



*Happy Passover!*

# Passover

Jewish

([paas-oh-ver](#)) 

Passover commemorates the Jews' exodus from ancient Egypt and their freedom from slavery. These holy days last seven days (and an additional eighth day for some outside the land of Israel).

Practitioners traditionally engage in a spring cleaning before Passover begins, ridding the home of all leavened grains. Since Jews fled quickly, without giving their bread time to rise, no leavened foods or grains are eaten during Passover. Matzo, an unleavened bread with the consistency of a cracker, is the center of a ritual meal called a Seder. Seders are choreographed feasts with ritual foods, often held on these holy days' first and second evenings.

A book called a Haggadah, which has many versions, is read aloud before, during, and after the meal. Passover celebrates God's intervention as a liberator and acknowledges current injustices yet to be corrected.

## Date

- In 2024, Passover falls from the evening of April 22 to sunset on April 30. It is an eight-day holiday, beginning on the 15th of the Jewish month of Nisan.
- Jewish holy days begin and end at sundown.
- Dates may vary depending on observance.
- Check the [Calendar Index](#) for Religious Holidays during the current academic year for the exact date.

## Greetings

Happy Passover! Depending on tradition, Jewish people might say, "Happy Passover!" or "Chag Sameach! (Happy Holiday!)" to one another.

## Common Practices and Celebrations

On the first two evenings (Monday 4/22–Tuesday 4/23), many Jews hold a Passover Seder—a special meal with symbolic foods, and people use both ancient and contemporary texts to discuss the themes of liberation and justice, rooted in the biblical story of the Exodus from Egypt and enslavement, and connected to contemporary struggles for freedom.

Many Jews observe Passover by not eating leavened products or grains for the entire holiday and instead eat matzah, an unleavened bread, and products prepared according to the holiday's dietary restrictions. Many Jews who do not follow kosher dietary laws during the year are stricter about observing these traditions on Passover.

The first two days (Tuesday 4/23–Wednesday 4/24) and the last two days (Monday, 4/29, and Tuesday, 4/30) are considered holy days, during which traditionally observant Jews refrain from all kinds of work, similar to their observance of the sabbath each week (including using anything electronic, riding in cars, writing or typing).

## Common Dietary Restrictions

- No leavened or fermented food are eaten. Additionally, some observers of Judaism follow kosher rules of eating.
- Meat and dairy are not eaten together.
- Pork and seafood are not eaten.

# Passover continued



During the winter semester, Jewish students, faculty, and staff will celebrate Passover, a holiday observed by most Jews worldwide. Here's how to support them and promote a more inclusive campus community.

**Be Aware:** Mark these dates on your calendar. Let students know that you are aware that some may be observing these holidays, and invite them to approach you about accommodations. Encourage Jewish faculty and staff to be proactive about making alternate schedule arrangements for this week.

**Be Inclusive:** Offer holiday greetings (Happy Holiday! or Happy Passover!). Recognize that requests from differently observant students may vary. Consider your final exam, presentation, or assignment schedule so that Jewish students can both complete their course requirements and celebrate their holiday.

**Be Accommodating:** Understand that students may need to make alternative arrangements to turn in assignments or to fulfill class responsibilities. Faculty and staff should work with students to find accommodations if conflicts arise. Avoid scheduling mandatory meetings and meals during this time.

## Impact to U-M Community

This year, the Passover Seders fall on the last two nights of classes in the winter semester, and the holiday continues through the exam period. Because Seders are usually conducted at home, many students, faculty, and staff will want to be home or travel to be with their families to celebrate. Students might need to miss the last day of class or move an exam time to accommodate their observance.

The scheduling of faculty meetings and retreats, commonly held at the end of the semester, should avoid the first two days of the holiday and offer Passover-friendly food options.

- Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities during the first two and last two days of these Holy Days.
- Expect that observers will not attend meetings or communicate during the first two and last two days of these Holy Days.
- Link to [U-M Guidance Regarding Conflicts](#).

## U-M Campus Resources

- [Maize Pages Jewish, U-M](#)
- [Association of Religious Counselors, U-M](#)
- Hillel and Chabad both provide strictly kosher food for Passover Seders and meals throughout the holiday and have other resources for those seeking information or ways to celebrate.

## Information Sources

- [Passover 101](#)
- [Kosher Eating](#)

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