



Reformation Day 2022

Year of the Bible

For Lutherans, the Word is Jesus Christ, God made flesh. Christ comes to us today, in the words of Scripture, in the celebration of the sacraments, and in service to the neighbor. These actions constitute worship for us, worship centered on three central things: water (baptismal font), a book (Scripture), and a table (communion with God and neighbor).

Exactly 500 years ago, in 1522, Martin Luther translated the New Testament into German. On the occasion of the anniversary, the Lutheran World Federation is celebrating 2022 as a Year of the Bible. On Reformation Day, the LWF invites its member churches to use this liturgy or adapt it to their respective worship contexts.

The worship setting might include a gospel procession to place the Bible at the center of the congregation, from where the Gospel is read. Depending on your practice, such a procession could consist of a crucifer, candle-bearers, assisting minister and the presiding minister who will read the Gospel



THE
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FEDERATION

A Communion
of Churches

Suggested Psalm: Psalm 46

Suggested Gospel: John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

➤ *These suggested intercessory prayers may be complemented with other prayers reflecting local contexts*

God Creator, you called all things into being, in your light we see true light, open our hearts and minds and bodies to your Word that is light, dispelling all that which holds us captive to ourselves and our own agendas. God of mercy,

Hear our prayer!

God Liberator, you step into our world, your Word like a two-edged sword, reveals and thwarts all those things that take us away from you. Break down the walls that divide us. Deepen our love for your Word that sets us free. God of mercy,

Hear our prayer!

God Comforter, you give life. You breathe your life-giving spirit over our dry bones. You wake us from our lethargy, our laziness, our mediocrity and, through your Word, call us into life abundant and a ministry of reconciliation. God of mercy,

Hear our prayer!

Praise be you, O God, for your Word in Jesus Christ, who encounters us in our neighbor, in water, bread, and wine, and in the words of Scripture. God of mercy,

Hear our prayer!