

**National Week of Prayer for the International Synod on the Eucharist**  
**“Go and repair my house, which you see is falling down.”**

**Opening song:** One Bread, One Body (c 1978 by John Foley, SJ; Oregon Catholic Press)  
or Pan de Vida (c 1988 by Bob Hurd, Oregon Catholic Press)

**Opening prayer**

Leader: Good and Gracious God, we come to you as a community, gathered together because of our concern for the Eucharist and the Church. We come to you as followers of St. Francis, who was committed to the full expression of the gospel through the work of the Church. We pray that your Spirit, your wisdom, and your guidance, be with the bishops gathered at the International Synod on the Eucharist. Help them to realize that the hunger and thirst for Eucharist can only be met through an inclusive priesthood inviting each member of the Body of Christ to answer his or her baptismal call to be priest, prophet and king.

Leader: Francis began rebuilding the Church with stones and rocks.

All: May the Church be strengthened with the gospel message as the foundation.

Leader: Francis sought to imitate the life of Christ.

All: May our Eucharistic gatherings truly represent the inclusive vision of Christ that welcomes all to the table regardless of sex, race, social class or political stance.

Leader: Francis and Clare worked as trusted equals.

All: May our Church affirm the many gifts of women as co-workers in building the kingdom.

Leader: Francis turned his entire life over to God.

All: May the bishops at the synod turn their hearts over to God and hear the voice of challenge calling them to address the lack of access to the Eucharist.

Leader: As we call upon the spirit and witness of St. Francis, let our prayer and our time together be in union with the bishops gathered this day at the synod.

All: Amen

**Scripture collage**

Sung refrain: *“I myself am the bread of Life, You and I are the bread of life. Taken and blessed, broken and shared by Christ that the world might live.”* (c. 1987, Rory Cooney NALR, Oregon Catholic press)

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” Matthew 26: 26-29

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All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. Acts 2: 44-47

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As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him...” Luke 24: 28-31

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**Reflection**

Time for reflective silence, or, if time permits, time for a reflection by a theologian or minister of the Church on the importance of the Eucharist, the role of St. Francis as an early reformer of the Church, and the modern concerns facing the Church regarding the Eucharist (See sample op ed piece for “food for thought.”)

**Prayer of St. Francis/Prayer for the International Synod on the Eucharist**

**Side 1: Lord, Make me an instrument of your peace!**

Side 2: Jesus, we bring to you our love and concern for the worldwide Church.

**Side 1: Where there is hatred, let me sow love.**

Side 2: We bring especially our love for the Eucharist, your body and blood. You are our Emmanuel, "God with us" who nourishes and strengthens our Catholic community.

**Side 1: Where there is injury, pardon.**

Side 2: We bring to you our mourning and our repentance. Too many of your people are deprived of your sacramental presence because of the human failures of a wounded Church. In many places of the world there are too few priests or no priests at all. People celebrate Eucharist only once a month or once a year or never.

**Side 1: Where there is doubt, faith.**

Side 2: Jesus, we know that you are with us always, even where there are no priests. But we also know you are the good shepherd who yearns to feed your people with your own substance through the ministry of those you call to be priestly shepherds.

**Side 1: Where there is despair, hope.**

Side 2: "We know you have called many men and women to minister to your people as priests and deacons and pastoral ministers. We know many priestly calls are not recognized by the institutional church because the candidate is married or female. Our leaders have been slow to recognize the rich diversity of your summons to "feed my lambs...feed my sheep."

**Side 1: Where there is darkness, light.**

Side 2: As our Cardinals and Bishops prepare to meet in Rome for the International Synod on the Eucharist, we ask the guidance of your Spirit on them and on us, the people of the Church.

**Side 1: Where there is sadness, joy.**

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console.

Side 2: May the worldwide hunger for your Eucharistic presence be the first concern of church leaders attending the synod.

**Side 1: To be understood as to understand.**

Side 2: May they be open to the abundant calls the Spirit is pouring out on women and men, married and single to serve the Church as priests and deacons.

**Side 1: to be loved as to love.**

Side 2: May your Spirit give us, as people who love the Eucharist, courage and grace to share our concerns and perspectives with our Bishop leaders.

**Side 1: for it is in giving that we receive.**

Side 2: May your Spirit give our Bishops the wisdom to listen.

**Side 1: It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.**

Side 2: Lead us all to that time of Eucharistic abundance so we become, once again your body and blood, poured out for the life of the world.

**Side 1: It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

Side 2: Amen

**Closing prayer**

Leader: As Francis was known to say, "Preach the Gospel. If necessary use words." May we as the Body of Christ- lay people, priests, bishops, and especially the bishops at the synod- go forth to proclaim with our lives the true message of Christ found in the Eucharist.

**Closing Song**

Bread of Life (c. 1982 by Bernadette Farrell, Oregon Catholic Press)  
or Companions on the Journey (c. 1985 by Carey Landry, Oregon Catholic Press)  
or One Spirit, One Church (c 1990 by Kevin Keil, Oregon Catholic Press)

*National Week of Prayer for the Synod is a part of the Corpus Christi Campaign developed by FutureChurch([www.futurechurch.org](http://www.futurechurch.org)) in partnership with Call to Action ([www.cta-usa.org](http://www.cta-usa.org)). This prayer service was created by Emily Holtel-Hoag, Special Projects Coordinator at FutureChurch.*

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