Dedication of the Lund Cross
In the Chapel of the Ecumenical Centre
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
18 January 2018

Order of Service

Reconciliation – The Love of Christ Compels Us
(cf. 2 Corinthians 5:14-20)

L Leader
C Congregation
R Reader

I. Gathered in Jesus’ Name

Song: To Be Your Presence is Our Mission Here

During the singing of the song, those leading the celebration enter with the Lund Cross.

Words of Welcome

L Grace and peace from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ, be with you all.
C And also with you.
L Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, this past year many Christians and churches have commemorated the anniversary of the
Reformation. Saint Paul reminds us that God has reconciled us through Jesus Christ and that the love of Christ compels us to be ministers of reconciliation. Let us worship and praise God together in the unity of the Holy Spirit!

Song of praise: Laudate Omnes Gentes

II. Divided by our Sins (Confession)

Invitation to confession

L In the course of history, there have been many renewal movements in the Church, which is always in need of deeper conversion to her head, Jesus Christ. Sometimes these movements have led to unintended divisions. This fact contradicts what Jesus asks the Father in John 17:23: “that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

Let us confess our sins and pray for forgiveness and healing for the wounds which have resulted from our divisions. As we name these sins we will see how they become a wall which divides us.

Silence

L Let us pray: God and Father in heaven, we come to you in Jesus’ name. We experience renewal through your Holy Spirit, and yet we still construct walls that divide us, walls which hinder community and unity. We bring before you now the stones with which we erect our walls and pray for your forgiveness and healing.

C Amen.

(As each sin is named the corresponding stone is brought forward to build the wall. Following a moment of silence, the stone bearer [R] makes the plea for forgiveness as the congregation responds by singing the Kyrie.)

L One stone in our wall is “lack of love.”

R1 Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for whenever we have failed to love. We humbly pray:

C Kyrie eleison

L One stone in our wall is “false accusation.”

R2 Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for denouncing and falsely accusing one another. We humbly pray:

C Kyrie eleison

L One stone in our wall is “persecution.”

R3 Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for persecuting and torturing one another. We humbly pray:

C Kyrie eleison
One stone in our wall is “broken communion.”

Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for perpetuating broken communion among our churches. We humbly pray:

Kyrie eleison

One stone in our wall is “religious wars.”

Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for all wars that we have waged against one another in your name. We humbly pray:

Kyrie eleison

One stone in our wall is “division.”

Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for living our Christian lives divided from one another and astray from our common calling for the healing of all creation. We humbly pray:

Kyrie eleison

One stone in our wall is “pride.”

Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for our pride.

Kyrie eleison

Let us pray: Lord, our God, look upon this wall that we have built, which separates us from you and from one another. Forgive us our sins. Heal us. Help us to overcome all walls of division and make us one in you.

Amen.

III. Be reconciled to God – Hear God’s Word

Ezekiel 36:25-27

Monsignore Dr Matthias Türk

I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: 18:25-32

Response: I love you, O Lord, my strength.

With the loyal you show yourself loyal; with the blameless you show yourself blameless; with the pure you show yourself pure; and with the crooked you show yourself perverse.

For you deliver a humble people, but the haughty eyes you bring down.

Response: I love you, O Lord, my strength.

It is you who light my lamp; the LORD, my God, lights up my darkness.

By you I can crush a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God —his way is perfect; the promise of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all who take refuge in him.

For who is God except the LORD? And who is a rock besides our God? —the God who girded me with strength, and made my way safe.

Response: I love you, O Lord, my strength.
2 Corinthians 5:14-20

Rev. Anne Burghardt

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Response: La Paz del Señor, verse 1

Joint Sermon

Kurt Cardinal Koch

Response: La Paz del Señor

Rev. Dr Kaisamari Hintikka,

Response: La Paz del Señor

IV. Respond in Faith – Live Reconciled

Let us pray: Gracious God and Father in Heaven, we have heard your word that you have reconciled us to yourself through your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. By the power of the Holy Spirit...
transform our hearts of stone. Help us to become ministers of reconciliation and heal our churches’ divisions so that we may better serve as instruments of your peace in the world.

C Amen.

The Peace

L The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Let us give one another a sign of peace.

V. Respond in Faith – Proclaim Reconciliation

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 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.

Intercessory Prayers

R1 Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself. We praise you for those whom you sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labours, and that in every place your servants call upon your name. May your Spirit awaken in every community a hunger and thirst for unity in you. Let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, hear our prayer.

R2 Gracious God, we pray for our churches. Fill them with all truth and peace. Where faith is corrupted, purify it; where people go astray, redirect them; where they fail to proclaim your Gospel, reform them; where they witness to what is right, strengthen them; where they are in need, provide for them; and where they are divided, reunite them. Let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, hear our prayer.

R3 Creator God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus Christ, your Son. Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred that infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love. And even in our weaknesses, work to accomplish your purposes on earth, so that every people and nation may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne. Let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, hear our prayer.

R4 Holy Spirit, Giver of Life, we are created to become whole in you and to share this life on earth with our brothers and sisters. Awaken in each of us your compassion and love. Give us strength and courage to work for justice in our neighborhoods, to create peace within our families, to comfort the sick and the dying, and
to share all we have with those who are in need. For the transformation of every human heart, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, hear our prayer.

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as it is 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.

VI. Dedicating the Lund Cross

Introduction of the Artist, Christian Chavarria Ayala

Rev. Dr Elaine Neuenfeldt

Prayer of Dedication

L Let us pray. We praise you Lord for the cross of Christ, by which you broke down the walls that divide and reconciled all creation. Just as Christ opened his arms to all on the cross, we pray that this cross will be, for us, an inspiration to do so for one another. We are grateful for the gifts of the faithful artist, Christian Chavarria Ayala, who created this cross that we dedicate today. May these images of your reconciling love, justice and peace inspire everyone who contemplates this cross to use their gifts to bear witness to the reconciling nature of your cross in the world. We pray this in the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Following the prayer of dedication, the cross will be taken to its place in the chapel, while we sing “Give Us Light”

Litany

Ms Maryssa Camaddo

L This Lund Cross bears witness to the Triune God’s creative, reconciling and sanctifying work. We are held in the Creator’s hands. In the waters of baptism, the Holy Spirit makes us members of the one body of Christ. In this communion, we are sanctified and nourished to bear the fruit of love, justice and peace for all of creation. Behold, the life-giving cross,

Bishop Brian Farrell

L Just as Christ takes upon himself our burden and sin on the cross so, too, must we for one another. This Lund Cross shows us that the poor and oppressed are to be cared for and the refugee welcomed. In common witness and service to God and neighbor, let us “be transformed by the encounter with the other and by the mutual witness of faith” (From Conflict to Communion #240) Behold, the life-giving cross,

C on which was hung the salvation of the world.
Rev. Dr Martin Junge

L In gratitude for the Lutheran and Catholic Joint Commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in Lund, Sweden, we present this Lund Cross to the Chapel of the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva. May it be a sign of the hope that we share, as we leave behind our conflict, and turn towards our common future.

C We adore you, Christ. By your cross you have redeemed the world.

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit

L On behalf of the World Council of Churches, we receive this cross as a gift of communion. May the historical step that it symbolizes remind us that Christ’s cross transforms our conflict into communion, and we are reconciled as one creation, joined by the one Spirit of God our Creator.

C We adore you, Christ. By your cross you have redeemed the world.

VII. Blessing and Sending

L We call out to you, most merciful God: Let all who seek reconciliation experience your help so they may proclaim your mighty deeds of Love! We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

L May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit come upon you and remain with you forever

C Amen

L Go in God’s Peace.

C Thanks be to God