

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2016

Ecumenical worship service order

I. Gathering

Processional Hymn *Those leading the celebration enter and may carry a Bible, light and salt.*

Words of welcome

Leader Dear friends in Christ, we gather together in this service of prayer for unity, to thank God for the dignity of our Christian vocation, described in the words of St. Peter: "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light". We pray this year with the Christians of Latvia, who have prepared this service in the hope that we may grow in our communion with our Lord Jesus Christ and with all our brothers and sisters.

II. Prayers for the Holy Spirit

Leader Holy Spirit, gift of the Father through his Son, Jesus Christ, dwell in us all, open our hearts and help us to listen to your voice.

All **Holy Spirit, come upon us.**

Leader Holy Spirit, Divine Love, source of unity and holiness, show us the love of God.

All **Holy Spirit, come upon us.**

Leader Holy Spirit, Fire of Love, purify us, removing all divisions in our hearts, in our communities and in the world, and so make us one in Jesus' name.

All **Holy Spirit, come upon us.**

Leader Holy Spirit, strengthen our faith in Jesus, truly divine and truly human, who carried our sins of division to the Cross and brought us to communion in his Resurrection.

All **Holy Spirit, come upon us.**

Leader Father, Son and Holy Spirit, dwell in us that we may become a communion of love and holiness. Make us one in you, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Song of Praise

III. Prayers of Reconciliation

Leader God invites us to reconciliation and holiness. Let us turn our minds, hearts and bodies to receive the grace of reconciliation on the way to holiness.

Silence

Leader Lord, you created us in your own image. Forgive us when we do not honour your image in us and the world that you gave us. *Kyrie eleison.* (This may be sung)

All **Kyrie eleison.**

Leader Jesus, you invite us to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect. Forgive us when we fail to be holy, to be people of integrity and to respect human rights and dignity. *Christe eleison.*

All **Christe eleison.**

Leader Lord of life, not of death of peace, not of war of light, not of darkness forgive us when we become instruments of war, death and injustice and fail to build a community of love. *Kyrie eleison.*

All **Kyrie eleison.**

Leader Merciful God, fill us with your grace and holiness. Make us apostles of love wherever we go. This we pray through Christ, our Lord.

All **Amen.**

IV. Proclamation of the Word of God

Leader The Word of God that we will hear is an explosion of love in our lives. Listen and you will live!

All **Thanks be to God.**

Isaiah 55:1-3 (NRSV)

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

Reader Listen and you will live!

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18

Reader I will bless your name for ever and ever.

All **I will bless your name for ever and ever.**

Reader The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

All **I will bless your name for ever and ever.**

Reader The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand,

satisfying the desire of every living thing.

All **I will bless your name for ever and ever.**

Reader The Lord is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.

The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

All **I will bless your name for ever and ever.**

1 Peter 2:9-10 (NRSV)

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

Reader Listen and you will live!

All **Thanks be to God.**

A Hymn may be sung

Matthew 5:1-16 (NRSV)

Read from the Bible.

Reader Listen and you will live!

All **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon/Homily

Hymn

V. An Act of Commitment to Be Salt and Light

The Leader then makes the following invitation to the congregation:

We have listened to the Holy Word of God which we honour and treasure,

We will carry this Word out into the world,

For we are joined in one mission,

To be Salt of the Earth, to be Light to the World,

And to proclaim the Lord's mighty acts.

As a sign of this common mission in which we share, we invite you to come forward to light an individual candle from this one flame. These will remain lit until after the service. As you return to your seat, we invite you to taste a small pinch of salt and to reflect upon the words of our Lord, who compared us to the salt of the earth.

VI. Prayers of hope

Leader As God's adopted children,
aware of our call to mission,
let us raise our prayers
and affirm our desire to be a holy people of God.

Silence

Leader Gracious God,
transform our hearts,
our families,

our communities and our society.

All **Make all your people holy and one in Christ.**

Leader Water of life,
quench the thirst that exists in our society,
the thirst for dignity, for love,
for communion and holiness.

All **Make all your people holy and one in Christ.**

Leader Holy Spirit,
Spirit of joy and peace,
heal the divisions caused by our misuse of
power and money,
and reconcile us across different cultures and
languages.
Unite us as God's children.

All **Make all your people holy and one in Christ.**

Leader Trinity of love,
lead us out of darkness into your marvellous
light.

All **Make all your people holy and one in Christ.**

Leader Lord Jesus Christ,
we are made one with you in baptism
and therefore we unite our prayers to yours
in the words you taught us.

All **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Āmen.

VII. Blessing and Dismissal

Leader The blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
who blesses the poor,
those who mourn,
the meek,
the merciful,
the pure in heart,
the peacemakers,
and the persecuted,
be upon you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

Leader Be salt of the earth, be light to the world.
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All **And with your spirit.**

Leader Let us offer one another a sign of peace