

Kiddush

Contributed by [Rachel Luxemburg](#)

Source: Compilation

All Jewish celebrations involve wine. The Torah tells us four times to recount the story of our redemption from slavery, and we will drink wine four times during the course of this Seder. There are many explanations for this custom. They represent, some have said, the four corners of the earth, for freedom must reign everywhere; the four seasons of the year, for freedom must be guarded at all times; the four empires that oppressed us in days of old, for tyranny must pass away as did these empires, before all the world is free. Above all, they stand for the four promises of redemption recorded in the story of the liberation of our people from Egyptian bondage:

I will bring you out

I will deliver you

I will redeem you

I will take you to be my people

(Exodus 6:6-7).

Wine is a symbol of joy and happiness, and we thank God that we are able to gather together with friends and family to observe Passover just as our ancestors have done for millennia.

The First Cup

If the festival is on Friday night begin with the following:

יְיָ אֱלֹהִים אֲתֵּכֶל־אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וְהִנֵּה־טֹב מֵאֲדָד וְיִהְיֶ־עַבְדְּכֶם וְיִהְיֶ־בְיָמֵיכֶם הַשְּׂמֵי

יְיָ! וְיִשְׂמְעוּ יְיָ וְיִשְׂמְעוּ יְיָ וְיִשְׂמְעוּ יְיָ וְיִשְׂמְעוּ יְיָ וְיִשְׂמְעוּ יְיָ

יְיָ! וְיִשְׂמְעוּ יְיָ וְיִשְׂמְעוּ יְיָ וְיִשְׂמְעוּ יְיָ וְיִשְׂמְעוּ יְיָ וְיִשְׂמְעוּ יְיָ

יְיָ! וְיִשְׂמְעוּ יְיָ וְיִשְׂמְעוּ יְיָ וְיִשְׂמְעוּ יְיָ וְיִשְׂמְעוּ יְיָ וְיִשְׂמְעוּ יְיָ

Vay'hi erev bay'hi voker yom hashishi. Vay'chulu hashamayim v'haaretz v'chol tz'vaam. Vay'chal Elohim bayom hash'vi-i m'lachto asher asah. Vayishbot bayom hash'vi-i mikol m'lachto asher asah. Vay'varech Elohim et yom hash'vi-i vay'kadeish oto ki vo shavat mikol v'lachto asher bara Elohim laasot.

And it was evening, and it was morning, the sixth day. Now the whole universe—sky, earth, and all the hosts—was completed. God completed the work of creation on the seventh day and rested, for all the work was completed. Then God blessed the seventh day and called it holy, for God rested on that day, having completed the work of creation. (Genesis 1:31-2:3)

On all other nights begin here:

We raise our cups in remembrance of the beginning of our redemption, as it is said:

Ani Adonai v'hotseiti et-chem mitachat sivlot Mitzrayim.

I am Adonai the Eternal, and I will bring you out from under the Egyptian yoke.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הַגֶּזֶן

Baruch atah Adonai, eloheinu melech ha-olam, borei p'ri ha-gafen.

We praise you, Eternal God, Ruler of the Universe, who created the fruit of the vine!

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר בָּרַח בְּנוּ מִכַּל עַם וְרוּמְמָנוּ מִכַּל לְשׁוֹן וְקִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו. וַתִּמְן לָנוּ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ בְּאַהֲבָה (שְׁבִתוֹת לְמִנוּחַ וּמוֹעֲדִים לְשִׂמְחָה, חַגִּים וְזִמְנִים לְשִׂשׁוֹן, אֶת יוֹם (הַשְּׁבִיט הַזֶּה וְאֶת יוֹם) חַג הַמִּצּוֹת הַזֶּה, זְמַן חֲרוּמְנוּ (בְּאַהֲבָה), מִקְרָא קִדְּשׁ, זְכָר לִיצִיאַת מִצְרַיִם. כִּי בָנוּ בְּחֶרֶם וְאוֹמְנוּ קִדְּשָׁנוּ מִכַּל הָעַמִּים, (וְשִׁבֵּת) וּמוֹעֲדֵי קִדְּשָׁנוּ (בְּאַהֲבָה וּבְרַצוֹן), בְּשִׂמְחָה וּבְשִׂשׁוֹן הַנִּחְלָמְנוּ. בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ, מִקְדֹּשׁ (הַשְּׁבִיט) וְיִשְׂרָאֵל הַזִּמְנִים.

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha'olam, asher bachar banu mikol am, v'rom'manu mikol lashon, v'kid'shanu b'mitzvotav, vatiten-lanu Adonai Eloheinu b'ahavah (*shabbatot limnucha u'*) moadim l'simchah, chagim uz'manim l'sason et-yom (*hashabbat hazah v'et-yom*) chag hamatzot hazeh. Z'man cheiruteinu, mikra kodesh, zeicher litziat mitzrayim. Ki vanu vacharta v'otanu kidashta mikol ha'amim. (*v'shabbat*) umo'adei kod'shecha (*b'ahavah uvratzon*) b'simchah uv'sason hinchaltanu.

Baruch Atah Adonai, m'kadeish (*hashabbat v'*) Yisrael v'hazmanim.

Blessed are you, Eternal God, Ruler of the Universe, You have chosen us from all peoples, exalting us and sanctifying us with mitzvot. In Your love, Our God, You have given us (Sabbaths of rest,) feasts of gladness and seasons of joy; (this Shabbat day and) this festival of matzot, season of our freedom, in love, a holy commemoration, a reminder of the Exodus from Egypt. God, You have chosen us from all peoples, consecrating us to your service, giving us (the Sabbath, a sign of your love and favor and) the Festivals, a time of gladness and joy.

Blessed are You, who sanctifies (Shabbat) our people Israel, and the Festivals.

As we drink the first of four cups of wine, we thank God for giving us life, for sustaining us, and allowing us to reach this moment. We know that life is fragile. Each day is a gift to be cherished and no moment should be taken for granted. We thank God for helping us maintain a life of meaning and we are thankful for having opportunities to sanctify our lives by performing good deeds that make a difference in the world.

Shehecheyanu

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהִחַיְנוּ וְקִיְּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעַנוּ לְזֶמַן הַזֶּה

Baruch atah Adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higiyanu lazman hazeh. Amen.

We praise you, Eternal God, Ruler of the Universe, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this moment.

DRINK THE FIRST CUP