

A feast of memory

“There’s rosemary—that’s for remembrance. Pray, love, remember.”—William Shakespeare

in our faith tradition, we eat to remember. While we are familiar with the biblical stories describing the first Passover and the one Jesus celebrated with his disciples, we seldom recount the Passover story in between. This is found in the tale of the lost book of the law, discovered in the days of young King Josiah of Judah. See 2 Kings 22ff. and 2 Chronicles 34ff.

The first account details Josiah’s resulting rampage of reform as he destroyed and defiled places where the people worshipped other gods. This included a place called Topheth (23:10), named for the *toph* drums which drowned the cries of children as they were burned to death in honor of the god Molech.

Afterward, Josiah celebrated Passover following instructions from the recovered book of law. This tradition had been forgotten for more than 300 years, not celebrated since the time of Israel’s judges. Even King David never observed Passover.

In 2 Kings, it simply says, “This Passover was kept” (23:23). But 2 Chronicles devotes 19 verses (35:1-19) to the feast—and what an incredible, memorable feast it was.

On the menu: 37,600 lambs/kids and 3,800 bulls. “They roasted the Passover lamb with fire”—*lamb* was roasted, not children. As one who knows the challenges of cooking for a crowd, I love these details: “They boiled the holy offerings in pots, in caldrons, and in pans” (every available cooking pot!) “and carried them quickly to all the people” (quickly, before the food got cold!).

The Passover feast was and is an important way for the Jews to remember their covenant with God. Today Christians, too, regularly share the Lord’s Supper “in remembrance” of our Savior.

I believe every meal is an opportunity to remember our faith, our values, our Creator, and our connection with God’s creation. As we eat, we are daily reminded to be grateful and to care for the good earth which yields this food.

More than any other sense, smells evoke memories. Perhaps this is why rosemary, an herb with a strikingly strong scent, has been a symbol for remembrance since ancient times. More recently, aromatherapy studies have found that smelling rosemary improves short- and long-term memory!—*ch-w*



Cathleen
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Enjoy

Italian-Style
Lamb Stew
Simply in Season
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Focaccia
Simply in Season
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Roasted Winter
Vegetables
Simply in Season
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