



ACK

Arbeitsgemeinschaft  
Christlicher Kirchen  
in Deutschland

## Service of Prayer for Christian Unity

daily 12.30 to 12.45  
(except Tuesdays)

in the „Christuszelt“  
World Reformation Exhibition  
20 May to  
10 September  
2017

*When we pray for unity, it is because ...*

- *We want to take a step towards one another.*
- *We continue to hope that we will not move even further apart.*
- *We have the courage to aim for what seems impossible.*
- *We also have the strength to forgive one another.*
- *We dream of true fellowship and community.*
- *We trust in the Holy Spirit who allows us to love, brings knowledge, and enables repentance.*
- *We love our brothers and sisters in faith.*
- *We believe that prayer can bring change.*
- *We know that our faith both supports and carries us.*



## Opening Sentences

In Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:26-28

### **or:**

Jesus' prayer for unity:

“that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

John 17:21

## Prayer

O God, holy and eternal Trinity,  
we pray for your Church in all the world.

Sanctify its life;

renew its worship;

empower its witness;

heal its divisions;

make visible its unity.

Lead us, with all our brothers and sisters,

towards communion in faith, life and witness

so that, united in one body by the one Spirit,

we may together witness to the perfect unity of your love.

Amen.

**Hymn/Song** *(for suggestions see Appendix)*

**Reading from Scripture** *(for suggestions see Appendix)*

**Silence**

*If desired, a brief meditation on the reading may follow.*

**(Silence)**

**The Nicene Creed** (*ecumenical version*)

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate  
from the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried;  
on the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven.

He is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
he will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father;

with the Father and the Son  
he is worshiped and glorified;  
he has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

## **Intercessions**

- 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 When we pray together from our diverse traditions,
- C Holy One who makes us one, make our unity visible and bring healing to the world.
- L When we read the Bible together in our diversity of language and context,
- C Revealing One who makes us one, make our unity visible and bring healing to the world.
- L When we establish relations of friendships among Jews, Christians and Muslims, when we tear down the wall of indifference and hatred,
- C Merciful One who makes us one, make our unity visible and bring healing to the world.
- L When we work for justice and solidarity, when we move from fear to confidence,
- C Strengthening One who makes us one, make our unity visible and bring healing to the world.
- 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; when we yearn

for peace and justice for all in the sure and certain hope of your coming Kingdom,

C Triune One who makes us one, make our unity visible and bring healing to the world. Amen.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Now let us pray as Christ the Lord has taught us:

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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.

**Hymn/Song** (*for suggestions see Appendix*)

## **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;  
the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.  
Amen.

## APPENDIX

The choice of biblical texts and songs follows the book „Laudate omnes gentes. Praying together. Resources and songs for ecumenical celebrations“, published by Fritz Baltruweit, Elisabeth Dieckmann, Robert Jones, Georges Lemopoulos, Luca M. Negro, Johannes Oeldemann, Barbara Rudolph, Dirk Stelter, Sabine Udodesku, Gütersloh 2010 (abbr. LOG). TM: Thuma mina. Internationales ökumenisches Liederbuch, 1995. EG: Evangelisches Gesangbuch.

Prayer „O God, holy and eternal Trinity“: prayer of the Fifth World Conference on Faith and Order, Santiago de Compostela 1993, in: *On the Way to Fuller Koinonia. Official Report of the Fifth World Conference on Faith and Order (Faith and Order Paper 166)*, edited by Thomas F. Best and Günther Gassmann, Geneva 1994, p. xii.

The Nicene Creed: text taken from the Lima liturgy; [www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-programmes/unity-mission-evangelism-and-spirituality/spirituality-and-worship/the-eucharistic-liturgy-of-lima](http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-programmes/unity-mission-evangelism-and-spirituality/spirituality-and-worship/the-eucharistic-liturgy-of-lima).

Intercessions: Resources for Prayer and Praise, WCC 10th Assembly, Busan 2013, 121-124.

Bible quotes from the English Standard Version.

Picture credits: Pentecost, Bamberg Apocalypse, dated around 1000 AD.

Text p. 2: Cornelia Pfeiffer/Marcus Leitschuh, in: Marcus C. Leitschuh (eds.), *Werkbuch Ökumene*, Freiburg i.B. 2005, p. 191; translation by Christopher Easthill.

### Hymns/Songs at the beginning of the prayer service

#### **Laudate omnes gentes (LOG p. 182; TM 134)**

Laudate omnes gentes, laudate dominum.

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All peoples, praise the Lord!

All peoples, praise the Lord!

#### **Praise, I will praise you, Lord (LOG p. 183; TM 69)**

Praise, I will praise you, Lord, with all my\_ heart.

O God, I will tell\_ the wonders of your ways. And glorify your name.

Praise, I will praise you, Lord, / with all my\_ heart.

In you I will find\_ the source of all my joy. Alleluja.

#### **Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (TM 20)**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him for he is your health and salvation!

Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,  
joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
and, as on wings of an eagle, up-lifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who uniquely and splendidly made you,  
gave you good health and strength and in your daily walk led you.  
All of your need God in his mercy would meet:  
under his wings he would shade you.

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you:  
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
if with his love he befriend you.

Praise to the Lord! Oh let all that is in me adore him.  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.  
Let the Amen sound from his people again.  
Gladly forever adore him.

### **In the Lord I'll be ever thankful (LOG p. 190; TM 92)**

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,  
in the Lord I will rejoice!  
Look to God, do not be afraid,  
lift up your voices, the Lord is near;  
lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

## Hymns/Songs at the end of the prayer service

### **Many are the lightbeams from the one light (TM 212)**

Many are the lightbeams from the one light. Our one light is Jesus.  
Many are the lightbeams from the one light; we are one in Christ.

Many are the branches of the one tree. Our one tree is Jesus.  
Many are the branches of the one tree; we are one in Christ.

Many are the gifts giv'n, love is all one. Love's the gift of Jesus.  
Many are the gifts giv'n, love is all one; we are one in Christ.

Many ways to serve God the Spirit is one; servant spirit of Jesus.  
Many ways to serve God the Spirit is one; we are one in Christ.

Many are the members, the body is one; members all of Jesus.  
Many are the members, the body is one; we are one in Christ.

### **Christ is the world's light (TM 109)**

Christ is the world's light; he and none other;  
born in our darkness, he became our brother.  
If we have seen him, we have seen the Father:  
Glory to God on high!

Christ is the world's peace; he and none other;  
no one can serve him and despise another.  
Who else unites us one in God the Father?  
Glory to God on high!

Christ is the world's life, he and none other;  
sold once for silver, murdered here, our Brother –  
he, who redeems us, reigns with God the Father:  
Glory to God on high!

Give God the glory, God and none other;  
give God the glory, Spirit, Son and Father;  
give God the glory, God in one another: Glory to God on high!

**Now thank we all our God (EG 321; TM 147)**

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;  
who, from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills, in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,  
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven:  
The one eternal God whom earth and heav'n adore;  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

**In these our days so perilous (LOG p. 195)**

In these our days so perilous, Lord, peace in mercy send us;  
no God but thee can fight for us, no God but thee defend us;  
thou our only God and Saviour.

## Reading from Scripture

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Psalm 23             | The Lord is my shepherd   |
| Psalm 121            | I lift up my eyes to the hills  |
| Psalm 145:15-16      | The eyes of all look to you   |
| Matthew 5:3-10       | The Beatitudes  |
| Matthew 28:16-20     | The Great Commission  |
| Luke 1:46-55         | Mary's Song of Praise: The Magnificat                                   |
| Luke 1:68-79         | Zechariah's Prophecy  |
| John 15:1-8          | I am the true vine  |
| John 17:17-23        | The High Priestly Prayer  |
| Romans 5:1-5         | We have been justified by faith   |
| Romans 6:3-5         | Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus |
| Romans 8:20-25       | The creation was subjected to futility                                  |
| 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 | There are varieties of gifts  |
| Galatians 3:26-28    | You are all sons of God, through faith                                  |
| Ephesians 4:1-6      | One Lord, one faith, one baptism  |
| Philippians 2:5-11   | Christ's Example of Humility  |

Edited by:  
Council of Churches  
in Germany  
Ökumenische Centrale  
Ludolfusstr. 2-4  
60487 Frankfurt am Main  
Tel.: 069/247027-0  
info@ack-oec.de  
www.oekumene-ack.de

