



From Conflict to Communion: Together in Hope

Joint Lutheran-Catholic Commemoration
of the Reformation

Thursday, March 2, 2017

4:00 p.m. Prelude

4:15 p.m. Liturgy

Lutheran Center Chapel

Chicago, Ill.

This year marks the first centennial anniversary of the Reformation in the ecumenical age. On October 31, 2016, Lutherans and Catholics came together to inaugurate this commemoration, launching the 500th anniversary year. The world looked on in wonder as His Holiness Pope Francis and Lutheran World Federation President Bishop Munib Younan and General Secretary Martin Junge led a service of common prayer, and a joint statement was signed. A public stadium event highlighted inspiring partnerships in tending to a world broken by violence, conflict, and ecological destruction. Together, these events offered the world a new kind of centennial between Catholics and Lutherans: one of thanksgiving, repentance, and a commitment to joint witness and service. www.lutheranworld.org/lund2016

Importantly, this centennial reflects the progress of fifty years of theological dialogue since the Second Vatican Council. On the global level, and here in the United States, this dialogue has fostered mutual understanding, common ways of speaking about our history and each other, greater clarity about the remaining differences, and a reinforced commitment to reconciling our unity in Christ. The most significant milestone in this journey to date was the signing of the *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (JDDJ)* by the Catholic Church and The Lutheran World Federation in 1999.

The Joint Commemoration last October 31 communicated its message in its title: “From Conflict to Communion – Together in Hope.” *From Conflict to Communion* is also the name of a report from by the international Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity which tells the history of the Reformation for the first time from a joint perspective and so reminds us, in view of 2017, that “Lutherans and Catholics have many reasons to retell their history in new ways.”

Today we take our place in this unfolding history: together we give thanks for the faithful witness we have all received through the Reformation, we repent of the divisive wrongs we have done each other, and we make common commitments to grow in communion. This service of common prayer, also under the heading “From Conflict to Communion – Together in Hope,” links Lutherans and Catholics in the United States to the global observance, as well as to other commemorations in diverse contexts in this country and around the world. Similarly, the presence of ecumenical representatives on this occasion is an encouragement for all Christians as we journey on the way to the full reconciliation and healing of the body of Christ.

For all of this, we give thanks to God.

Opening

Prelude

Partita on Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation	Richard Proulx
Folk Dance	Bob Moore
Nocturno	Franz Strauss
You Are the Image and the Hope	Jacques Berthier based on a theme by Georg Neumark

Thanksgiving for Baptism

The assembly stands.

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we are each called to build up the body of Christ. Some as teachers and organizers; some as singers and writers; some dance; and some prepare the table. Some call forth our generosity and administer our shared life. Some are prophets and dreamers; still others are pastors, deacons, and bishops.

All of us are chosen, a priesthood of all believers,
built into a house of living stones, precious in God's sight.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world. We bless you for water that is all around us: Lake Michigan, the Des Plaines River, and Salt Creek. Above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Gathering Song

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

During the singing the assembly is sprinkled with water as a remembrance of baptism.

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,

bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and

help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

The assembly is seated.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ. Welcome to this ecumenical prayer, which commemorates the 500 years of the Reformation. For over 50 years Lutherans and Catholics have been on a journey from conflict to communion. With joy, we have come to recognize that what unites us is far greater than what divides us. On this journey, mutual understanding and trust have grown.

So it is possible for us to gather today. We come with different thoughts and feelings of thanksgiving and lament, joy and repentance, joy in the Gospel and sorrow for division. We gather to commemorate in remembrance, in thanksgiving and confession, and in common witness and commitment.

In the document *From Conflict to Communion*, we read, “The church is the body of Christ. As there is only one Christ, so also he has only one body. Through baptism, human beings are made members of this body.” (#219) “Since Catholics and Lutherans are bound to one another in the body of Christ as members of it, then it is true of them what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:26: ‘If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.’ What affects one member of the body also affects all the others. For this reason, when Lutheran Christians remember the events that led to the particular formation of their churches, they do not wish to do so without their Catholic fellow Christians. In remembering with each other the beginning of the Reformation, they are taking their baptism seriously.” (#221)

Let us pray.

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

Song invoking the Holy Spirit

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading

Njoo kwetu., Roho mwema

Njo - o kwe - tu, Ro - ho mwe - ma, M - fa - ri - ji we - tu.
 1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing, fash - ion us all a - new.
 2 Come to teach us, come to nour - ish those who be - lieve in Christ.
 3 Guide our think - ing and our speak - ing done in your ho - ly name.

Tu - fu - ndi - she ya mbi - ngu - ni, tu - we wa - tu wa - pya.
 It's your lead - ing that we're need - ing, help us to fol - low you.
 Bless the faith - ful, may they flour - ish, strength - ened by grace un - priced.
 Mo - ti - vate all in their seek - ing, free - ing from guilt and shame.

Refrain

Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
 Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
 Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

4 Not mere knowledge, but discernment,
 nor rootless liberty;
 turn disquiet to contentment,
 doubt into certainty.

5 Keep us fervent in our witness,
 unswayed by earth's allure.
 Ever grant us zealous fitness,
 which you alone assure.

Welcome

Thanksgiving

As we read in *From Conflict to Communion*, “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” (#225), in the priesthood of all baptized believers and their calling for the common mission of the Church. “Lutherans ... realize that what they are thanking God for is not a gift that they can claim only for themselves. They want to share this gift with all other Christians.” (#226)

“Catholics and Lutherans have so much of the faith in common that they can ... be thankful together.” (#226). Encouraged by the Second Vatican Council, Catholics “gladly acknowledge and esteem the truly Christian endowments from our common heritage which are to be found among our separated brethren. It is right and salutary to recognize the riches of Christ and virtuous works in the lives of others who are bearing witness to Christ, sometimes even to the shedding of their blood. For God is always wonderful in His works and worthy of all praise.” (*Unitatis Redintegratio*, Chapter 1). In this spirit, Catholics and Lutherans embrace each other as sisters and brothers in the Lord. Together they rejoice in the truly Christian gifts that they both have received and rediscovered in various ways through the renewal and impulses of the Reformation. These gifts are reason for thanksgiving.

“The ecumenical journey enables Lutherans and Catholics to appreciate together Martin Luther’s insight into and spiritual experience of the gospel of the righteousness of God, which is also God’s mercy.” (#244)


Let us pray.

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

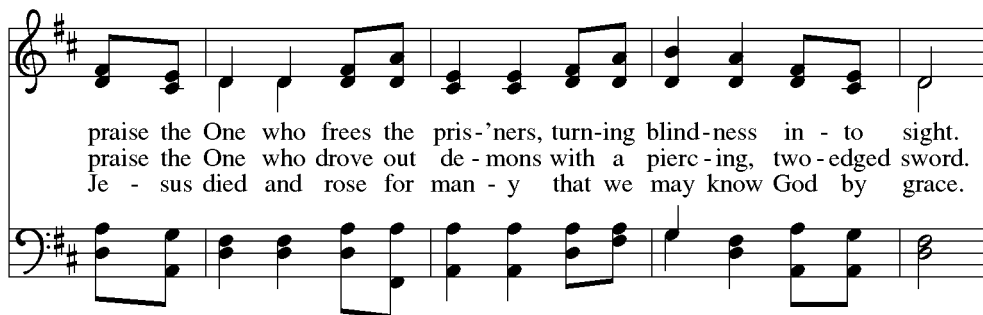
Amen.

Song of Thanksgiving Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

The assembly stands to sing.



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.

Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.

calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
 from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

The assembly is seated.

Repentance

“As the commemoration in 2017 brings joy and gratitude to expression, so must it also allow room for both Lutherans and Catholics to experience the pain over failures and trespasses, guilt and sin in the persons and events that are being remembered.” (#228) “In the sixteenth century, Catholics and Lutherans frequently not only misunderstood but also exaggerated and caricatured their opponents in order to make them look ridiculous. They repeatedly violated the eighth commandment, which prohibits bearing false witness against one’s neighbor.” (#233)

Lutherans and Catholics often focused on what separated them from each other rather than looking for what united them. They accepted that the Gospel was mixed with the political and economic interests of those in power. Their failures resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people. Families were torn apart, people imprisoned and tortured, wars fought and religion and faith misused. Human beings suffered and the credibility of the Gospel was undermined with consequences that still impact us today. We deeply regret the evil things that Catholics and Lutherans have mutually done to each other.

Let us pray.

O God of mercy, we lament that even good actions of reform and renewal had often unintended negative consequences.

Response: Kyrie eleison, *stanza 1*



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
 2 Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
 Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.

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.

Response: Christe eleison, *stanza 2*

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.

Response: Kyrie eleison, *stanza 3*

The assembly stands.

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

The Peace

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
since as members of one body you are called to peace.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us offer each a sign of reconciliation and peace.

Sharing of peace

During the sharing of the peace, we sing Ubi caritas

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Where true char - i - ty and love a - bide,

u - bi ca - ri - tas, De - us i - bi est.
God is dwell - ing there; God is dwell - ing there.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The second system also has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The time signature is 4/4. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. The vocal line is simple and homophonic, with lyrics written below the notes. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it in the second system.

Common Witness and Commitment

Remain standing for the gospel.

Gospel

John 15:1-5

As we continue our journey from conflict to communion,
let us hear the Gospel according to John

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly is seated.

Homily

The Apostles' Creed

The assembly stands.

Together, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty;
from there 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 life everlasting. Amen.**

Song

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

The assembly is seated.

Commitments: Five Imperatives

Our ecumenical journey continues. In this worship, we commit ourselves to grow in communion. The five imperatives found in *From Conflict to Communion* will guide us.

The commitments are ready by Catholic and Lutheran readers.

First Commitment: Catholics and Lutherans should always begin from the perspective of unity and not from the point of view of division in order to strengthen what is held in common even though the differences are more easily seen and experienced. (#239).

A candle is lit.

Song

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re -
joice! Look to God, do not be a - fraid. Lift up your
voic - es, the Lord is near. Lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near." There are triplets in the piano accompaniment on the second and third systems.

Second commitment: Lutherans and Catholics must let themselves continuously be transformed by the encounter with the other and by the mutual witness of faith. (#240)

A candle is lit.

“In the Lord, I’ll Be Ever Thankful” is sung.

Third commitment: Catholics and Lutherans should again commit themselves to seek visible unity, to elaborate together what this means in concrete steps, and to strive repeatedly toward this goal. (#241)

A candle is lit.

“In the Lord, I’ll Be Ever Thankful” is sung.

Fourth commitment: Lutherans and Catholics should jointly rediscover the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ for our time. (#242)

A candle is lit.

“In the Lord, I’ll Be Ever Thankful” is sung.

Fifth commitment: Catholics and Lutherans should witness together to the mercy of God in proclamation and service to the world. (#243).

A candle is lit.

“In the Lord, I’ll Be Ever Thankful” is sung.

Joint Statement

Song

Called to Labor in God's Vineyard

The assembly stands.



1. Called to la - bor in God's vine - yard, Ea - ger to ac -
2. Called to la - bor in God's vine - yard, Not a - lone, but
3. Called to la - bor in God's vine - yard, Help us, Lord, in



cept the task, Us - ing ev - 'ry skill and tal - ent,
joined as one, Shar - ing com - mon goals and val - ues,
all we do. As the vines are heav - y - lad - en,



Do - ing all that God would ask, May we give our -
Striv - ing till the task is done, May we work with
Send more work - ers called by you. May our work bear



selves com - plete - ly To the work that is at hand,
one an - oth - er In a just and hon - est way,
fruit e - ter - nal And our fer - vor nev - er cease,



Of - fer - ing our will - ing serv - ice
Wheth - er hired at dawn or sun - set,
Till at last, the har - vest gath - ered,



As the stew - ards of the land.
Not ex - pect - ing great - er pay.
We may rest and know your peace.

Intercessory Prayer

The prayers are prayed by Lutheran and Catholic intercessors.

“Ecumenical engagement for the unity of the church does not serve only the church but also the world so that the world may believe.” (#243) Let us now pray for the world, the church and all those in need... .

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

Hear our prayer.

God of peace, bend that which is inflexible, the barriers that divide, the attachments that thwart reconciliation. Bring peace in this world.

Restore wholeness among us and show us your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

God of justice, healer and redeemer, heal those who suffer from illness, poverty and exclusion. Hasten justice for those suffering under the power of evil. Give new life to all and show us your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

God, rock and fortress, protect refugees, those without homes or security, all the abandoned children. Help us always to defend human dignity. Show us your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

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

Hear our prayer.

God of mercy, strengthen and protect those who are persecuted for faith in you and those of other faiths who suffer persecution. Give us the courage to profess our faith. Your mercy endures forever.

Hear our prayer.

God of life, heal painful memories, transform all complacency, indifference and ignorance, pour out a spirit of reconciliation. Turn us to you and one another. Show us your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

God of love, your son Jesus reveals the mystery of love among us, strengthen that unity that you alone sustain in our diversity. Your mercy endures forever.

Hear our prayer.

God our sustenance, bring us together at your eucharistic table, nurture within and among us a communion rooted in your love. Your mercy endures forever.

Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

In confidence that you O God hear our prayers for the needs of this world and for the unity of all Christians in their witness, let us pray as Jesus taught us....

Pray in the translation or language of your heart.

Blessing

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,

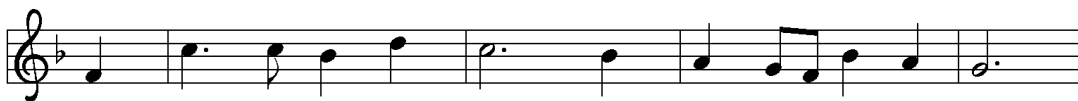
Thanks be to God.

The blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you and on your way together, now and forever.

Amen.

Song

Oh, Praise the Gracious Power



- 1 Oh, praise the gra - cious pow'r that tum - bles walls of fear
2 Oh, praise per - sis - tent truth that o - pens fist - ed minds
3 Oh, praise in - clu - sive love, en - cir - cling ev - 'ry race,
4 Oh, praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,
5 Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev - 'ry shore



and gath - ers in one house of faith all strang - ers far and near:
and eas - es from their anx - ious clutch the prej - u - dice that blinds:
ob - liv - i - ous to gen - der, wealth, to so - cial rank or place:
a liv - ing tem - ple built on Christ, our rock and cor - ner - stone:
with vi - sions of a world at peace, no lon - ger bled by war:

Refrain



We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

- 6 Oh, praise the pow'r, the truth,
the love, the word, the tide.
Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,
praise Christ the crucified: *Refrain*
- 7 Oh, praise the living Christ
with faith's bright songful voice!
Announce the gospel to the world
and with these words rejoice: *Refrain*

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Allegro
from Recorder Sonata in F Major

George Frideric Handel

Hosts

Bishop William O. Gafkjen
Chair, ELCA Conference of Bishops

Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton
ELCA Presiding Bishop

Presiders

Bishop Donald P. Kreiss
Chair, ELCA Conference of Bishops' Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Liaison Committee

Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski
Chair, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

Readers

Bishop Denis J. Madden
The Rev. Lowell G. Almen
Co-chairs, United States Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue

Ecumenical Commitments: Lighting the Candles

Bishop Guy Erwin
Southwest California Synod

Bishop Tod D. Brown
Diocese of Orange

Bishop Michael W. Warfel
Diocese of Great Falls-Billings

Bishop Jessica Crist
Montana Synod

Bishop John Michael Botean
Romanian Catholic Eparchy of St. George in Canton

Bishop Felipe Lozada-Montañez
Caribbean Synod

Bishop Patricia J. Lull
St. Paul Area Synod

Bishop Robert W. McElroy
Diocese of San Diego

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera
Diocese of Scranton

Bishop Tracie L. Bartholomew
New Jersey Synod

Intercessors

Bishop Wayne N. Miller
Metropolitan Chicago Synod
President, Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago

Bishop John F. White
President, Council of Bishops and Resident Bishop of the Fourth Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church

Mrs. Jan Skrehot
President, Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers

Claire Embil
Metropolitan Chicago Synod

The Rev. Jan Edmiston
Co-Moderator of the 222nd General Assembly
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Ms. Julia McStravog
Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Bishop Douglas Sparks
Diocese of Northern Indiana
The Episcopal Church

John Lohre Seitz
Metropolitan Chicago Synod

Mr. Don Clemmer
Managing Editor, Our Sunday Visitor

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Conference of Bishops**

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Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop

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Bishop Robert Alan Rimbo

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United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**

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Bishop David P. Talley

Bishop Michael W. Warfel

Jan Skrehot, Don Clemmer

Ron Roberson, CSP, Anthony Cirelli, Nancy Robinson and Julia McStravog, staff

Ecumenical Guests

The Very Rev. Thomas A. Baima

Vicar for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

Archdiocese of Chicago

The Rev. Father David Bissias

Parish Priest, St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church of Hammond, Indiana

Special Assistant, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago

The Rev. Dr. Stanley L. Davis, Jr.
Executive Director, Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago

Bishop Sally Dyck
Northern Illinois Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church

The Rev. Staci Marrese-Wheeler
Pastor, Lakeview Community Moravian Church
Moravian Church – Northern Province

The Rev. Joel D. Miles
Senior Pastor and Presiding Elder, Chicago District
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

The Rev. Dr. Amy Valdez Barker
Executive Secretary, Connectional Table
The United Methodist Church

A special thank you to our ecumenical guests whose presence with us today is a reminder that our journey as Lutherans and Catholics toward reconciliation is for the sake of healing the whole body of Christ.

Director of Liturgy

The Rev. Kevin L. Strickland
Assistant to the Presiding Bishop / Executive for Worship, ELCA

Musicians

Deacon John E. Weit
Program Director for Music, ELCA

Anne Krentz Organ, flute
Marit Johnson, french horn

The Salvadoran Cross (cover)

Salvadoran artist Christian Chavarria has created a vibrant 6 foot high cross for the joint Reformation commemoration, replete with meaning for both Catholics and Lutherans. Depicting the Triune God's creative, reconciling and sanctifying work, this cross also depicts our illustrates a longing for a shared Eucharist. The images embody reconciliation: God's call to communities of faith to be places of reconciliation and peace, God's call to all the baptized to be ministers of reconciliation, engaging the path of goodness that offers reconciliation to all humanity and all creation. God embraces this splendid universal communion.

Cover art: Salvadorian Cross, LWF/Christian Chavarria

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