

World Communion Sunday

Preparation: Bring bread to represent as many different parts of the world as possible (examples: tortilla, pita bread, naan, matzo, croissant). Lay the bread in baskets or plates on the altar.

Good morning, everyone! How are you today?

What do you see in the baskets lined up here?

If the children do not say "bread," help them by saying, "These are different kinds of what?"

Does this look like the bread you eat in your sandwich for lunch?

Allow children to answer.

Why don't you use tortillas (point to tortillas or substitute another kind if you do not have tortillas) for your peanut butter and jelly sandwich?

Allow children to answer.

Does anyone know where tortillas come from? Where do people eat many tortillas every day?

Allow children to answer. If they struggle, ask for help from the congregation.

What about these other kinds of bread? Does anyone know where these breads come from?

Allow children to answer. If they struggle, ask for help from the congregation.

How many kinds of bread do you think there are in the world?

Allow children to answer.

I don't know exactly how many, but I do know there are thousands and that almost every culture in the world has its own kind of bread.



Does anyone know what bread is made of?

Allow children to answer.

Bread is made of grain. There are many different kinds of grain in the world. People use the grain that grows where they live to make their special kind of bread.

Why is bread important to us here at church?

Allow children to answer. Children will probably talk about Communion, but they might come up with other answers as well. Affirm their answers.

Every week, we say a special prayer called the Lord's Prayer. Do you remember what the Lord's Prayer says about bread?

If they can't come up with it, begin the line for them "Give us this day our ..."

We pray to God for bread. Bread is one of the most basic foods all around the world. When we pray for bread, we pray that God will give us what we need to live and grow.

Today is a special day in the church called **World Communion Sunday**. All around the world, Christians are receiving Communion. We will use this bread (show the bread ready for communion) and grape juice. Other people around the world will use different kinds of bread. Some will use wine, others juice.

Some will pray the Lord's Prayer in English. Others in Spanish. Others in Korean. But do you know what? We all pray the same prayer. We all worship the same God. We all come to the table that Jesus prepared for us. When we come to Holy Communion, we remember that Jesus gave himself for all of us — all around the world! So today, when we receive Communion, I want you to think about people all around the world who look different from you and talk differently than you, but who are doing the same thing as you. Remember, we are all brothers and sisters of faith.

We'll share a special offering today. The money we collect goes to help people all around the world to get a good education. Many of the people it helps don't look like us or speak the same language as we do, but they want the same things as us — a way to make a happy and healthy life for their family.

Let's pray.

Dear God, thank you for giving us the bread we need to live and grow. Thank you for our brothers and sisters around the world. We don't know them, but we know you know and love them just as you know and love us. Help us to remember we are all one in your love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.