



Take-Home Page

Prayers and Rituals

Prayer after communion

O God, we give you thanks that in the meal of communion you set before us a feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 114, adapted)

- **What does it mean to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry?**
- **How is communion a feast?**

Prayer after communion

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 114)

- **Can you remember a time when you felt connected to someone or something bigger than yourself at communion? Share your memory with your family.**
- **Have you experienced communion as something that strengthens you to show love and care to others?**

A prayer of Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Make us worthy, Lord, to serve our fellow human beings throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them through our hands this day their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give peace and joy. Amen. (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 87)

Practice the dismissal at the end of worship at your church as a call-and-response so that your family can participate in the assembly's response: **Thanks be to God.**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
or Go in peace. Share the good news.
or Go in peace. Remember the poor.
or Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Bring the Bible Story Home

Acts 2:37-47 tells about the early Christian community. When people began following and worshiping Jesus together—including sharing communion—their lives changed for the better and they began looking for ways to help each other. Other people began noticing how these first Christians worshiped together and took care of one another. Because of their witness, others wanted to join the first Christians.

- Read Acts 2:37-47 together and identify four practices that characterized the early Christian community (hint: see verse 42). Which of these practices do Christians still engage in?
- If you have more than one Bible translation at home, read this passage from Acts from each translation. Does the emphasis, meaning, or tone of the passage change depending on which translation you read?
- Sara Miles became a Christian through her experience of communion as a dinner table where everyone is welcome, and went on to found a food pantry right in the church sanctuary, serving over 700 strangers a week. She has written a book about her conversion entitled *Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion* (Ballentine Books, 2008). Listen together to her compelling testimony in an audio essay called "Strangers Bring Us Closer to God" (4 min.), created for the series "This I Believe." It's available at www.thisibelieve.org; go to the advanced essay search and put in Sara Miles' name. You can also find a link to the essay at the author's Web site: www.saramiles.net.

Serve

Prepare and deliver a meal to an individual or family from your church or school who could use some extra support. New baby in the house? Recent surgery? Overwhelmed caregiver? Death in the family? Family with deployed military personnel? Ask your pastor for suggestions if you aren't aware of people in your congregation who would appreciate this type of care.

Invite some friends from church or school who you'd like to get to know better to dinner at your house. It doesn't have to be fancy!