

Liturgy for World Wide Communion Sunday

Invitation

Christ invites us all to this Holy Feast. As we gather this morning, we remember our sisters and brothers from above and below the equator, from the North and from Down Under, from every time zone around the globe. As today's sunlight inches across land and sea, Christians gather to celebrate their place in God's family. All are invited and all are welcome. Come, for the meal is ready!

Prayer of Preparation

Leader: To God be the glory, great things God has done!

To prepare ourselves to partake of this Holy Meal, let us pray:
Healing God, we come before you broken, yet seeking wholeness,
isolated, yet seeking community, overwhelmed, yet seeking simplicity,
shamed, yet seeking grace.

All: God, we yearn for the healing you promise.

Leader: God of Justice, we come before you selfish, yet seeking a generous heart, arrogant, yet seeking humility, responsible for injustices, yet seeking forgiveness.

All: God, we yearn for the justice you promise.

Leader: God of Peace, we come before you afraid, yet seeking assurance, agitated, yet seeking serenity, angry, yet seeking a forgiving heart.

All: God, we yearn for the peace you promise.

Leader: Knowing that through Christ all things are made new, we come to this communion table to be recreated through the bread and cup, and to be renewed in our faith and commitment.

All: God, we submit ourselves to renewal through you. This we pray through Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Preface & Thanksgiving

Leader: Loving and gracious God who summons galaxies into being, we give thanks and blessings to you. We bless you for our world. The diversity of our planet amazes us from the prairies and pampas of the Americas to the dusty deserts of Africa and Asia, from the majestic mountains of Europe to the vast outback of Australia. We give you thanks for the multiplicity of humanity with our complexity of color and culture yet called into oneness-of-being through Christ. With many tongues, yet with one voice, we honor you saying:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: Loving and gracious God who surrounds creation with abundant love, we give thanks and blessings to you. We bless you for your love, made known to us through Jesus, which reassures and reconciles us to you, to ourselves and to one another. As Christ is our light to you, may we be lights to others illuminating the path toward communion with you, the Holy Spirit and Jesus, our friend and brother. Amen.

Words of Institution

Blessing of the Elements

Leader: God, may this bread connect us more closely with you and with our neighbors near and far.

All: Bless this bread, we pray.

Leader: May this fruit of the vine remind us of the inter-connectedness of people around the world.

All: Bless this cup, we pray.

Leader: May this simple meal bring us into union with you, your people and your world united in the One Body of Christ.

Sharing the Elements

Bread: The bread of life, shared with you.

Cup: The cup of the New Covenant, shared with you.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (after communion)

Leader: Praise God from whom all blessings flow! With thanksgiving, let us celebrate our new life in Christ giving thanks to God our creator and sustainer:

All: Loving and gracious God, thank you for this holy meal. Thank you for Jesus and his all-inclusive love for humanity. Thank you for this day which we worship and serve you.

Amen.