

Liturgy We Live *by Dr. Gil Haas*

According to Dom Gregory Dix in his monumental treatise, *The Shape of the Liturgy*, the Last Supper was not a Passover meal, but a habura meal on Passover's eve. It was common for Jews to gather for this special "meal of friends" on the eve of Festivals. To begin, the leader took bread, broke it, and then blessed it. After taking a piece, the leader would distribute it to those around him. The meal followed, with each fresh dish being blessed by the leader with a special prayer for each item. Each person blessed his own cup at each refill. At the conclusion of the meal came the final blessing which was said by the host over a cup of wine. After taking a sip, the cup was passed around the attendees for all to partake. Habura meals were well known to the disciples, and Jesus was certain that the disciples would participate in these meals in the future. However, at the Last Supper, the meal was forevermore transformed. Specifically, Jesus took the initial breaking of the bread and distribution with the concluding blessing and passing of the cup and pronounced it His body and His blood.

If you have a liturgical question or an inquiry about anything that transpires during or around our worship service, please forward the question you would like researched to: gghaas@aol.com, or drop the question in the offering basin. Please note whether we can credit you as the source of the question.