



Nottingham Liberal Synagogue

SHAVUOT SEDER

סדר ליל שבועות



GKW 4.vi.22

For this Shavuot seder, you will need:

- Water for hand-washing
- Wine or grape juice
- Milk and honey
- Olive oil
- Flowers
- A shofar
- A soft rinded cheese
- A soft un-rinded cheese
- A hard un-rinded cheese
- A hard rinded cheese
- A 'Mount Sinai' made of cream cheese and dried fruit



Water (מים)



We gather with water because the Torah is compared to water, as it is written: “Ho, all who are thirsty, come to water!” Moreover, before approaching Mount Sinai, the Israelites washed their clothes. So too, at this Shavuot seder, we wash with water.

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe,
Source of fresh water.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם מְקוֹר מַיִם
חַיִּים.

Ba-ruch a-tah, A-do-nai, E-lo-hei-nu me-lech ha-o-lam, m'kor ma-yim cha-yim.

May it be Your will, Eternal One, God of our ancestors, that
we continue to ask, “Why?”

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ
וְאֲמוֹתֵינוּ שֶׁנִּמְשִׁיךְ לְשֵׁאוֹל: מַאי.

*Y'hi ratzon milfanecha, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu ve-E-lo-hei a-vo-tei-nu v'i-mo-tei-nu,
she-nam-shich lish'ol mai.*

Wine (יין)



We gather with wine because the Torah is compared to wine, as it is written:
“Drink the wine that I have mixed.”

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe,
who creates the fruit of the vine.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא פְּרִי
הַגֶּפֶן.

Ba-ruch A-tah, A-do-nai, E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha'o-lam, bo-rei p'ri ha-ga-fen.

May it be Your will, Eternal One, God of our ancestors,
that the dove of peace fly over our people and our
world.

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ
וְאֲמוֹתֵינוּ שְׂיוֹכַת שְׁלוֹם תְּעוֹפִי עַל עַמִּינוּ וְעַל
עוֹלָמֵנוּ.

*Y'hi ratzon milfanecha, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu ve-E-lo-hei a-vo-tei-nu v'i-mo-tei-nu,
she-yo-nat sha-lom ta'u-fi al a-mei-nu v'al o-la-mei-nu.*

Milk (חלב) and honey (דבש)



We gather with milk and honey as it is written: “Honey and milk are under your tongue.”

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe, by
whose word all things exist.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם שֶׁהַכֹּל
נִהְיָה בְּדַבָּרוֹ.

Ba-ruch A-tah, A-do-nai, E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha'o-lam, she-ha-kol ni-h'yeh bi-d'var-o.

May it be Your will, Eternal One, God of our ancestors, that
we may live off the best produce of the land.

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֵלֵהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ
וְאֲמוֹתֵינוּ שֶׁנֶּאֱכַל אֶת-חֵלֶב הָאָרֶץ.

*Y'hi ratzon milfanecha, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu ve-E-lo-hei a-vo-tei-nu v'i-mo-tei-nu,
she-no-chal et chei-lev ha'a-retz.*

May it be Your will, Eternal One, God of our ancestors,
that the words of your Torah be sweet as honey in our
mouths.

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֵלֵהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ
וְאֲמוֹתֵינוּ שֶׁדְּבָרֵי תוֹרַתְךָ יְהִיוּ מִתּוֹקִים כְּדָבֶשׁ
בְּפִינוּ.

*Y'hi ratzon milfanecha, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu ve-E-lo-hei a-vo-tei-nu v'i-mo-tei-nu,
she-div-rei Tor-a-t'cha yi-h'yu m'tuk-im ki-d'vash b'fi-nu.*

Oil (שמן)



We gather with oil because God is compared to oil, as it is written: “Your Name is like poured oil.”

May it be Your will, Eternal One, God of our ancestors, that we enjoy – and are generous with – the bounty of the land.

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ
וְאֲמוֹתֵינוּ שְׂנֵהֲנָה וְנִהְיֶה נְדִיבִים בְּשִׁמְנֵי הָאָרֶץ.

*Y'hi ratzon milfanecha, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu ve-E-lo-hei a-vo-tei-nu v'i-mo-tei-nu,
she-nei-ha-neh v'ni-h'yeh n'di-vim bi-sh'ma-nei ha-a-retz.*

Flowers (פרחים)



We gather with flowers because the rabbis said that every word God spoke to our ancestors filled the earth with fragrant smells.

We praise You, Eternal God, Sovereign of the universe, who creates sweet-smelling plants.

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם בּוֹרֵא
עֲשׂוֹת בְּשָׂמִים.

Ba-ruch A-tah, A-do-nai, E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech ha'o-lam, bo-rei is-vot b'sa-mim.

May it be Your will, Eternal One, God of our ancestors, that our connection to Torah never crumble.

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְּפָנֶיךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ וְאֵלֵהֶי אֲבוֹתֵינוּ
וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ שֶׁקִּשְׁרֵינוּ עִם תּוֹרָה לֹא יִפְרֹד לְעוֹלָם.

*Y'hi ratzon milfanecha, A-do-nai E-lo-hei-nu ve-E-lo-hei a-vo-tei-nu v'i-mo-tei-nu,
she-kish-rei-nu im ha-Torah lo yi-pa-reich l'o-lam.*

Four types of cheese



We gather with dairy products because the Hebrew word for milk, 'che-lev', has a numerical value of 40: the number of days Moses spent on Mount Sinai. We have four types of cheese – hard and soft, rinded and un-rinded – to symbolise four types of person.

There are four types of person who go to synagogue: those who attend but do not do: they benefit, at least, from attending. Those who do but do not attend: they receive a reward, at least, for the work of their hands. Those who go and do: they are righteous. Those who neither go nor do: they are evil.

אַרְבַּע מִדּוֹת בְּהוֹלְכֵי לְבַיִת
הַמִּדְרָשׁ. הוֹלֵךְ וְאֵינוֹ עוֹשֶׂה, שְׂכָר
הַלֵּיכָה בְּיָדוֹ. עוֹשֶׂה וְאֵינוֹ הוֹלֵךְ,
שְׂכָר מַעֲשֵׂה בְּיָדוֹ. הוֹלֵךְ וְעוֹשֶׂה,
חֲסִיד. לֹא הוֹלֵךְ וְלֹא עוֹשֶׂה, רָשָׁע.

Ar-ba mi-dot b'hol-chei l'veit ha-mid-rash. Ho-leich v'ei-no o-seh: s'char ha-li-chah v'ya-do. O-seh v'ei-no ho-leich: s'char ma'a-seih v'ya-do. Ho-leich v'o-seh: cha-sid. Lo ho-leich v'lo o-seh: ra-sha.

Ascending the mountain



Before we eat our sweet, cheesy Mount Sinai,
like the Israelites we must wait for a blast from the shofar to permit us to approach.

You shall set boundaries around the mountain for the people. Warn them: “You must take care not to go up the mountain, or to touch its base. Only when the ram’s horn sounds a long blast may you ascend the mountain.”

וְהִגַּבְלֹתָ אֶת־הָעַם סָבִיב לְאֹמֹר
הִשְׁמְרוּ לָכֶם עָלוֹת בְּהָר וּנְגַע
בְּקַצְהוּ ... בְּמִשְׁחַן הַיַּיִל הַזֶּה
יַעֲלוּ בְהָר.

*V'hig-bal-ta et ha-am sa-viv lei-mor hi-sham-ru la-chem a-lot ba-har u-n'go-a b'ka-tzei-hu.
Bi-m'shoch ha-yo-veil hei-mah ya'a-lu va-har.*

Grace after meals

Blessed be the Merciful One, Sovereign of the universe, the Owner of this bread. בְּרִיךְ רַחֲמָנָא מַלְכָּא דְעֵלְמָא מְרִיחַ דְהַאי פִּיטָא.

B'rich ra-cha-ma-na mal-ka d'al-ma ma-reih d'hai pitta.

A concluding blessing



May we be blessed in the city and in the field. May we be blessed when we come in and when we go out. בְּרוּכוֹת אָנוּ בְּעִיר וּבְרוּכוֹת אָנוּ בַּשָּׂדֶה. בְּרוּכִים אָנוּ בְּבָאֵנוּ וּבְרוּכִים אָנוּ בְּצֵאתֵינוּ.

B'ru-chot a-nu ba-ir u-v'ru-chot a-nu ba-sad-eh.

B'ru-chim a-nu b'vo-ei-nu, u-v'ru-chim a-nu b'tzei-tei-nu.

Notes

This Shavuot seder was compiled by Rabbi Gabriel Kanter-Webber in 2022 for Nottingham Liberal Synagogue. It is heavily based on a liturgy by his teacher Rabbi Janet Darley (**JD**). Most of the new material consists of original Hebrew wordplay inspired by the wordplay of the Rosh Hashanah seder, on which see Yalkut Yosef, Kitzur Shulchan Aruch, Orach Chaim 583:6, 11-12. Any Hebrew errors are solely GKW's.

- 3 *We gather...* Original, quoting Isaiah 55:1 (based on JD)
We praise you... Original
May it be Your will... Original
- 4 *We gather...* Original, quoting Proverbs 9:5 (based on JD)
We praise you... Traditional
May it be Your will... Original
- 5 *We gather...* Original, quoting Song of Songs 4:11 (based on JD)
We praise you... Traditional
May it be Your will (i)... Original (based on Genesis 45:18)
May it be Your will (ii)... Original
- 6 *We gather...* Original, quoting Song of Songs 1:3 (based on JD)
May it be Your will... Original (based on Genesis 27:28)
- 7 *We gather...* Original, referring to b.Shabbat 88b (based on JD)
We praise you... Traditional
May it be Your will... Original
- 8 *Heya hey...* Song by Shimon Lev-Tahor Suissa
- 9 *We gather...* Original (based on JD)
There are four... m.Avot 5:14
- 10 *Before we eat...* Original
You shall set... Exodus 19:13-14
- 11 *Blessed be...* Traditional.
May we be blessed... Adaptation of Deuteronomy 28:3, 6 from *Siddur Shirah Chadashah*