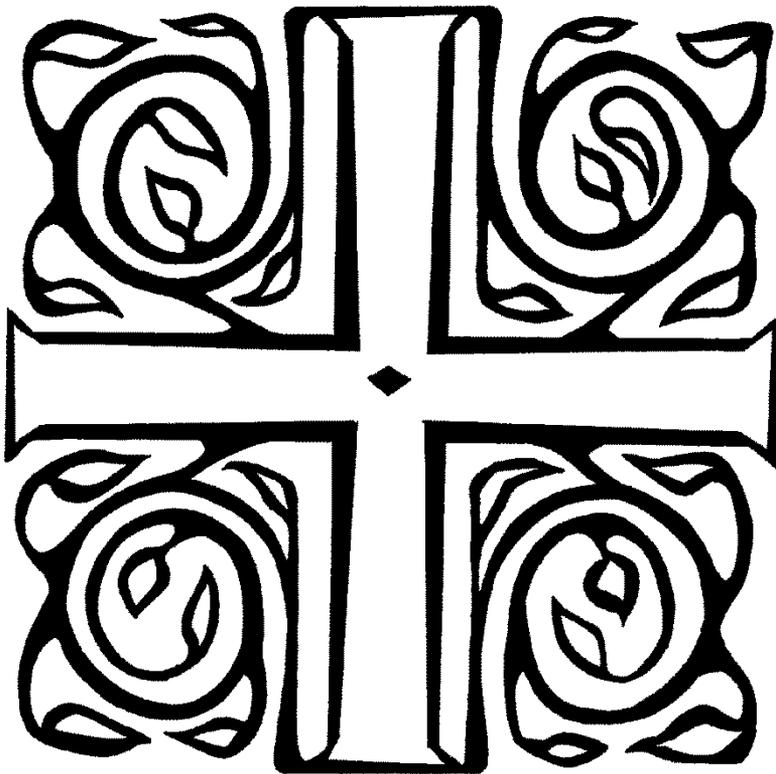


*FROM CONFLICT TO COMMUNION:
LUTHERAN CATHOLIC
COMMEMORATION OF THE
REFORMATION*



April 28, 2017

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Song – All Are Welcome #413 Breaking Bread

Presider I:

In the name of the Father, and of the (+) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you!

And also with 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.

Presider I:

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ! Welcome to this ecumenical prayer, which commemorates the 500 years of the Reformation. For over 50 years Lutherans and Catholics have been on a journey from conflict to communion. With joy, we have come to recognize that what unites us is far greater than what divides us. On this journey, mutual understanding and trust have grown.

Presider II:

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, and in common witness and commitment.

Reader I

In the document From Conflict to Communion, we read, “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.” (#219) “Since Catholics and Lutherans are bound to one another in the body of Christ as members of it, then it is true of them what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:26: ‘If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.’ What affects one member of the body also affects all the others. For this reason, when Lutheran 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.” (#221)

Presider I:

Let us pray!

[brief silence]

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.

Song invoking the Holy Spirit

Veni Sancte Spiritus
Holy Spirit, Come to Us

Ostinato (repeated continuously)

The musical score consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in G major (one sharp). The melody is a simple, repetitive eighth-note pattern. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus. Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.
Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us. Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us.

Text: Pentecost sequence: Taizé Community
 Music: TAIZÉ VENI SANCTE. Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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THANKSGIVING

Reader I:

A reading from From Conflict to Communion

Common Commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation “Lutherans are thankful in their hearts for what Luther and the other reformers made accessible to them: the understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ and faith in him; the insight into the mystery of the Triune God who gives Himself to us human beings out of grace and who can be received only in full trust in the divine promise; the freedom and certainty that the gospel creates; in the love that comes from and is awakened by faith, and in the hope in life and death that faith brings with it; and in the living contact with the Holy Scripture, the catechisms, and hymns that draw faith into life” (#225), in the priesthood of all baptized believers and their calling for the common mission of the Church. “Lutherans...realize 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.” (#226)

Reader II:

“Catholics and Lutherans have so much of the faith in common that they can... be thankful together.” (#226). 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 recognize 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. For God is always wonderful in His works and worthy of all praise.” (Unitatis Redintegratio, Chapter 1). In this spirit, Catholics and Lutherans embrace each other as sisters and brothers in the Lord. Together they rejoice in the truly Christian gifts that they both have received and rediscovered in various ways through the renewal and impulses of the Reformation. These gifts are reason for thanksgiving. “The ecumenical journey enables Lutherans and Catholics to appreciate together Martin Luther’s insight into and spiritual experience of the gospel of the righteousness of God, which is also God’s mercy.” (#244)

Presider I:

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 occurred during the Reformation and that since then has strengthened countless people to live lives of faith in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Song of Thanksgiving
We Are Marching

Printed on back of bulletin

REPENTANCE

Reader I:

“As the commemoration in 2017 brings joy and gratitude to expression, so must it also allow room for both Lutherans and Catholics to experience the pain over failures and trespasses, guilt and sin in the persons and events that are being remembered.” (#228) “In the sixteenth century, Catholics and Lutherans frequently not only misunderstood but also exaggerated and caricatured their opponents in order to make them look ridiculous. They repeatedly violated the eighth commandment, which prohibits bearing false witness against one’s neighbor.” (#233)

Reader II:

Lutherans and Catholics often focused on what separated them from each other rather than looking for what united them. They accepted that the Gospel was mixed with the political and economic interests of those in power. Their 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 that Catholics and Lutherans have mutually done to each other.

Presider I:
Let us pray!
[brief silence]

Presider II:
O God of mercy, we lament that even good actions of reform and renewal had often unintended negative consequences.
Kyrie eleison (Lord have mercy)

Presider I:
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.
Christe eleison (Christ have mercy)

Presider II:
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. Forgive us, Lord.
Kyrie eleison (Lord have mercy)

Presider I and II:
[These words may be said alternately by presiders I and II.]
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.
Amen

THE PEACE

Presider II:
Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you are called to peace.
The peace of Christ be with you always!
And also with you!

Presider I:

Let us offer each a sign of reconciliation and peace.

Sharing of peace

GOSPEL

Reader I:

As we continue our journey from conflict to communion, let us hear the Gospel according to John

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” (Jn 15:1–5)

The Gospel of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Joint Sermon

Presider I:

Together, let us confess our faith.

The Apostles' Creed

**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 power of 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**

Song Ang Katawan Ni Kristo #350

COMMITMENTS: FIVE IMPERATIVES

Presider II:

Our ecumenical journey continues. In this worship, we commit ourselves to grow in communion. The five imperatives found in From Conflict to Communion will guide us.

1. Our first commitment: Catholics and Lutherans should always begin from the perspective of unity and not from the point of view of division in order to strengthen what is held in common even though the differences are more easily seen and experienced. (#239).

Light a candle

2. Our second commitment: Lutherans and Catholics must let themselves continuously be transformed by the encounter with the other and by the mutual witness of faith. (#240)

Light a candle

3. Our third commitment: Catholics and Lutherans should again commit themselves to seek visible unity, to elaborate together what this means in concrete steps, and to strive repeatedly toward this goal. (#241)

Light a candle

4. Our fourth commitment: Lutherans and Catholics should jointly rediscover the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ for our time. (#242)

Light a candle

5. Our fifth commitment: Catholics and Lutherans should witness together to the mercy of God in proclamation and service to the world. (#243)

Light a candle

Song Ubi Caritas #327

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Presider I:

“Ecumenical engagement for the unity of the church does not serve only the church but also the world so that the world may believe.” (#243) Let us now pray for the world, the church and all those in need... .

1. God of mercy, throughout history your goodness prevails, open the hearts of all people to find you and your mercy that endures forever. **Hear our prayer!**

2. God of peace, bend that which is inflexible, the barriers that divide, the attachments that thwart reconciliation. Bring peace in this world, especially in [name countries, places...]. Restore wholeness among us and show us your mercy! **Hear our prayer!**

3. God of justice, healer and redeemer, heal those who suffer from illness, poverty and exclusion. Hasten justice for those suffering under the power of evil. Give new life to all and show us your mercy! **Hear our prayer!**

4. God, rock and fortress, protect refugees, those without homes or security, all the abandoned children. Help us always to defend human dignity. Show us your mercy! **Hear our prayer!**

5. God creator, all creation groans in expectation, convert us from exploitation. Teach us to live in harmony with your creation. Show us your mercy! **Hear our prayer!**

6. God of mercy, strengthen and protect those who are persecuted for faith in you and those of other faiths who suffer persecution. Give us the courage to profess our faith. Your mercy endures forever. **Hear our prayer!**

7. God of life, heal painful memories, transform all complacency, indifference and ignorance, pour out a spirit of reconciliation. Turn us to you and one another. Show us your mercy! **Hear our prayer!**

8. God of love, your son Jesus reveals the mystery of love among us, strengthen that unity that you alone sustain in our diversity. Your mercy endures forever! **Hear our prayer!**

9. God our sustenance, bring us together at your eucharistic table, nurture within and among us a communion rooted in your love. Your mercy endures forever!
Hear our prayer!

Presider II:

In confidence that you O God hear our prayers for the needs of this world and for the unity of all Christians in their witness, let us pray as Jesus taught us... .

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father...

Presider I:

For all that God can do within us, for all that God can do without us, **Thanks be to God!**

Presider II:

For all in whom Christ lived before us, for all in whom Christ lives beside us, **Thanks be to God!**

Presider I:

For all the Spirit wants to bring us, for where the Spirit wants to send us, **Thanks be to God!**

Presiders (jointly):

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

Amen.

Song Holy God, We Praise thy Name #190

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We Are Marching in the Light of God



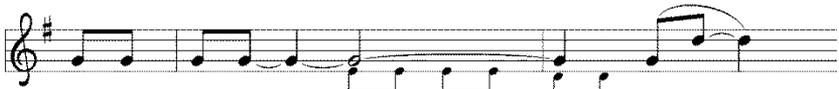
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
 We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
 light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...
 We are praying ...
 We are singing ...