

WASH THE HANDS וְרַחֵץ

It is customary to wash the hands now, without reciting the usual benediction.

KARPAS כַּרְפָּס

Green vegetable or boiled potato, dipped in salt water, is distributed to all present, who say:

בִּי־הִנֵּה הַסֵּתוֹ עָבַר. הַגֶּשֶׁם חָלַף הַלֵּךְ לוֹ:
הַנְּצַנִּים נִרְאוּ בְּאֶרֶץ עֵת הַזְּמִיר הַגִּיעַ.
וְקוֹל הַתּוֹר נִשְׁמַע בְּאֶרְצֵנוּ:
(שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים ב' י"א-י"ב)

Behold, winter is passed.

The rain has transformed the earth and vanished,
Buds now cover the earth and the time of singing has arrived,
The voice of the turtledove is heard in our land!

(Song of Songs 2:11-12)

These greens are a symbol of nature reborn. Before enjoying them, let us say together:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, בּוֹרֵא
פְּרֵי הָאָדָמָה:

*Baruch atah adonai eloheinu, melech ha'olam,
borei pri ha'adamah.*

Praised are you, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who creates the fruit of the earth.

Both to enhance and facilitate the ritual washing of hands, bring a pitcher of water, a bowl, and a small towel to the table. One at a time, have the participants hold the bowl for the person next to them as that person pours water over his or her hands. Alternatively, one person can wash hands on behalf of all the participants.



You may want to set out a platter of vegetables to stave off the hunger pangs that can distract seder participants.