

## **A possible Thanksgiving Jewish Seder.**

(Title chosen by Cantor Szterenber, piece written by Rabbi Jessica Locketz, associate rabbi and director of education at Temple Emanuel of South Hills in Pittsburgh, PA.)

### **1. Read Before the Meal Begins**

“Sovereign of the universe, creative Source of all being, from You come our blessings from day to day and from year to year. How great are Your love and kindness, O God! The towering mountains and the shaded forests, the abundant streams and the fruitful earth tell of Your endless bounty.

For this land so richly blessed, we raise our voice in joyous thanks. To these shores Your children have come from many lands to seek liberty and new hope. All have been pilgrims to this western world. Though they did not always practice the justice they sought, here they found renewed purpose, increased strength, and the opportunity to outgrow old fears and superstitions. For our country, for its freedom promised and attained, the richness of its natural blessing, and the growing harmony of its citizens, we give humble thanks.

God of justice and right, inspire all who dwell in our beloved land with loyalty to the ideals of its founders. Give us wisdom and strength to labor for its well-being, on the firm foundation of justice and truth. Fill us with the spirit of kindness, generosity, and peace, that this land may be a beacon-light to many peoples.”

### **2. Be Thankful**

Ask each person sitting at the table to share the things for which they are thankful.

### **3. Pray Together**

Join together in reciting the words of HaMotzi, the blessing before a meal:

*“Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, Hamotzi lechem min Haaretz”.*

Our praise to You, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.

### **4. Show Love**

Hugs and other displays of love or general affection are not required but may be appreciated gestures, if and when appropriate. Think of other ways to show your love and appreciation for one another, too, beyond or instead of physical touch.

### **5. Be an Ally**

On this day of Thanksgiving, let us be reminded of the contemporary problems Native Americans face. To learn more about how to be a better ally to Native American and Indigenous Peoples, see IllumiNative’s “An Advocate’s Guide to Indigenous People’s Day.”

### **6. Enjoy Jewish Foods**

Make a delicious Jewish-infused Thanksgiving dinner at home this year!

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\* You can find the complete article and additional resources at: [Working Jewish Values into Our Thanksgiving Observance](<https://reformjudaism.org/beliefs-practices/celebrating-secular-holidays/working-jewish-values-our-thanksgiving-observance>).