

This collection of prayers and texts is designed to serve as guidelines for commemoration services and celebrations of the Leuenberg Church Fellowship (LCF). Over 100 churches belong to this „Community of Protestant Churches in Europe“ sharing a pulpit and table fellowship on the basis of the Leuenberg Agreement of 1973.

We have put together liturgical modules which may be helpful in the composing of any particular order of service: topic guidelines – opening prayers – psalm collects – collects / prayers for the day – quotations from documents of the Leuenberg Church Fellowship – readings and sermon-texts – prayers of thanksgiving and intercession – post-communion prayers of thanksgiving.

From among over 100 signatory churches of the Leuenberg Church Fellowship, 16 churches from 12 countries find voice in this collection of material. That leads one to imagine what liturgical treasures are still to be discovered!

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## “We celebrate the diversity of Churches ...”

Prayers and texts  
for commemoration services and celebrations  
of the Leuenberg Church Fellowship



undertaken and published  
on behalf of the Executive Committee  
of the Leuenberg Church Fellowship  
by

**Peter Bukowski  
Susanne Labsch  
Helmut Schwier**





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# Introduction

In the final report of the 5th General Assembly of the Leuenberg Church Fellowship in the year 2001 there are these words:

*“The existence of the Leuenberg Church Fellowship is still too little known in Church congregations. For that reason the General Assembly asks the Executive Committee to call upon the churches, in the framework of Reformation Sunday, or any other Sunday that would be suitable, to remember in particular the Leuenberg Church Fellowship and thus to foster discussion about its work and its statements. The General Assembly asks the Executive to set up a Task Group to work on materials for such a Service.”*

The fruits of this work are seen in the following collection of prayers and texts for the commemoration and celebration of the Leuenberg Church Fellowship.

We have deliberately not sought to work out one or more detailed draft Orders of Service. They could scarcely do justice to the lively diversity of the orders of service of the churches who are associated in the Leuenberg Fellowship. Besides it is obvious that congregations regard quite different Sundays as the ‘suitable’ one on which to celebrate this occasion. And so we have put together liturgical modules which may be helpful in the composing of any particular order of service: Topic guide-lines – Opening prayers – Psalm collects – Collects / prayers for the day – Quotations from documents of the Leuenberg Church Fellowship – Readings and sermon-texts – Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession – Post-communion prayers of thanksgiving.

On “Leuenberg Sunday” the natural thing is to thank God for reconciliation and growing fellowship, to admit the guilt of a tendency to hold oneself separate from other churches, to reflect on church unity in reconciled diversity, and to ask questions about present day challenges to the witness and service of the Church in Europe. Our material is orientated towards these general themes. We would like to make it quite clear that

*Liturgical  
modules*

more specific questions may determine the content of the service, especially when Leuenberg Sunday has an established place in the worship life of a congregation. So for example particular results of the study groups can be taken up; as a suggestion, we offer a collection of quotations from the Agreement as well as from the most recent study document: Church and Israel. There is also the possibility of picking up ethical themes which are ‘in’ Europe-wide, such as the peace question, the theme of migration, the problematic situation of minorities, or the question about the beginning and end of human life.

In the same way the elements of an order of service that are particularly suitable for making visible the fellowship between diverse churches can only be mentioned in this collection of materials. One example is hymns. Almost every hymn-book contains chorales from churches in other countries, partly in their own languages – these should ring out on this day! For another, we could mention personal encounter: on Leuenberg Sunday, guests from partner churches or partner congregations or at least from neighbouring churches should be present and come forward during the service. We should particularly like to highlight those joint boundary-crossing services of worship, which are already held more and more often in many regions and which have raised an especially lively response.

*A first  
small step*

The last remarks show that such a collection of material can only be a first small step towards promoting the spiritual rapprochement of Protestant churches in Europe. On the suggestion of the working group, on the Leuenberg Church Fellowship web-site ([www.leuenberg.net](http://www.leuenberg.net)) there is a heading ‘Liturgy’, which should contribute to making the rich liturgical life of our churches mutually known Europe-wide.

In the present collection of material, only 16 signatory churches from 12 countries find voice. That leads one to imagine what liturgical treasures are still to be discovered!

As you plan and conduct a “Leuenberg Sunday”, we wish you all a blessed service of worship.

Wuppertal / Berlin, in August 2003  
For the editors: *Peter Bukowski*

# Topic guide-lines

*By means of topic guide-lines, the gathered congregation should, to begin with, be made familiar with the occasion and the intention of “Leuenberg-Sunday.” How this happens in detail will depend upon the concrete situation and the local congregation. The following texts serve to help by giving basic information for this purpose about the Leuenberg Fellowship of Churches.*

The Leuenberg Church Fellowship is a European network of 103 Lutheran, Reformed, United, Methodist and Hussite churches as well as the similar pre-Reformation churches of the Czech Brethren and the Waldensians. Five churches in South America also belong to this Fellowship; these emerged from former German diaspora churches. The name “Leuenberg Church Fellowship” comes from the conference centre at Leuenberg near Basel, where in 1973 the Leuenberg Agreement was signed. In it the churches recognise one another reciprocally, grant one another pulpit and table fellowship, and pledge themselves to common witness and service.

*A European  
network of  
103 churches*

\*

The Leuenberg Church Fellowship is the organisation of almost all the Protestant churches in Europe. Its foundation document is the Leuenberg Agreement of 1973, with which there came to an end a period of more than 450 years of division between Lutheran and Reformed churches. On the stated basis of a common understanding of the gospel, the signatory churches were able to grant one another pulpit and table fellowship. They pledged themselves further to common witness and service at a local, regional and European level, as well as to ongoing theological work. Up till now 103 churches have signed the Leuenberg Agreement.

*Active solidarity*

The majority of these are minority churches, which often carry out their mission under difficult conditions. In a Europe which is assuming a new political shape, the Leuenberg Fellowship wants to call to active solidarity and provide a hearing for the voice of the minority. For that reason it expresses itself on current questions about the shaping of a Europe that is growing together, and it is striving to achieve a self-critical engagement with the past. In the missionary, diaconal and social sectors, it promotes initiatives and links at local, regional and pan-European levels. In consciousness of its limits, the Leuenberg Church Fellowship has, in its work, the whole of the oecumene in view and understands itself to be a step on the way to the unity of the universal Church of Jesus Christ in reconciled diversity.

\*

*Ecumenical  
openness*

On 16th March, 1973, at the end of intensive theological conversations an agreement could be signed at Leuenberg near Basel, which, navigating all the differences and divisions which had grown up since the time of the Reformation, has brought about pulpit and table fellowship between the participating Lutheran, Reformed and United Churches in Europe: the Leuenberg Agreement. It is in equal measure an expression of a Reformation profile and Protestant identity and also of ecumenical openness! Since then, this Fellowship has been constantly expanding, also through the entry of the European Methodists, and comprises to date 103 member churches.

With the signing of the Leuenberg Agreement, there has resulted a deep sense of unity in congregations and churches which in this form did not exist before. They foster exchange in personal, theological and liturgical terms and they take responsibility for one another. So over the years the Leuenberg Church Fellowship has become a model for Christian 'unity in reconciled diversity': each church has its own distinctive profile and yet it is at the same time part of a considerably more extensive fellowship. That means the renunciation of self-satisfaction; by which

the deep solidarity between churches of the Reformation is shown increasingly to its best advantage.

If today we become more intensively aware of what we have in common as Protestants, then we gain directly from that a new ability to talk with other churches, but also with the society in which we live.

All this is grounds enough for thanking God from our hearts for the way in which he has led the Leuenberg Church Fellowship.



# Opening prayers

*Call to worship:*

I'm going to light a light  
in the name of God:  
he made the world bright  
and breathed into me the breath of life.

*I'm going  
to light a light*

I'm going to light a light  
in the name of the Son:  
he has saved the world  
and stretched out his hand to me.

I'm going to light a light  
in the name of the Holy Spirit:  
he embraces the world  
and blesses my soul with yearning.

We will light three lights  
for the Trinity of love:

God, the beginning  
the end and  
he who remains forever.

[1]

\*

Lord, you are life.  
You give us life and maintain it.  
We praise you.

*Lord,  
you are...*

Lord, you are light.  
You enlighten us and give us pleasure with your light.  
We praise you.

Lord, you are joy.  
You give us your joy, that we may share it.  
We praise you.

Lord, you are hope.  
You clear the way and you show it to us.  
We praise you.

Lord, you are love.  
You let us live in love.  
We praise you.

[2]

\*

*Let us  
acknowledge ...*

Let us acknowledge the company  
in which we meet:  
the church on earth and in heaven;  
the faithful who worshipped here before us;  
the hundreds of thousands  
of every place and language  
who, on the Lord’s Day, seek to set their lives  
within the atmosphere of renewing grace.  
As we think of them,  
let us take deliberate encouragement  
from our unity with them all.

*silence*

Let us acknowledge  
that all round the world people pray for us:  
and, without embarrassment,  
let us take heart from the knowledge  
that we pray for one another here,  
seeking not only our own peace,  
but the peace of our brothers and sisters.

*silence*

These desires we offer  
in the name and Spirit of Jesus Christ,  
in whom the holiest in the height  
touched our hearts  
and shared our joys and sorrows,  
our circumstances, and our hope. Amen. [3]

\*

- L Spirit of joy,  
through you Christ lives in us,  
and we in Christ. *Spirit of God,  
forgive us ...*  
Forgive us when we forget you  
and when we fail to live in your joy
- C Spirit of God, forgive us, and lead us to life in you.
- L Spirit of love,  
you bind us in love to yourself  
and to those around us,  
in marriage, in family and in friendship.  
Forgive us when we hurt those we love  
and when we turn away from the love of our friends.
- C Spirit of God, forgive us, and lead us to life in you.
- L Spirit of the Body of Christ,  
uniting us in the church  
with your life-giving grace and hope  
Forgive our fragmentation of your church  
and our failure to carry your love into the world.
- C Spirit of God, forgive us, and lead us to life in you.
- L Spirit in the world,  
comforting us, and drawing us into closer  
relationship with one another.

Forgive our wars and our hatreds,  
 forgive our failure to recognize you,  
 who lives in us all.

C Spirit of God, forgive us, and lead us to life in you.

L Words of Forgiveness:

*God's love was revealed among us in this way:*

*God sent his only Son into the world*

*so that we might live through him.*

*In this is love, not that we loved God*

*but that he loved us and sent his son*

*to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

*Beloved, since God loved us so much,*

*we also ought to love one another.*

*No one has ever seen God; if we love one another,*

*God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us*

(1 John 4:9-12).

[4]

\*

*You care  
 for your people*

God of compassion,

you care for your people.

And you seek those who have got lost.

You free those who are trapped in the dark,

we come to you:

look upon us just as we are:

we circle round ourselves,

we stoop under the weight of the past .

*(silent prayer)*

Forgive us, Lord,

make us people filled with grace.

Open us to You

and for one another

and for Your future. Amen.

[5]

\*

Great God, we thank you;  
that you have made your salvation known  
to Israel and the nations  
and people all over the world  
draw hope from your Word.

*Bless the witness  
which Jewish  
and Christian  
communities  
give to your  
fidelity*

We pray  
that we may listen to one another,  
learn from one another,  
and grow with one another,  
in our trust in you.

Bless the witness  
which Jewish and Christian communities give  
to your fidelity and peace.  
Amen.

[6]

\*

God,  
We come to you as your daughters and sons.

*We come to you  
as your  
daughters  
and sons*

Be with us,  
that we might learn to see one another  
with new eyes,  
listen to one another  
with new hearts;  
and treat one another  
in a new way.  
Amen.

[7]

\*

*Let your  
Holy Spirit blow  
fresh strength  
in the Church*

God of compassion, heavenly Father,  
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ  
overcame the enmity between cultures, classes and generations  
and brought to those who were in need  
new hope and healing.  
He is our peace.  
And so we call upon you even today in faith  
for his body, your Church:  
You have entrusted to us the task  
of building your Kingdom here on earth.  
Help us to do this together,  
not separately from one another.  
Instead of fighting for our own considerations,  
let us listen to your voice.  
Help us to overcome our quarrelsomeness  
and live in accordance with your command of love.  
Strengthen our trust in you.  
Let your Holy Spirit blow fresh strength in the Church,  
And lead us in the way of unity.  
Amen.

# Psalm collects

*After psalm 67*

Dear Father in Heaven,  
we come from the peoples  
whom you have created in their multitude and variety  
and who live before you in your present.  
You gather your community from the midst of them.  
With their many voices, insights and hopes.  
In it we search for the place,  
where we can offer you  
our prayers of praise and thanksgiving,  
of supplication and intercession.  
We pray: help us to stay loyal to our faith,  
to what we have understood from you.  
We come to you from many different churches  
and congregations,  
so that you may gather us into one great congregation.  
Help us to testify together  
That you are Lord over heaven and earth,  
over death and life,  
over what we do and what we do not do.  
Grant that your Word may find room in our hearts,  
Sow in compassion and righteousness.  
For that we wait in confidence in your Holy Spirit. [1]

*We come  
to you from  
many different  
churches and  
congregations*

\*

*After psalm 100*

Creator of all,  
by your Holy Spirit  
you have made a diversity of peoples one  
in the confession of your name.

*Creator of all*

Lead them, by the same Spirit,  
 to show to the whole earth  
 one mind in belief  
 and one passion for righteousness;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[2]

\*

*After psalm 100*

*We rejoice over  
 the diversity of  
 the richness of  
 our diverse reli-  
 gious histories*

God of compassion,  
 we thank you  
 that with all our diverse traditions  
 we belong to your people.  
 We are glad  
 that you have led us from defensive separation  
 to a reconciled community.  
 We rejoice over the diversity of churches in Europe  
 and we discover in one another  
 the richness of our diverse religious histories  
 which testify to the kaleidoscope of your grace.

We pray, let our reconciliation  
 in the world-wide Church  
 be a sign of hope  
 that unity in diversity is possible,  
 despite all opposition.

Strengthen above all the confidence in your goodness  
 which crosses our frontiers  
 and is already binding what is still separate.

[3]

# Prayer collects / Prayers of the day

Lord God,  
we thank you for calling us into the company  
of those who trust in Christ and seek to do his will.  
May your Spirit guide and strengthen us  
in mission and service to your world.  
for we are strangers no longer but pilgrims together  
on the way to your Kingdom.  
Amen.

[1]

*We are strangers  
no longer*

\*

O God, by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
set our hearts on fire with a new love for Christ;  
that we may work with others to shape the world  
more nearly to his will;  
that we may be stirred to pray and work  
for the furtherance of your kingdom,  
that it may be acknowledged with joy  
to the ends of the earth.  
We ask it in his name.  
Amen.

[2]

*Set our hearts  
on fire*

\*

We pray to you, living God,  
continue working in this world,  
fulfil what you have begun.

*We pray  
to you, God*

We pray to you, saving God,  
incline yourself to us,  
so that we might sense the breath of life and freedom.

We pray to you, God of the future,  
 come and meet us,  
 with each step that we take.

[3]

\*

*In every age  
 you take pity  
 on us*

O God, our very breath, our only hope,  
 in every age you take pity on us  
 and bring forth life from death.

Visit your people  
 and raise your church to new life,  
 that we may join with all generations  
 in voicing our wonder and praise.

We make our prayer through our Lord,  
 Jesus Christ, your Son,  
 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 God for ever and ever.  
 Amen.

[4]

\*

*Let all  
 be one in him*

God, our Father,  
 your Son prayed before his death  
 that his disciples should be one.  
 But your Christendom is split and divided.  
 So we call upon you:  
 Let all be one in him  
 that is one in you  
 so that we may give convincing proof of the gospel  
 to the world  
 This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
 Amen.

[5]

\*

Gracious God,  
we give you thanks  
that you have made each person in your image  
and given each a share in the creation and preservation of all  
that you have made.

*We thank you  
for the many  
signs of hope  
in our world*

We thank you for the many signs of hope in our world:  
the courage of those who seek new solutions,  
the perseverance of those who give of themselves for others,  
the hospitality of those who welcome the stranger.

Give us eyes of faith to see these signs of your gracious love;  
for you lift up the poor and cast down the mighty;  
you take pleasure in your people  
and adorn the humble with victory,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

[6]

\*

In the midst of the rivalries that cause us to fall out  
you call us, Lord, to unity and love.  
Give us open eyes for our unity in you  
And let us see the picture of your new humanity,  
so that we may meet one another in love.  
Amen.

*You call us to  
unity and love*

[7]



# Quotations from the documents of the Leuenberg Church Fellowship

*The extracts from the Leuenberg Agreement which are quoted here can – according to the main emphasis of the theme – be selected and read out in a service of worship. The Agreement aims at the abolition of differences of theological doctrine in the consciousness that the mutual condemnations do not correspond any more to the doctrinal position of the present day. The common understanding of the Gospel would for certain be described. That shapes the language of the Agreement: it is geared towards theological precision. Sometimes that makes its liturgical use more difficult. For this reason too a selection is advisable and a shaping that takes into account the particular context.*

*After the quotations from the Agreement there follows also an extract from the most recent study document “Church and Israel”. It should provide stimulation to allow the congregation to share the theological work of the Leuenberg Church Fellowship. Accordingly a thematic organisation of the service can be furthered with other study documents. These are easily accessible on the Internet ([www.leuenberg.net](http://www.leuenberg.net)).*

## Agreement

There remain considerable differences between our churches in forms of worship, types of spirituality, and church order. These differences are often more deeply felt in the congregations than the traditional doctrinal differences. Nevertheless, in fidelity to the New Testament and Reformation criteria for church fellowship, we cannot discern in these differences any factors which should divide the Church. (§ 28)

*Agreement*

### 1. The common understanding of the Gospel

#### a) The Message of Justification

The Gospel is the message of Jesus Christ, the salvation of the

world, in fulfilment of the promise given to the people of the Old Covenant. (§ 7)

Through his Word, God by his Holy Spirit calls all men to repent and believe, and assures the believing sinner of his righteousness in Jesus Christ. Whoever puts his trust in the Gospel is justified in God’s sight for the sake of Jesus Christ and set free from the accusation of the law. In daily repentance and renewal he lives within the fellowship in praise of God and service to others, in the assurance that God will bring his kingdom in all its fullness. In this way God creates new life and plants in the midst of the world the seed of a new humanity. (§ 10)

This message sets Christians free for responsible service in the world and makes them ready to suffer in this service. They know that God’s will, as demand and succour, embraces the whole world. They stand up for temporal justice and peace between individuals and nations. To do this they have to join with others in seeking rational and appropriate criteria and play their part in applying these criteria. They do so in the confidence that God sustains the world and as those who are accountable to him. (§ 11)

### **b) Baptism**

Baptism is administered in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit with water. In Baptism Jesus Christ irrevocably receives man, fallen prey to sin and death, into his fellowship of salvation so that he may become a new creature. In the power of his Holy Spirit he calls him into his community and to a new life of faith, to daily repentance and discipleship. (§ 14)

### **c) The Lord’s Supper**

In the Lord’s Supper the risen Jesus Christ imparts himself in his body and blood, given up for all, through his word of promise with bread and wine. He thereby grants us forgiveness of sins and sets us free for a new life of faith. He enables us to experience anew that we are members of his body. He strengthens us for service to all men. (§ 15)

## 2. Realising Church Fellowship

In the sense intended in this Agreement, church fellowship means that, on the basis of the consensus they have reached in their understanding of the Gospel, churches with different confessional positions accord each other fellowship in word and sacrament and strive for the fullest possible co-operation in witness and service to the world. (§ 29)

It is in the life of the churches and congregations that church fellowship becomes a reality. Believing in the unifying power of the Holy Spirit, they bear their witness and perform their service together, and strive to deepen and strengthen the fellowship they have found together. (§ 35)

In establishing and realising church fellowship among themselves, the participating churches do so as part of their responsibility to promote the ecumenical fellowship of all Christian churches. (§ 46)

## Church and Israel

*The fifth General Assembly of the Leuenberg Church Fellowship, on the 24th June 2001, adopted unanimously the study document "Church and Israel". It asked the churches to take the study document on from there. In the sense of this resolution the conclusion of the study document is quoted here.*

*Church  
and Israel*

## 5. Concluding remarks

The churches of the Leuenberg Fellowship recognise and regret their share of responsibility and guilt in relation to the people of Israel in view of the centuries old history of hostility to the Jews. The churches recognise their false interpretations of biblical statements and traditions; they confess their guilt before God and humanity and ask God for forgiveness. They hold fast to the hope that God's Spirit will lead and accompany them on new paths.

The churches of the Leuenberg Fellowship still face the call of seeking dialogue with Jews in their own contexts and particu-

lar situations wherever possible. By listening together to the Holy Scriptures of Israel, the Christian Old Testament, ways to mutual understanding can be sought.

The parallel existence of the Church and Israel will not be replaced in history by their joining together (Rom. 11:25-32). The witness of the New Testament teaches that there are limits to theological knowledge and expression which human beings cannot transcend. In the words of the Apostle Paul (Rom. 11:33-36), the Church confesses,

*"O the depths of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!  
How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways!*

*For 'who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counsellor?'*

*Or 'who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?'*

*For from him and through him and to him are all things.*

*To him be glory for ever. Amen."*

# Readings and sermon-texts

*The proposed selections from the Bible are suitable both as readings and as sermon-texts in a service in which membership of the Leuenberg Church Fellowship is commemorated and also for boundary-crossing meetings, or partnership services within the LCF. Many of the suggestions are found in orders of liturgy for Reformation Day as well as peace liturgies and orders for other ecumenical occasions.*

## **Psalms:**

46 God is our refuge and our strength

*Psalms*

67 God's blessing on all the world

84 Joy in the house of God

100 All the world rejoices in the LORD

## **Readings and sermon-texts:**

Genesis 11: 1-9 The building of the tower of Babel

*Readings and  
sermon-texts*

Deuteronomy 6: 4-9 The LORD is our God – he alone

Jer 33: 6-9 I want to heal them and make them healthy

Ez 47: 1-12 The wonderful stream from the Temple

Mt 5: 13-16 Salt of the earth, light of the world

Mt 13: 31-33 The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed

Mt 20: 20-28 On lords and servants

Mt 28: 16-20 I am with you all the days of your life

Luke 13: 22-30 They will come from the east and the west,  
from the north and from the south

John 10: 11-16 One flock and one shepherd

John 15: 1-8 The true vine

John 15: 9-17 The commandment of love

John 17: 20-23 And so may you all be one

Acts 2: 42-47 They remain constant in fellowship

Rom 3: 12-28 Justification by faith alone

*Readings and  
sermon-texts*

Rom 8: 25-28 The Spirit helps us in our weakness

Rom 15: 4-7 Agree with one another

Gal 5: 1-6 Summoned to freedom

1 Cor 1: 4-10 Thanks for the gifts of the community

1 Cor 1: 10-18 Let there be no divisions among you

1 Cor 12: 12-26 Many limbs, one body

Eph 4: 1-7 One Lord, one faith, one baptism

Phil 2: 1-4 That they might be of one mind

Phil 2: 12f God works on the will and the deed

Phil 4: 6-9 The peace of God, which is beyond all human  
understanding ...

Hebr 3: 7-17 Your teachers are commemorated

# Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession

Gracious God,  
you have created the peoples of the earth,  
and you have chosen your people from all nations.  
We thank you  
that you have also spoken to us  
and included us in your plan  
to overcome separation  
to reconcile enmity  
to integrate entrenched boundaries.

*Your desire is  
that we should  
be one with one  
another*

God, your desire is that we should be one with one another,  
and so we thank you  
for the fellowship of the Protestant churches in Europe.  
We pray, consolidate our unity  
and strengthen our confidence  
in the wideness of your compassion.

We pray for all churches that are still self-reliant.  
Let them also find feasible ways  
to be led together in reconciled diversity –  
as a sign of hope for our very discordant world.

God, you know, that in our Europe  
there is still much hostility, old and new, between nations  
and groups of people.  
Protect us from despairing of our responsibility  
to pray and to work for a peaceful co-existence.

Grant those in positions of responsibility  
in politics and economics  
wisdom and humanity,  
that they may serve peace and increase righteousness.  
Make all who work in education skilful  
to convey the worth of every single life

and to practise the proper measure of reserve and openness.  
 Strengthen all who are there for the sick and despairing:  
 preserve them in their sensitivity to others' pain.

God of compassion,  
 sustain the happiness of lovers,  
 protect the carefree nature of children,  
 and keep us in all security with you.  
 Amen.

[1]

\*

*(After each prayer all sing:*

*Oh Lord, hear our prayer, oh Lord, hear our prayer,  
 when I call, answer me.*

*Oh Lord, hear our prayer, oh Lord, hear our prayer.  
 Come, and listen to me.)*

*We thank you  
 for the salvation  
 that is present  
 in our Lord*

L Heavenly Father, our hope and refuge,  
 we give thanks to you  
 for the faith in and the hope for a new heaven  
 and a new earth, in which you will be all and in all.  
 We thank you for the salvation that is present in our  
 Lord, Jesus Christ,  
 and for the fellowship of salvation,  
 to which you call us and from which you send us out.  
 Guide us by Your Holy Spirit  
 as we pray for our life and our world.  
 We pray for all who suffer throughout the world,  
 for those who suffer from war or live in the midst of it.  
 For refugees, for those who are oppressed  
 that they may obtain to see righteousness win  
 and be given to live a life in righteousness,  
 peace and security.  
 We pray for the sick,  
 for those in fear and sorrow,  
 for those who have given up hope,

that they may find people who will support them  
and help them to see light and hope.  
God, we pray to you.

C Oh, Lord, hear our prayer ...

L We pray for the Church,  
for our sister churches,  
for ecumenical and church organisations,  
for the Leuenberg Church Fellowship and all its  
churches,  
for the churches and congregations in our own  
country and in this city and diocese;  
for the leaders of the churches,  
that they and we may point out the way to you  
and be your servants in the world;  
that we may give witness of you to your world  
that thirsts for your salvation.  
God, we pray to you.

C Oh, Lord, hear our prayer...

L We pray for our country and its leaders,  
for Europe and all its countries;  
for all who carry responsibility for our common future,  
that they and we may work for peace and righteousness.  
We pray for our beloved ones,  
for our families,  
for those who have died before us,  
that you, God, will grant them and us all  
a joyful resurrection  
when you come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead.  
God, we pray to you.

C Oh, Lord, hear our prayer...

L Lord, we give thanks to you,  
that you have called us to serve in communion,

and we pray that you will strengthen our faith in you,  
 that we may follow your will  
 and contribute to the flourishing of faith, hope and love,  
 for the good of human beings and to your honour.  
 In Jesus' name we pray, Lord.

C Amen.

[2]

\*

*We pray for your  
 Church and for  
 all rulers*

God of kindness,  
 we pray for your Church  
 here and in every land:  
 for the Church asleep,  
 that it might awake;  
 for the persecuted Church,  
 that it remain glad and certain of your cause;  
 for the confessing Church,  
 that it may be nothing for itself alone  
 but live alone for your fame.

We pray for all rulers and authorities  
 in the whole world;  
 for those that are good,  
 that you preserve them;  
 for those that are evil,  
 that you change their hearts  
 or put an end to their power  
 according to your pleasure;  
 for all, that you prove to them  
 that you are the one whose servants they are  
 and must remain.  
 We pray that all tyranny and disorder be resisted  
 and all suppressed nations and peoples  
 be helped to their rights.  
 Amen.

[3]

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Almighty God,  
in you, composure, peace and concord are to be found.  
We pray, overcome the barriers  
which separate your children from one another,  
and enable the harmony of the Spirit to be maintained  
through the bond of peace.  
In all differences of knowledge and faith  
and in all variety of thought  
let us be one in brotherly love  
and in dedication to your holy will.  
Free us from all blindness and all prejudice,  
from all turmoil and malicious speech,  
so that we might reveal through love of neighbour  
in all our being, our thinking and our living  
the power and the glory of the faith; which we confess  
to the honour of your holy name,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

[4]

*Overcome  
the barriers*

\*

L Let us pray to God in peace:  
For an alert conscience, for forgiveness of our debts  
and an open, quiet heart,  
Let us pray: God, have mercy upon us.

*God, have  
mercy on us.*

C God, have mercy on us.

L For an understanding of our fellow human beings,  
for a readiness and courage  
to speak the truth,  
let us pray:

C God, have mercy on us.

- L For the ability so to behave to all people  
that they also through us  
might experience the love of God,  
let us pray:
- C God, have mercy on us.
- L For our Church and for all Christians,  
that they beyond all past divisions might be one  
in faith and in deed, let us pray:
- C God, have mercy on us.
- L For our nation and for all nations of the world,  
that, where there is war, justice and peace might prevail,  
let us pray:
- C God, have mercy on us.
- L For those who are in need and distress,  
that they may find help,  
let us pray:
- C God, have mercy on us.
- L Stay with us, God,  
with your Word and the gift of your goodness.  
May your Kingdom come.  
And so we pray in the faith of Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen. [5]

\*

*Confer on us  
the power  
to see you*      God, you have created the light clear and pure,  
and still you have broken it up into the colours of the rainbow.  
Confer on us the power to see you;  
Each in the horizon of their own experiences;

that we might share our experiences with one another;  
thereby discovering more and more  
of you in all your truth and beauty.  
Let us all bring to one another our experiences  
of truth and salvation,  
of repentance and renewal,  
so that the whole inheritance be preserved  
and be within the reach of all, who call you Father,  
through him, in whom your fullness is to be found,  
your only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

L1 Let us pray to God, our Father,  
for the gift of unity –  
which inspires us and motivates us:

*The following prayers may be added (selectively):*

L2 Sometimes we are in danger  
of resigning ourselves to the offence of division.

L1 Lord, shake us out of our sleep,  
and awaken anew our enthusiasm  
so that through our growing unity with you  
and with one another  
the world may come to faith.

L2 Sometimes we are too focussed on our own tradition  
and become narrow-minded, even fanatical  
in relation to others.

L1 Lord, free us from false pride,  
and careless or arrogant opinions,  
so that we might behave towards one another  
with self-assurance and tolerance.

L2 We are thankful that we know better  
our brothers and sisters in other communities  
and in their appearance learn to respect them.

L1 Lord, help us to accept one another as we are,  
so that we might learn to live with one another  
according to your will.

- L2 We must recognise and declare honestly  
that many things still cut us off from one another  
and hinder the full community we long for.
- L1 Lord, give us courage  
to overcome divisions  
so that we might celebrate  
the gifts of grace in other people.  
Give us readiness to share the various traditions  
in a spirit of fraternity.  
Give us a hunger for your Word and your bread,  
so that we might soon find a seat together  
at the communal meal of unity and love.
- L2 Much is already achieved, much still lies before us  
on the way to reconciliation  
for unity and peace,  
a peace, which shall be accorded to all people.
- L1 Lord, let us harvest in thanksgiving the good fruits  
of our ecumenical work  
and let us grow in faith, hope and love,  
so that we come nearer you and one another.
- L2 The world rightly expects of Christians  
service to the poor and commitment to peace in justice.
- L1 Lord, lend your aid to our efforts,  
so that our witness to Christ  
and our service to the world  
might be convincing and effective.

*The prayers that follow have in view the people for whom  
the offering of the congregation is designated.* [6]

\*

*We are able to  
gather together  
in your name*

- L let us pray  
and after each section of prayer  
let us join together in the Amen.

Heavenly Father,  
we are able to gather together in your name.  
And for that reason we are bold to bring before you  
our prayers:

We pray for our Church:  
that it may remain true to your truth  
and contribute to reconciliation and peace  
between our nations.

We pray for all Christian churches in this world  
that they may accept your judgment in humility  
and repentance,  
that they might not revolve around themselves alone,  
that they might strive for unity,  
rely only on your Word,  
and take their part tirelessly in the service of love.  
For this, Lord, we pray.

C Amen.

L For the rulers of this world:  
that they might use the power that is entrusted to them  
for the protection of the weak,  
for the welfare of future generations,  
that they might avert wars  
and attend to a just distribution of worldly goods.  
For those who are suffering in this world:  
look upon their suffering, and grant  
that no-one should be plagued, pestered and driven out  
from their native land  
because they have another nationality,  
belong to another race or hold another opinion.  
For this we pray.

C Amen.

L For those who provide service for the suffering:  
give us all open eyes, open ears and hearts  
for the needs of our neighbours,

and the readiness to stand by the side  
of those who need us:  
at the side of the sick, the weak, the old, the forsaken,  
at the side of refugees,  
at the side of victims of war, violence and injustice.  
For your whole creation,  
which suffers under human greed and egoism:  
that it be saved to your praise,  
God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
For this we pray.

C Amen.

[7]

\*

*We want to live  
reconciliation*

Lord, we know that Jesus is the Word of reconciliation.  
We want to live this reconciliation,  
as new creation to proclaim your grace.  
Day by day we see pictures from all over the world  
of human beings who are suffering.  
We bring before you the fear of those  
who yearn for justice,  
the tears of those  
who suffer pain,  
the sorrow of those  
for whom heaven remains dark –  
for all of these we pray  
that your light may shine upon them,  
and your power support and strengthen them.  
In the name of your son, Jesus Christ,  
who on the Cross gave up his life for us all.  
Amen.

[8]

\*

Lord, we pray for your Church  
to all the ends of the earth.  
Fill it with the spirit of service, simplicity and fidelity.  
We pray for all  
who suffer on grounds of poverty  
and for those who are lonely in their wealth.  
We pray for those who are ill,  
because they have nothing to eat  
and for those who are ill  
because they have too much to eat.  
We pray for all who take life lightly  
and for those who weep because of the misery of others.  
We pray for those who are self-confident  
and for those who are mocked and excluded:  
Give to each one of us  
a simple, loyal heart,  
that can sympathise

*Fill us with the  
spirit of service,  
simplicity and  
fidelity*

We pray in the silence

[9]

\*

God, our creator,  
with the majority of Christians  
in a variety of churches.

*We join together  
in prayer for  
refugees*

We pray for those who are politically responsible,  
that they may be ready  
to allow not only their own citizens  
have a share in the richness of our land.  
Send them women and men along the way,  
who behind the problems of asylum  
bring near to them people with their concrete predicaments .

We pray for the women and men  
who work as journalists

for those who are employed in television and radio  
and thus influence public opinion:  
protect them from cynicism.

Encourage them to make use of their opportunity  
for influence  
to create a more friendly atmosphere  
concerning refugees.

We pray for those men and women  
who work in the Police, the Immigration Office,  
and the Home Office,  
who have to exercise power  
over human beings whom they scarcely know.  
Let them meet them as helpers  
who are able to explain  
the actual situation of asylum-seekers.

We pray for ourselves as citizens,  
that we may be neither indifferent nor naïve.  
Show us where we can help  
to ease the fate of refugees.

God, our creator,  
have mercy on us,  
if we so live and act  
as if the freedom, peace and prosperity of our land  
should serve ourselves alone.

God, our creator,  
help us to change,  
that we might change our attitudes  
but also our laws.

Amen.

## Post-communion prayers of thanksgiving

God of unfailing love,  
in your holy mysteries  
you have graciously fed us  
with the flesh and blood of your dear Son.  
We pray that we,  
and all who faithfully receive him,  
may grow together in the communion of the body of Christ,  
and finally attain to the glory of the resurrection;  
through Christ our Lord  
Amen.

*That we may  
grow together*

[1]

\*

We thank you, Lord,  
that you have strengthened us through your nearness  
and we pray: grant that the ears that have heard your Word  
may be closed to the voice of discord;  
that the eyes which have seen your great love  
may see the blessedness which you have promised;  
that the tongues which have sung your praise  
may testify henceforth to the truth;  
that the hands which have received your gifts  
may do good to your honour;  
that the feet which have come into your house  
may not stray from the way of light;  
that the bodies which have had a share  
in your living body  
may change into a new life.  
To you be glory for ever.  
Amen.

*That we  
may change  
into a new life*

[2]

\*

*That we  
may become  
the image  
of your creation*

Dear Father in heaven,  
you have been our host at the table of your Son  
may his life, his death and his resurrection  
strengthen us now in our lives.  
Your Word is greater than our anxieties,  
your hope is stronger than our despondency,  
your presence is more certain than our doubts.  
Lead us that we may become the image of your creation  
which waits for you.

Lord Jesus Christ, we pray:  
lead us with your hand,  
so that from the many may come one whole,  
from the diversity, a richness,  
and from the barrenness of the everyday, fruitful life.  
You are Lord over all power and force  
in heaven and on earth,  
bring us together and protect us in your community.

God, Holy Spirit,  
Lead us to a knowledge of your truth,  
Let us grow together in one body and give us strength  
for each day of our lives.  
so that we might praise the Father with one mouth  
each morning and at the approach of night  
that we might be strong in readiness for the day  
when you will lead us  
to eternal light.  
Amen.

[3]

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*With eyes  
open for others*

We have shared your meal together  
we have met with you, Lord.  
Let us now thank you  
with eyes open  
for different people who nonetheless resemble us;

let us see them with your eyes.  
In the light of your spirit  
let us share joy and suffering.  
May your kingdom come soon.  
Amen.

[4]

\*

After we have received your gifts  
we pray, Lord  
let us grow in grace  
to bring fruits of love and fidelity  
of peace and justice.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

*Let us grow  
in grace*

[5]

\*

Dear sisters and brothers,  
at the end of the meal we want to reflect  
on that for which we are thankful to God.  
In the particular section, prayer of thanksgiving,  
we sing together:  
Halleluia!

We thank you, heavenly Father,  
that you have raised from the dead  
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
And so you have confirmed that you intend peace  
for your creation,  
that your will is life and not death,  
and that the last victory  
belongs to the power of love and devotion.

*We thank you*

Halleluia...

We thank you  
that you have brought us so near one another  
that we can celebrate together this service  
of reconciliation;  
and that you have gathered us together with one another  
at the table of your Son.

Halleluia...

We thank you for all witnesses  
who have prayed and worked  
through the leading of your Holy Spirit  
for the reconciliation of our churches and nations.  
You have blessed their work.  
To you be honour and glory,

Halleluia ...

[6]

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