

For leaders of worship

# Commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation

## From Conflict to Communion

...

### A warm welcome

**We welcome people from the Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian churches**

### Greeting and Call to Worship

Kia noho a Ihowa kia koutou. May God be with you.

**Ma Ihowa koe e manaaki. May God bless you.**

O Lord, open my lips

**And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Hymn – (possible hymn - Praise to the Lord CH4 124)**

### Welcome

#### Introduction

Lutheran and Roman Catholic or ?

#### Lutheran

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ. Welcome to this ecumenical service which commemorates the 500 years of the Reformation. This service is based on one developed between the international bodies of Lutherans and Roman Catholics. In this service, Anglicans, Methodists and Presbyterians join as Reformation partners with Lutherans, in partnership with Roman Catholics.

Dialogues and joint action in Dunedin and world-wide have led us to recognise that what unites us is far greater than what divides us. Mutual understanding and trust continues to grow.

#### Roman Catholic

So it is possible for us to gather today. We come with different thoughts and feelings of thanksgiving and lament, joy and repentance, joy in the Gospel and sorrow for division. We gather to commemorate in remembrance, in thanksgiving and confession, in common witness and commitment.

Lutherans and Catholics have developed a document ***From Conflict to Communion***. It states, "The church is the body of Christ. As there is only one Christ, so also he has only one body. Through baptism, human beings are made members of this body."

## **Lutheran**

We remember what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:26: "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together."

What affects one member of the body affects all others. For this reason, when Lutheran and Reformed Christians remember the events that led to the particular formation of their churches, they do not wish to do so without their Catholic fellow Christians. In remembering with each other the beginning of the Reformation, they are taking their baptism seriously.

## **Prayer**

other church representative

Let us pray: Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, send your Holy Spirit. Illumine our hearts and heal our memories. O Holy Spirit: help us to rejoice in the gifts that have come to the Church through the Reformation, prepare us to repent for the dividing walls that we, and our forebears, have built, and equip us for common witness and service in the world. **Amen.**

**Hymn – (possible hymn - Come Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire CH4 598)**

## **Thanksgiving**

Lutheran and Roman Catholic or ?

### **Lutheran**

Lutherans and Reformed people are thankful in their hearts for what Luther and the other reformers made accessible to them. They realise that what they are thanking God for is not a gift that they can claim only for themselves. They want to share this gift with all other Christians.

### **Roman Catholic**

Encouraged by the Second Vatican Council, Catholics "gladly acknowledge and esteem the truly Christian endowments from our common heritage which are to be found among our separated brethren. It is right and salutary to recognise the riches of Christ and virtuous works in the lives of others who are bearing witness to Christ, sometimes even to the shedding of their blood." (*Unitatis Reintegratio*, Chapter 1)

## **Prayer of thanksgiving**

other church representative

In this Spirit, we embrace each other as sisters and brothers in the Lord.

Let us pray: Thanks be to you O God for the many guiding theological and spiritual insights that we have all received through the Reformation. Thanks be to you for the good transformations

and reforms that were set in motion by the Reformation or by struggling with its challenges. Thanks be to you for the proclamation of the gospel that has strengthened countless people to live lives of faith in Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Song of thanksgiving** by singing group or choir

## **Confession**

Lutheran and Roman Catholic

### **Lutheran**

We must allow room to acknowledge pain over failures and trespasses, guilt and sin in the persons and events that are being remembered. We frequently misunderstood and exaggerated and caricatured our opponents in order to make them look ridiculous. We bore false witness against our neighbour.

### **Roman Catholic**

We often focused on what separated us from each other rather than looking for what united us. We accepted that the Gospel was mixed with the political and economic interests of those in power. Our failures resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people. Families were torn apart, people imprisoned and tortured, wars fought and religion and faith misused. Human beings suffered and the credibility of the Gospel was undermined with consequences that still impact us today. We deeply regret the evil things we have mutually done to each other.

## **Prayer of Confession**

other church representative

After each confession, we will sing the kyrie.

O God of mercy, we lament that even good actions of reform and renewal had often unintended negative consequences.

Sung Kyrie eleison (over page)

We bring before you the burdens of the guilt of the past when our forebears did not follow your will that all be one in the truth of the Gospel.

Sung Kyrie eleison

We confess our own ways of thinking and acting that perpetuate the divisions of the past. As communities and as individuals, we build many walls around us: mental, spiritual, physical, political walls that result in discrimination and violence.

Sung Kyrie eleison



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.  
 Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy. Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy.

Note: Lower voices may hum.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.  
 Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy. Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy.

## Assurance of Forgiveness

Lutheran

Christ is the way, the truth and the life. He is our peace, who breaks down the walls that divide, who gives us, through the Holy Spirit, ever-new beginnings.

In Christ, we receive forgiveness and reconciliation and we are strengthened for a faithful and common witness in our time.

## Passing of the Peace

Roman Catholic

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body we are called to peace.

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*(While we pass the peace the choir sings "Ubi Caritas et amor- Where charity and love are found, God is there" Maurice Durufle).*

**Gospel:**

**The gospel of John chapter 15, verses 1 – 15.**

**Sermon**

**The Apostles' Creed** *(please stand)*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

**AMEN**

**Hymn – (possible hymn Longing for light CH4 543)**

**Commitments** Presbyterian/Catholic or some other mixed family light lead in commitments as church representatives light candles.  
Our ecumenical journey continues. In this worship, we commit ourselves to grow in communion.

1. We begin from the perspective of unity and not from the point of view of division, in order to strengthen what is held in common.
2. We let ourselves be continually transformed by the encounter with the other and by the mutual witness of faith.
3. We commit ourselves to seek visible unity.
4. We jointly rediscover the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ for our time.
5. We witness together to the mercy of God in proclamation and service to the world.
- 6.

**Intercessory Prayer** (pages 47/48 from [https://www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/dtpw-lrc-liturgy-2016\\_en.pdf](https://www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/dtpw-lrc-liturgy-2016_en.pdf))

To the words ... your mercy endures forever ... or show us your mercy  
the response is: **Hear our Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Blessing - spoken by church representatives**

For all that God can do within us, for all that God can do without us,

**Thanks be to God.**

For all in whom Christ lived before us, for all in whom Christ lives beside us,

**Thanks be to God.**

For all the Spirit wants to bring us, for where the Spirit wants to send us,

**Thanks be to God.**

The blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and on your way together, now and forever.

**Hymn – (possible hymn - Where mountains rise to open skies- AA 155)**