

# Pesach is not only a remembrance of the past

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## FROM THE PULPIT

Excerpts from messages being presented at area places of worship this weekend.

### Rabbi Mordechai Levin, Beth El Synagogue

In several days, we will celebrate Passover (known in Hebrew as Pe-



Levin

sach), a holiday which commemorates our ancestors' exodus from slavery in Egypt 3,200 years ago. Members of Jewish communities throughout the world gather during a home celebration called the Seder; the text read during that ceremony, the Haggadah, instructs us: "In every generation one must consider as though they personally had come out of Egypt."

This means that Pesach is not only a remembrance of the past; the story is pertinent in every generation and is

always present in our lives. We must reflect on slavery — past and present; we must consider whether we might be slaves to certain things and if we need to be liberated from them. We must make a connection between historical facts and personal experiences.

The Seder is more than a historical review: it is an experience of ongoing liberation and a learning experience. In order to transmit the messages of the holiday, the rabbis who created its structure and contents filled the ceremony with symbols, rituals, readings, songs and questions.

Pesach invites us to think: From what do we have to free ourselves? From which prejudice, bad habit or addiction? Who are modern slaves, and what is the responsibility of society toward them?

### The Rev. Mark Fry, Bethany Lutheran Church, Elkhorn

John 12:12-19

Some biblical scholars have pointed out that there may have been two parades or two processions on Palm Sunday in Jerusalem: one procession for Pi-

late and one procession for Jesus.

Pilate's procession would exemplify status, military might, coercion, self-interest, wealth, power, violence, empire.



Fry

Whereas Jesus' procession exemplified suffering, sacrifice, servanthood, healing, good news for the poor, release for the captives and

a sacrificial death on a cross.

To follow Jesus was to follow His unpopularity, not His popularity.

"Hosanna" is a Hebrew word that mixes praise and prayer. It is a celebratory word and also an intercessory word. Jesus is a king who came to serve and not to be served. He came humbly and nobly. He needed a sure-footed carrier.

Which area of your life does Jesus need to ride into today? What must you lay down to allow Him full access?

Jesus is a humble gentleman. He won't ride in unless you invite Him.