



WORLD COMMUNION OF REFORMED CHURCHES

# Reformation



# Sunday 2024

Persevere in Your Witness:  
Commemorating the 20th  
Anniversary of the Accra Confession

27 October 2024



## *Welcome and greetings*

### *Invocation*

**Leader:** Our help is in the name of God,

**All:** who made heaven and earth.

### *Praise and Thanksgiving*

#### *Invitation*

[From The Worship Sourcebook, 49]

**Leader:** We will give thanks to you, O LORD, with  
our whole heart;  
we will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

**All:** We will be glad and exult in you;  
we will sing praise to your name, O Most  
High.

—from Psalm 9:1-2 NRSV

### *Hymn of Praise*





## *Prayer of Thanksgiving*

[From The Worship Sourcebook, 757]

**Leader:** God of all ages:

we thank you for the faithful witness  
of your apostles, prophets, and  
martyrs  
throughout the history of your church  
and throughout the world even today.

**All:** **Through their witness we see and hear  
your truth.**

**Leader:** We bless you for all who bless your  
name  
through their writing, speaking, art,  
and music.

**All:** **Through their work we glimpse your  
beauty.**

**Leader:** We praise you for all who serve you  
without recognition or honor,  
offering encouragement to the lonely,  
the sick, and the fearful.

**All:** **Through their lives we see your  
faithfulness and sense your comfort.**

**Leader:** Now we pray that you will use even  
us

to reflect the glory we see in Christ.

May the voices of all your saints,  
made holy in Christ,

swell in joyous praise to you, the  
giver of all good gifts,

through Christ, our Lord, who lives  
and reigns

with you and the Holy Spirit, one  
God, now and forever.

**All:** **Amen.**





## Confession and Lament

### Invitation

[From Worship Sourcebook, 85]

**Leader:** We cannot come before God

unless we are first honest with ourselves  
about who we are,  
about the mistakes we make,  
and about how well or poorly we care for  
others.

In this spirit, let us offer our prayers to God.

### Prayer of Confession

[From Zac Tax Toolkit]

**Leader:** Merciful God,

we come before you, burdened by  
brokenness;  
so many needs in our communities  
and in our world!

Too often we ignore or fail to hear  
the cry of the stranger in need.

Too often we are blinded by  
prejudice, busyness, and apathy.

We disregard the rights of those  
who are hurting.



Fear and disgust can make us turn  
our backs on those you want us to  
get close to.

[Silence]

Jesus, your grace includes all  
and by your presence we are

reconciled to one another.

We rejoice in the chance to begin  
again, re-formed into a caring communion,  
that through your Spirit we will be  
the builders of hope and healing.

**All: Amen.**

### ***Assurance of Pardon***

[From the Worship Sourcebook, 125]

**Leader:** May the God of mercy,  
who forgives you all your sins,  
strengthen you in all goodness,  
and, by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
keep you in eternal life.

**All: Amen.**





## *The Peace*

**Leader:** As we are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ Jesus, let us be reconciled to each other. The peace of Christ be with you all.

**All:** **And also with you.**

(All share a greeting of peace.)



## *Proclamation*

## *Prayer for Illumination*

[From Worship Sourcebook, 707]

**Leader:** Empowering God,

We pray that you will send your Holy Spirit  
to move us to understanding;  
to help us to believe the gospel;  
to give us strength and wisdom to live by it.

**All:** **Amen.**

**Reading from the Psalms:** Psalm 146

**New Testament Reading:** Hebrews 12:1-3 or Luke 19:1-10

## *Sermon*



## *Response to the Word*

### *Confessional Readings*

#### *Excerpts from the Accra Confession (paragraphs/articles 26, 37):*

**Leader:** We believe that God calls us to stand with those who are victims of injustice.

We know what the Lord requires of us: to do justice, love kindness, and walk in God's way (Mic 6.8). We are called to stand against any form of injustice in the economy and the destruction of the environment, "so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Am 5.24).

**All:** **By confessing our faith together, we covenant in obedience to God's will as an act of faithfulness in mutual solidarity and in accountable relationships. This binds us together to work for justice in the economy and the earth both in our common global context as well as our various regional and local settings.**





## *Song or Hymn of Response*

### *Celebration of Communion*

**Leader:** Lift up your hearts!

**All:** **We lift them up to the Lord!**

**Leader:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All:** **It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**



**Leader:** With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—even when we fell into sin. We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his life, death and resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. On this Reformation Sunday, we praise you for living in us now by your Spirit, and we pray that this bread and cup may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

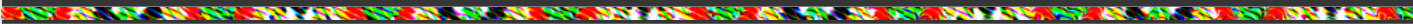
**All:** **May we and all your saints be united with Christ and remain faithful in hope and love.**

**Leader:** Come, now, for all is ready! The gifts of God for the people of God.

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said,

“This is my body, which is for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.”





After supper, he took the cup, and gave thanks and gave to them, saying,

“Drink of it, all of you.

This is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

Take, eat, and drink, remember, and believe that the precious body and blood of  
our Lord was given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins.

**(Congregation comes forward to receive communion, or receives communion in their seats)**

### *Response of Thanksgiving*

### *Prayers of Intercession*

(From ZacTax Toolkit)

**Leader:** In the midst of deadly wars and destruction,  
you are the God who cares for all of creation.  
So we pray for your endangered world and all who suffer.

[Silence]



**Leader:** Living God,

help us to re-form the world.

In the midst of the division of the  
church, you are the God who brings us  
together in unity.

We pray for all who suffer because  
of the brokenness of your Communion.

[Silence]

**All:** Living God, help us to re-form the world.

**Leader:** In the midst of hatred and prejudice, you are  
the God who lives in us in all our diversity.  
We pray for all who suffer because they are  
excluded.

[Silence]



**All: Living God, help us to re-form the world.**

**Leader:** In the midst of a materialism and selfish arrogance, you are the living God over all other gods. We pray for all who suffer from economic injustice.

[Silence]

**All: Living God, help us to re-form the world.**

**Leader:** In our vision and daily lives, you are the living God who sends us to do your will.

We pray for those who defend nature,  
those who work for reconciliation,  
those who break down barriers,  
those who fight for equality,  
those who make peace.



[Silence]

**All: Living God, help us to re-form the world. Amen.**

*Song or Hymn of Dedication*

## *Blessing/Benediction*

(From ZacTax Toolkit)

**Leader:** May God, the source of life,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
graciously re-form our lives;  
may Jesus Christ, the way,  
and the truth, and the life,  
enable us to live in fullness;  
may the Holy Spirit,  
the breath of life,  
empower us to live for others;  
so we may continuously sing the  
song of life  
to the glory of the living God.

**All:** Amen.

