

Exodus 11: 10-12, 14.

Matthew 12: 1-8

The Reading today is a reflection on the Jewish Passover Feast. The start of the Jewish New Year. The Day when God told Moses to prepare for the escape from captivity in Egypt. A Day to remember always. The Day that started with a last meal, followed by a plague which struck down the first born of the Egyptians and ravaged all people whose doors were not daubed in the blood of the sacrificed lamb. A Day to be celebrated each year as a Feast in the Lord's honour. As God cautioned, "For all generations, you are to declare it a Day of festival forever."

In the Gospel, Jesus indicates that he is, "Lord of the Sabbath." This will later be endorsed by his Last Supper, death, and resurrection. He will be our Sacrificial Lamb and his death and resurrection will be the new Passover. A Day of freedom for all who believe in him. Freedom from sin and death, culminating in a joyful entry into God's Heavenly Kingdom. A Day to be remembered and celebrated each time Jesus' body and blood is revealed and received in the Eucharistic sacrifice of the mass. Jesus is indeed, ' Lord of the Sabbath.'

Mercy (for all those in need) not sacrifice," is his message of love to the Pharisees, and to us.