

One Table, One Cornerstone

World Communion Sunday 10/4/2026

Acts 4:5–12
Rev. Cheryl Farr

Sermon Theme

The Church gathers around one Savior, one grace, and one hope for the whole world.

Big Idea

Peter's witness in Acts 4 points us away from ourselves and toward Jesus Christ, the cornerstone. World Communion Sunday reminds us that the Church is larger than any one congregation, culture, nation, or denomination. We come to one table because we belong to one Savior.

What the Passage Shows Us

- Peter and John are questioned after a man is healed.
- The authorities want to know what power or authority stands behind the healing.
- Peter points directly to Jesus Christ.
- The same Peter who once denied Jesus now speaks boldly.
- His courage comes from the Holy Spirit, not from personality or self-confidence.
- Peter refuses to take credit for what happened.
- Jesus is the rejected stone who has become the cornerstone.
- Salvation is found in Christ, not in human effort, religious status, or personal goodness.

One Savior

Peter's claim that salvation is found in no one else is not a claim that Christians are better than everyone else. It is a confession that we cannot save ourselves.

- Jesus is the Savior.
- The Church is not the Savior.
- A denomination is not the Savior.
- A pastor is not the Savior.
- Good works are not the Savior.
- Our own goodness is not the Savior.

Communion reminds us that we come because Christ invites us, not because we have earned our place.

One Grace

At the table, everyone comes in need of grace.

- Grace is not a reward for the deserving.
- Grace is God's gift to people who need Him.
- We receive before we can give.
- We are forgiven before we can become people of forgiveness.
- We are welcomed so that we can become people who welcome others.

World Communion Sunday reminds us that the same grace is reaching people across the world, in cultures and communities very different from our own.

One Cornerstone

Peter calls Jesus the cornerstone.

A cornerstone gives a structure its alignment. Everything else must be built in relation to it.

Churches can slowly begin building around other things:

- tradition
- personalities
- politics
- programs
- buildings
- music
- nostalgia
- fear
- survival
- being right

None of those things can carry the weight of the Church.

Jesus must remain the cornerstone.

The Table Is Bigger Than Us

World Communion Sunday reminds us that the Church stretches far beyond what we can see.

Around the world, Christians gather to remember Christ's sacrifice.

They worship in different languages and styles, yet they gather around the same Christ.

Unity does not mean sameness. The Church can be deeply diverse and still be one body because Christ is at the center.

Clear Faith Without Harshness

Peter is clear about Jesus, but he is not boasting in himself.

That gives the Church a pattern for witness today.

- We can speak clearly without becoming cruel.
- We can hold strong convictions without contempt.
- We can tell the truth without humiliating people.
- We can love people who do not agree with us.
- We can trust the Holy Spirit with the outcome.

Our responsibility is faithfulness, not control.

Grace Goes First

Wesleyan theology reminds us that God's grace is already at work before we recognize it.

Prevenient grace:

- reaches toward every person
- awakens the heart
- convicts
- draws
- enables response
- never forces love

Jesus is the one Savior, and His grace reaches farther than we expect.

The Gospel Should Be Visible

Peter speaks about Jesus while a healed man stands nearby.

That is a powerful picture of Christian witness.

If we preach grace, people should encounter grace.

If we preach forgiveness, people should find forgiveness.

If we preach love, people should experience love.

If we say every person matters to God, our lives should show it.

The name on our lips should become visible in the life we live.

Key Truths

- Jesus is the cornerstone of the Church.
- Salvation is found in Christ, not in us.
- Communion is grace received, not a reward earned.
- The Church belongs to Jesus, not to any one group or culture.
- Unity in Christ does not erase differences.
- Clear conviction and humility belong together.
- God's grace reaches farther than our boundaries.
- We receive mercy so that we can become people of mercy.
- We gather at one table so that we can be sent into the world.

Questions for Reflection

- What is your life really built around?
- What is our church most tempted to place at the center besides Jesus?
- Does receiving grace make you more gracious toward others?
- Where do you need the Holy Spirit to give you courage?
- How can you speak clearly about Jesus without becoming harsh?
- Who do you find difficult to imagine sitting at Christ's table?
- What would it look like for the grace we receive in Communion to become visible in our community?
- How can World Communion Sunday change the way we see Christians from other cultures and traditions?

Takeaway

We come to one table because we belong to one Savior. We receive one grace because none of us can save ourselves. We hold to one hope because Jesus Christ, the rejected stone, is still the cornerstone.

The table is larger than us.

The grace is wider than us.

The hope is for the whole world.

Key Verse

"Salvation is found in no one else."

Acts 4:12