



Reformation Day Worship Resources 2023



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

A Communion
of Churches

GATHERING

♪ **Opening Hymn:** this can be a hymn of thanksgiving focusing on God's faithfulness.

INTRODUCTORY WORDS:

On this Reformation Day, "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."

‣ *Option A – Thanksgiving for Baptism*

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

We gather around the font remembering that in baptism we have been incorporated into the one body of Christ. "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:4–6)

‣ *As the presider continues to give thanks, water is slowly poured into the baptismal font.*

"Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things. Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever."

Amen.

Let us confess our faith together with the whole church.

Do you believe in God the Father?

We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

We 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 into 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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

We 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.

BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE

‣ *People may be invited to the font to make a sign of the cross with the water in remembrance of their baptism and their unity in the one Body of Christ.*

‣ *Option B – Confession*

CONFESSION

Presider: Let us pray. . .

Jesus Christ, Lord of the church, send your Holy Spirit! Illuminate 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.

Presider: 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: 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: 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)

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

Apostolic Greeting

Prayer of the Day

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 has since that time strengthened countless people to live lives of faith in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

WORD

Suggested readings:

Old Testament: Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 130 or Psalm 46
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26
Gospel: John 15:1-5

Sermon

‣ *The sermon, building on John 15:1-5, may opt to focus on either one of these two texts:*

‣ *The Five Ecumenical Imperatives (see **From Conflict to Communion**)*

‣ *The **Common Word** between the LWF and the Roman Catholic Church, read at the Thirteenth Assembly in Kraków, Poland*

Intercessory Prayers

Let us bring the needs of the church, the world, and all in need, to God's loving care, saying or singing:

Intercessor #1: God of mercy, throughout history your goodness prevails, open the hearts of all people to find you and your mercy that endures forever.

♪ Sung or spoken response

Intercessor #2: God of covenant, bring peace and justice in this world, especially in [name several areas of conflict] and so many other places. Protect refugees, those without homes or security, all the abandoned children. Restore wholeness among us and show us your mercy!

♪ Sung or spoken response

Intercessor #3: God creator, all creation groans in expectation, convert us from exploitation. Teach us to live in harmony with your creation. Show us your mercy!

♪ Sung or spoken response

Intercessor #4: God of peace, bend that which is inflexible, the attachments that thwart reconciliation. Strengthen that unity that you alone sustain in our diversity. Show us your mercy!

♪ Sung or spoken response

‣ *Other intercessions may be added based on local, national, and / or global concerns.*

♪ Sung or spoken response

BLESSING AND SENDING

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.
Amen.