

# ECUMENICAL WORSHIP SERVICE

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2011

*One in the apostles' teaching, fellowship,  
breaking of bread and prayer (Ac 2:42)*

## GATHERING

### *Opening Hymn*

*In what follows, L refers to the leader(s) of worship; A refers to the whole assembly.*

### *Greeting*

L: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

A: **Amen.**

L. From all Christians in Jerusalem to the faithful of NN,  
in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace!

A. **Thanks be to God.**

### *Opening Invocations*

L. Compassionate and loving God, you created us in your likeness.

A. **Kyrie, kyrie, eleison.**

L. Reconciling and healing God,  
restore the unity of all those who confess your Son Jesus Christ  
as Lord and Saviour of all.

A. **Kyrie, kyrie, eleison.**

L. Courageous and sustaining God,  
help us in our weakness and strengthen us with your Holy Spirit.

A. **Kyrie, kyrie, eleison.**

## CELEBRATING THE WORD OF GOD

L. Open now our ears and hearts to hear your Word proclaimed.  
Inspire us to live it more faithfully in all that we do and say,  
to the glory of your name and the spreading of your kingdom,  
most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

A. **Amen.**

L. Wisdom. Let us be attentive!

*Old Testament reading:* Genesis 33:1-4 *or* Isaiah 58:6-10

**Psalm 96** *After each section the following response is used:*

A. **O sing the Lord a new song, and bless God's holy name**

*New Testament reading:* Acts 2:42-47

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel reading:** Matthew 5:21-26

**Alleluia!** (*sung*)

**Ritual with the Bread**

**Homily / Sermon**

**Silence and offering**

L: Let us pray.

Gracious God, you have promised through your prophets that Jerusalem will be home to many peoples, mother to many nations. Hear our prayers that Jerusalem, the city of your visitation, may be for all a place to dwell with you and to encounter one another in peace.

We pray to the Lord.

A: **Gracious God, hear our prayer.**

L: Merciful God, may your life-giving Spirit move in every human heart, that the barriers that divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease, and that, with divisions healed, your people might live in justice and peace.

We pray to the Lord.

A: **Gracious God, hear our prayer.**

L: Loving God, hear our prayers for your holy city, Jerusalem. End her suffering and make her whole. Make her your home once again, a city of peace and a light to all peoples. Foster harmony in the holy city among all her inhabitants.

We pray to the Lord.

A: **Gracious God, hear our prayer.**

**Hymn**

## ***PRAYERS OF REPENTANCE AND PEACE***

L: With the Churches in Jerusalem we pray to the Lord:  
We confess our failure to uphold faithfulness and fellowship.

*(pause for reflection)*

We pray to the Lord.

A: **Kyrie, kyrie, eleison.**

L.: With the Churches in Jerusalem we pray to the Lord:  
We confess a lack of vision that prevents us from seeing  
the glory of your work in our midst.

*(pause for reflection)*

We pray to the Lord.

A: **Kyrie, kyrie, eleison.**

L: With the Churches in Jerusalem we pray to the Lord:  
We confess that we hold on to possessions at the expense of the poor.

*(pause for reflection)*

We pray to the Lord.

A: **Kyrie, kyrie, eleison.**

L: With the Churches in Jerusalem we pray to the Lord:  
We confess our failure of love and generosity.

*(pause for reflection)*

We pray to the Lord.

A: **Kyrie, kyrie, eleison.**

### *Assurance of God's forgiveness and the Peace*

L: This is what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: 'Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly.' As we wait for the coming of the Lord we are also assured that in Christ we are forgiven, renewed and made whole again.

L: Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body on the cross.  
We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

A: **And also with you.**

*A sign of peace is offered and shared*

### **Hymn**

## *LITANY OF CHRISTIAN UNITY*

L: In Christ, the world is reconciled to God who entrusts to us the message of reconciliation. As the ambassadors of Christ's reconciling work, we make our petitions to God:

L: With Christians of the Holy Land, we too are witnesses to the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem, his ministry in Galilee, his death and resurrection, and the descent of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem:

L: When we pray together from our diverse traditions,

A: **Holy One who makes us one, thank you for the gift of unity in Christ: make our unity visible and bring healing to the world.**

L: When we read the Bible together in our diversity of language and context,

A: **Revealing One who makes us one, thank you for the many and varied ways in which you speak to us: make our unity visible and bring healing to the world.**

L: When we establish relations of friendship among Jews, Christians and Muslims,

A: **Wounded One who makes us one, thank you for your grace shown to all: make our unity visible and bring healing to the world.**

- L: When we tear down the walls of indifference and hatred,  
A: **Merciful One who makes us one, thank you that we are all one in Christ Jesus: make our unity visible and bring healing to the world.**
- L: When we work for justice and solidarity and move from fear to confidence,  
A: **Strengthening One who makes us one, thank you for the power of the Spirit: make our unity visible and bring healing to the world.**
- L: When we yearn for peace and justice for all,  
in the sure and certain hope of your coming reign,  
A: **Triune One who makes us one, thank you for your boundless love: make our unity visible and bring healing to the world.**

## **The Creed**

**Lord's Prayer**     *Please offer this prayer in your mother tongue or familiar version*

### ***SENDING***

- L: May the Father, who is faithful to his promises and unfailing in his help, sustain you as you go forth to strive for justice and seek an end to division.  
A: **Amen.**
- L: May the Son, who sanctified the Holy Land by his birth, ministry, death and resurrection, bring you redemption, reconciliation and peace.  
A: **Amen.**
- L: May the Spirit, who gathered the first believers in Jerusalem as one, unite you in faithfulness to the teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayers, and inspire you to preach and live the Gospel.  
A: **Amen.**
- L: May the One God, Father, Son and Spirit, bless you and keep you, as you go forth to proclaim his Good News to the world.  
A: **Thanks be to God!**

## **Blessing**

- L: May the blessing of the God of peace and justice be with us.  
May the blessing of the Son who weeps the tears of the world's suffering be with us.  
May the blessing of the Spirit who inspires us to reconciliation and hope be with us,  
from now into eternity.  
A: **Amen.**

## **Closing Hymn**

Materials produced by the *World Council of Churches* and the *Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity*, adapted for use in Australia by the Faith & Unity Commission of the *National Council of Churches in Australia*

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