

The Sacrament of Holy Communion [B]

World Communion Sunday

“Come, for the meal is ready.”

Invitation

One: God loves all people.

All: Christ invites everyone to feast at this Communion Table.

As we gather this morning,
we remember our siblings living above and below the Equator,
living Up North and Down Under,
living in every time zone around the world.

As the morning sunlight inches across land and sea this day,
Christians are gathering to celebrate worship throughout the world.
All are invited, and all are welcome.

Christ makes all things new!
Come, for the meal is ready.

Prayer of Preparation

As we prepare to receive God's gift of this Holy Communion, let us pray.
Loving and gracious God, who summons galaxies into being, we praise you!
We give you thanks for the world. The diversity of planet Earth amazes us -
from the expansive grasslands of the Americas
to the desert sands of Africa;
from the majestic mountains of Europe
to the vast outback of Australia.
We give you thanks for the diversity of humankind
with our rich variety of shapes and sizes;
with our wondrous complexity of color and culture!
What an amazing truth - all people everywhere are your children, God!

On this World Communion Sunday, we praise you, God, joining our voices:

Verse 1 Come to the Table of Joy!
Come to the Table of Joy.
This is God's table. It's not yours or mine.
Come to the Table of Joy.

Verse 2 Come to the Table of Grace!...

Verse 3 Come to the Table of Love!...

One: Let us pray:

All: Loving and Gracious God, who blesses all creation with life abundant; we give you thanks. We praise you for the miraculous love which you astonishingly offer to the whole world through Jesus Christ. As Christ is this world's Light, may we serve as "lights" to others. May we light paths leading to communion with you, God. Amen.

Preparing the Communion Elements

One: The gifts of God for the people of God.
[Break the bread. Pour the cup.]

Blessing the Communion Elements

One: Let us pray. God, may this bread connect us more closely with you and with all creation.

All: Bless this bread, we pray.

One: God, may this fruit of the vine remind us of the inter-connectedness of people all around the world.

All: Bless this cup, we pray.

One: Receive our gratitude, O God.

All: Through this simple meal of bread and cup, you offer to bring all people into communion with you, Eternal God. Amen.

Sharing the Communion

[The bread and the cup are offered.]

Prayer of Thanksgiving (after communion)

One: Let us pray.

***All: Loving and Gracious God,
we praise you for your gift of new life in Christ.***

***Loving and Gracious God, we thank you for this holy meal.
Thank you for your genuine love for all humanity.
Thank you, God, for this sacred table and this special day
when the whole world may come together to worship you. Amen.***