**Comparison between the**

**Passover – Last Supper – Eucharist**

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| **Similarities** | **Differences** |
| * Talking about God after the meal * Memorial experience   *"The most important gift one generation can give to the next is the knowledge of the journey those before us took, and the sacrifices they had to make, to bring us to where we are. Without that knowledge, we travel blindly. If we forget what our parents fought for, we may have to fight for it again. Hindsight is the necessary tutor of foresight".*   * Table fellowship * Blessing or grace before the meal * Unleavened bread and wine consumed * Conclusion of celebration with the singing of hymns * Jewish Passover is considered to be the 'eating of history' and **the treasuring of freedom through education and enactment.**  In 1 Corinthians 11.26 describes the purpose of the meal as proclaiming "the Lord's death***till he comes***". | * **Passover & Lord’s Supper**   **Cup 1** "I will bring you out" [deliverance]  **Cup 2** "I will rid you of their bondage" [freedom]  **Cup 3** "I will redeem you" [redemption]  **Cup 4** "I will take you for my people and I will be your God" [consummation]   * **Passover & Lord’s Supper**   The unleavened bread signified not only purity but being in a state of readiness or haste to leave.   * **Passover**   The Passover *seder*service includes the **dipping**of the *karpas* (vegetable) dipped in salt water and the bitter herbs (*maror*) dipped in a paste of fruit, nuts, wine and spices (*charoset*). Since some of these dishes are not specifically mentioned in the gospels they may not have come into the *seder* until after Jesus' time. Nevertheless, **the bitter herbs** are specifically Biblical though and are mentioned in Exodus 12.8: "and with bitter herbs they shall eat it"   * **Passover & Lord’s Supper**   The roasted lamb   * **Eucharist**   The symbolism in the bread is not so much in the broken body of Jesus but in the promise of his continuing presence and the disciples' future unity, "we are one body, just as we partake of one bread".   * **Passover & Lord’s Supper**   Historically unleavened bread is that which is baked without time to rise and indicated the preparedness to leave Egypt and thus is symbolical of haste and readiness (Exodus 12.11).   * **Eucharist**   In churches, Catholic and Protestant alike, the bread and wine are blessed, and in Catholic ones the bread is believed to become the very body of Christ/God (transubstantiation). This doctrine of **blessed bread and transubstantiation** can be traced back as early as Justin Martyr (*c*. A.D. 150; *Apology,*1.66.1-2) and Ignatius (*c*. A.D. 110; *to the Smyrnaeans*7), although the strict term transubstantiation was not in use until the 12th-13th centuries. Transubstantiation was particularly odious to the Jews and to the docetists who would have no part of it.   * **Passover**   For a Jew, **to bless the bread itself would have been equally unthinkable. It was God Himself who was blessed**. |

<http://www.leaderu.com/theology/passover.html>