



Artist Laura James depicts the family of Jesus gathered for the Seder meal to begin their Passover observance.

Jesus was Jewish. He was born a Jew, he died a Jew; he lived his entire life as a follower of Judaism.

So, even if today we call ourselves Christian and even further, Catholic Christians, **we must never forget that our roots are in Judaism. Judaism is our heritage.** You may not know many Jewish people or know much about Judaism but remember that Jesus' ancestral roots and, therefore, our roots as followers of his, are Jewish.

And so, Jesus celebrated Passover with family and friends — the festival of deliverance from slavery in Egypt, the Exodus — a celebration that has continued through the ages, and **in this year of 2023 will be observed from April 5-13.**

The documents of Vatican II give us an image of Judaism as a **wise old olive tree** and we, gentiles, are wild branches that are grafted onto the old, wise tree and still getting nourishment from it. Tobie Tondi, SHCJ

In his gospel, John mentions the three Passovers that occurred during Jesus' ministry.

- **John 2:13** preceding Jesus' cleansing of the temple
- **6:4** precedes the feeding of the 5000
- **11:55; 12:1; 13:1; 18:28, 39; and 19:14** before Jesus died, recorded by all four Gospel writers in conjunction with the Last Supper and his death.

HALLEL

LISTEN: *Music from the Time of Jesus*, a 12 minute interview with the Antonio Vocal Arts Ensemble, a contemporary group that has researched and re-produced the music of Jesus' time — <https://www.npr.org/2003/04/20/1234688/music-from-the-time-of-jesus>

Psalms 113-118 are traditionally prayed at the Seder meal; they constitute the **Hallel**, the song of praise to God for the Exodus.

WATCH: What is the Hallel? — a 3 minute video explaining the history and contents of this great prayer of gratitude and praise — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cyqm6tYyQoU>

LISTEN: to boy soprano, Liam McCarthy, sing **Chichester Psalm 23** by Leonard Bernstein — "The Lord is my Shepherd ..." https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mbylWVS1Iyg&list=OLAK5uy_miF02iS-TRymEkkYLJRe6hvBaoqQCK2Rk&index=2