**One Table, One Family: The Power of Worldwide Communion**

 **Scripture Reference(s)**

 Hebrews 12:1–2; John 6; Matthew 28:20; 1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 19

 **Introduction**

 •Pastor greets congregation, invites them to stand for Hebrews 12:1–2.

 •Notes deviation from the Esther series because it is Worldwide Communion Sunday.

 •Explains communion will be shared with Christians globally, transcending walls, continents, and centuries.

 •Acknowledges recent losses in the congregation (Dwayne, Ernie) and the personal nearness of his own father’s passing.

 •Prayer for the message to become “alive,” that the Word (Logos) would dwell among the people.

 •Table is uncovered to visually remind worshippers that it is Christ’s table, not denominationally owned.

 **Key Points / Exposition**

 1. Communion with the Saints — “A Great Cloud of Witnesses”

 •Hebrews 12 imagery: innumerable witnesses surrounding believers like an endless bank of clouds seen from an airplane.

 •Analogy: church-family potluck where one sits at the corner of a long, continuous table; communion is that corner of God’s banquet stretching through time.

 •Protestant understanding of sainthood: priesthood of all believers; any who profess Christ are saints.

 •Through the bread and the cup, believers dine with Christians from the catacombs, the Reformation, enslaved gatherings, pew-builders—and with departed loved ones (Dwayne, Ernie).

 •Death ushers saints into the full banquet, not away from the table.

 2. Communion in the Real Presence of Christ

 •John 6: Jesus the living bread; those who eat live forever.

 •Reformed/Cumberland Presbyterian stance: elements are more than memorial; Christ is spiritually present.

• Road to Emmaus: eyes opened in the breaking of bread.

• Wedding-ring analogy: physical token that conveys a living relationship.

 •Christ’s promise, Matthew 28:20—“with you always”—is enacted in the sacrament; grief is faced with Him beside us.

 3. Communion and the Hope of Resurrection

 •1 Corinthians 11:26: meal proclaims the Lord’s death “until He comes.”

 •Dual vision—back to the cross, forward to the kingdom where death is no more.

 •Revelation 19: marriage supper of the Lamb; today’s table is a foretaste.

 •Images: threshold, wardrobe into Narnia—death as doorway into everlasting life.

 •Olive Garden appetizer illustration: communion whets the appetite for the full eternal feast.

 **Major Lessons & Revelations**

 •The church is not weak or dying; it spans ages and survives in Christ.

 •No believer ever comes to the table alone; fellowship transcends distance, time, and even death.

 •Sacrament embodies Christ’s pledged love and presence, grounding believers in assurance amid grief.

 •Resurrection power reframes mourning: death is conquered, hope is steadfast.

**Practical Application**

 •Approach communion consciously joined to global and historical church; pray for believers worldwide.

 •Remember departed saints by name during the meal, celebrating their present life with Christ.

 •Examine hearts before the table—seek reconciliation with others and confession before God.

 •Invite others to the table by living “kingdom people” lives marked by grace, love, truth, justice, and mercy.

 **Conclusion & Call to Response**

 •Worldwide Communion Sunday testifies: one family, one Savior, one hope.

 •Believers are strengthened in Christ’s presence, comforted regarding those who have finished their race, and emboldened to proclaim resurrection.

 •Congregation summoned to self-examination, reconciliation, and joyful anticipation of Christ’s return.

 **Prayer**

 •Adoration of God’s majesty and goodness.

 •Petition: Word would dwell richly, meal would unite and strengthen.

 •Confession: guided silence for personal sins; plea for cleansing and reconciliation.

 •Thanksgiving for Christ’s body broken, blood poured out, and the new covenant of grace.

 •Intercession: empower congregation to live and invite others into the way of the kingdom.

 **References & Resources**

 •Illustrations: long church potluck table; airplane above cloud layer; Thanksgiving family call-ins; Olive Garden bread & olive oil.