

The Lord's Supper - World Communion Sunday

INVITATION

This table is for all of us,
near and far, high and low, east and west and north and south.
This table is for all of us, but it is not our table.
It's not a Presbyterian table. It's not an American table.
It's God's table, for all of us, and it's a table of grace.
So come and take your place at the table.
You are welcome, you are invited, you are called:
come, let us share this meal together.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise,
O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.
Even when we were dust, when our story begins in dust,
you were there, your word was there,
your breath into the lifeless void.
And upon your word all creation sprang into life.

When we were in the wilderness, terrified, timid,
you were there, your word was there,
with manna just enough for today,

With water even from the driest rock,
with the abundant grace upon which our story always rests.
And when we fell short, slaves to power and greed,
you were there, your word was there,
on the lips of prophets, and in the hearts of servants,
calling us even now to acts of courage and witness and peace.

Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with choirs of angels,
with prophets, apostles, and martyrs,
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**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.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Indeed blessed are you, O Christ, our Lord,
for risking yourself among us, vulnerable and rejected;
for teaching among us, teaching the radical hope of God;
teaching peace to a world bent on tearing itself apart.

You were there, your word was there, even to the point of death itself.
Even faced with terror and hatred and the brokenness of the world,
you rose again, to new life, to new creation, to resurrection,
that we might work for something other than ourselves.

And so you speak to us again,
with these abundant gifts of bread and wine,
with which we joyfully celebrate your dying and rising,
as we await the table of the Kingdom yet to come,
and as we dedicate ourselves again to you,
thankful, and transformed, as living and holy sacrifices,
that our lives may proclaim the one crucified and risen.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us,
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread we break together, and the cup we share together,
may retell our common stories together,
in the communion of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ,
the one in whose life and death you have torn down our divisions.

And so may we be one with all who share this feast,
on this day, of all days, with all your children at every corner of your table.
May we share this abundant cup with all those who thirst for your justice.
May we share this abundant bread with all those who hunger for your
righteousness.
May we be united with every corner of your story,
united in ministry in every place.

As this bread is Christ's body for us,
send us from this table to be the body of Christ in all the world.
Send us with a spirit of courage, a spirit of power and love,
that we may be witnesses in all creation
to the unending story of your word breathing life into the dust.
Keep us faithful, and fruitful, and hopeful, and peaceful,
until we come at last to the one table of your Kingdom,
to feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm,
with you and with your Word, through Christ and in Christ,

the one who came for us, died for us, and rose for us,
the one who prays even for us, the one who first taught us to pray, saying:

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed by thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, we offer our thanks,
for the whole communion of saint's witness to this feast,
and for the ministry of churches around the world who gather with us today.
By this broken bread may we each be restored for the work yet to come.
By this shared cup may we each be claimed for the proclamation of your
Kingdom.
At this shared table may we be united as children of your promise,
children of your word, dying and made new again,
sent boldly together into the world as servants of your peace.
Amen.