

World Communion Sunday

World communion Sunday falls on the first Sunday of October, as churches around the world celebrate their oneness in Christ by gathering at the Communion table. For this service, it is appropriate to have persons bring breads from their countries of origin or countries where the church supports mission. Taking Communion with a different kind of bread may represent solidarity with another culture or remind us that church around the world is all one body of Christ.

Include a note in the bulletin or take the children's sermon time to explain the various breads and their origins. Some

options to consider: rye break, scones, cornbread, pita break, tortillas, rice cakes, foccaccia, injera (from Ethiopia). Day-old bread can remind us of those in our own country for whom fresh bread is a luxury.

Display the breads on the altar table as the service begins. For the Fraction, choose bread that will break easily. Either prepare patens before hand, with individual pieces (not too small) for dipping of each of the various kinds on each paten, or have servers help to do that after the prayer as people are preparing to come to the table. Do note that some of these breads will crumble easily.

Great Thanksgiving for World Communion Sunday

This prayer is based on Ephesians 4:4-6

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of all nations,

you created every person in your image
and called us by your Holy Spirit
to become one in Christ Jesus,
through Baptism and through faith.

In Jesus Christ, you showed us the way to live
with unique gifts and particularities,
yet in harmony with you and with each other.

You, O God, are indeed above all and through all and in all.
So, today we join with voices throughout the earth
and in heaven, saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you and blessed is your child, Jesus Christ.

Jesus lived among us to show us your love:

caring enough to feed hungry persons,
stopping to touch persons in need of healing,
reaching out to those not like himself:

a Samaritan woman at a well,
lepers from another country,
those tortured by demons,
a father pleading for his daughter,
a woman from Syro-Phoenicia,
Zaccaeus, a tax collector,
a rich young ruler, and humble fishermen.

When people gathered to hear his teachings,

Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it,
and gave it to them to eat, so that they might be fed.

When Jesus ate with his disciples for his final meal on earth,
they remembered his blessing on the multitude,
and listened as he told them:

"Take, eat, this is my body given for you."

They watched as Jesus took the cup, blessed it and said,

"Take, drink, this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for the whole world
for the forgiveness of sins."

After his death and resurrection,

by the power of the Holy Spirit,
the disciples told others through this meal,
that Jesus was the Messiah, sent by God, for all humankind.

Remembering now, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.**

You are the Savior of the world.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on the table

spread this day around this globe,

and here spread with breads from around the world.

May all who partake, wherever they live,

know the reconciling love of Jesus Christ.

May your church go forth from Communion with you
to be one in Christ and one in witness to the world.

In your Holy Name we pray. Amen.

—From *Communion Services* by Robin Knowles Wallace (Abingdon Press, 2006). Used with Permission. The author is Associate Professor of Worship and Music at Methodist Theological Seminary in Ohio.