

From a Narrow Place: A Seder Reading for the People of Ukraine
(to be read during *Hallel*, after the meal)
by Rabbi Seth Haaz, Har Zion Temple

Millions of Ukrainians find themselves trapped in an inescapable horror with danger immediately behind and in front of them. They cannot stay, and they are unable to leave. So, too, did we find ourselves trapped between Pharaoh's army and the Sea. At the moment when we were most ready to give up hope, God opened the Sea. Where there was no path forward, there was suddenly a path.

During our Passover seder, we conclude the meal and recite *Hallel*, psalms of praise, and sing *Min HaMeitzar*:

“From a narrow place I called to You, God,
and You answered me with breadth.”

Just as You, God, opened a path forward for us where there previously was none, we find ourselves tonight in a position to do this for others. Out of eternal gratitude for how You fed us along our journey when there was no food, gave us water when there was no drink, and created potential where there was none, we commit during this Seder to care for, sustain, and embrace others. As we gather around our Passover table this year, we expand upon our declaration, “All who are hungry, come and eat.”

All who are hungry, come and eat.

All who are living in basements and shelters, may you soon rise safely into the sunlight.

All who are running for your lives, may you soon rest, take a deep, needed breath and gaze into the heavens or into the faces of loved ones and friends.

All who have been separated, may you soon reunite in one another's embrace.

All who are fighting, may you soon put down your weapons of destruction and use your strength to plant and build.

All who have lost, may you soon find comfort in God's love manifest through the actions of other human beings.

On this night of our redemption, may God spread a shelter of peace over us. And, under this shelter of peace, may we walk in God's ways and open paths forward for the people of Ukraine and for all others in this world who suffer in narrow places.