 & 10:30 am - Worship - Worship Center
9:00 & 10:30 am - Life Group
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Kids - Kids' Theater
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Preschool

MONDAY, MARCH 30
10:00 am - GriefShare - Conference Center

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1
6:30 pm - Worship Ministry Resurrection Sunday Rehearsal

FRIDAY, APRIL 3
Church Office Closed
6:30 pm - Good Friday Service - Worship Center

Enjoy Spring Break!
No Wednesday Night activities this WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

2026 DAILY BIBLE READING

March 29 - John 19	April 2 - Daniel 2:1-30
March 30 - John 20	April 3 - Daniel 2:31-49
March 31 - John 21	April 4 - Daniel 3:1-18
April 1 - Daniel 1	


Life together for the Kingdom of God

Being a part of a newly launched Life Group is one of the easiest times to connect to the ongoing fellowship and ministry of MeadowBrook while also aiding our efforts to strengthen and expand our kingdom ministry.

We are excited to announce that we are launching a new Adult 3 Life Group (for those in their 60's & 70's) on Sunday, April 12 at 10:30 AM in Room W103 taught by Ed Kensil.



If you find yourself in this life-stage, we invite you to be a part of this exciting new venture in our Life Group ministry!

 **SERVE** *through missions, ministry and worship*


YOUR GENEROSITY IS more than a gift

North American Missions Offering

Your gift fuels the work of missionaries across North America. You can give by going to giving.mbchurch.com and selecting the "Missions" fund or by using the envelopes provided in the seat pockets.

MeadowBrook Missionaries in Residence House



We have an exciting new ministry opportunity at MeadowBrook to support international missionaries who are home for respite. We are seeking funds to renovate and fully furnish a home owned by the church at 213 Janelle Drive for missionary families to use while on a short stateside assignment.

We're raising funds to help cover the cost of renovating and furnishing the home. If you'd like to give, visit MBUAF.ORG and select "MeadowBrook - Missionaries in Residence," or use the giving envelopes around campus.

Prayer Needs

Cancer/Treatments: Rob Morris, Kyle Hughes, Margie Martin, Martha Vaughn, Robert Darnell, Aiden Beck, Larry Hill, Destiny Nixon, Rickey Hampton, Jamye Ingram, Anna Rae Wilson, Tiki Kemp McConnell, Charles Wells, Bonnie Pierce, Scott Watford

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruet, Chris Burnette, Lloyd & Diane Matthews, Susan Mize, Lola-Ruth Adams, Landon Cunningham, Archie Wade, Max & Denise Dover, Peggy Brizendine, Kathy Thompson, Jimmy & Delores Thompson, Lavelle Ogletree, Danny Maddox, Robin Roberts, Ron Crawford, Phil Causey, Janet Maise, Rita Tipton, David Draper, Reese Robinson, Charlotte Taylor, Lindsey Rakestraw, Laura Hoge, Tim Davis, Gary Alexander, Karen Ragan, Paul Roberts, Linda Roy, Joan Henry, Linda Dees, Gerry Grant, Dorothy Hand

- Joan Henry & family in the loss of Gary
- Elizabeth Elliott, Janice Gray & families in the loss of their mother and father