

Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness whenever we failed to love. We humbly pray:

**A: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**L:** One stone in our wall is “broken communion.” Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for perpetuating broken communion among our churches. We humbly pray:

**A: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**L:** One stone in our wall is “division.” Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for living our Christian lives divided from one another and astray from our common calling for the healing of all. We humbly pray:

**A: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**L:** One stone in our wall is “isolation.” Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for the times when we have isolated ourselves from our Christian sisters and brothers and from the communities in which we live. We humbly pray:

**A: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**L:** One stone in our wall is “pride”. Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for our pride. We humbly pray:

**A: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**L:** Lord God, forgive us our sins. Heal us. Help us to overcome all walls of division and make us one in you.

**A: Amen.**

**Hymn of praise**

### **III. Be Reconciled to God: Hear God's Word**

**First Reading: Ezekiel 36:25-27**

**Responsorial Psalm: 18:25-32**

With the loyal you show yourself loyal;  
with the blameless you show yourself blameless;  
with the pure you show yourself pure;  
and with the crooked you show yourself perverse.

For you deliver a humble people, but the haughty eyes you bring down.

**Response: I love you, O Lord, my strength.**

It is you who light my lamp;  
the Lord, my God, lights up my darkness.

By you I can crush a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall.

This God — his way is perfect;

the promise of the Lord proves true;

he is a shield for all who take refuge in him.

For who is God except the Lord? And who is a rock besides our God?—

the God who girded me with strength, and made my way safe.

**Response: I love you, O Lord, my strength.**

**Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:14-20**

**Alleluia**

**Gospel Reading: Luke 15:11-24**

**Homily**

**Creed**

### **V. Proclaim Reconciliation**

**Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**L:** Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself. We praise and thank you for those whom you sent to preach the Gospel to all nations. May your Spirit awaken in every Christian community a hunger and thirst for unity in you. Let us pray to the Lord:

**L:** Gracious God, we pray for our churches. Fill them with all truth and peace. Where faith is corrupted, purify it; where people go astray, redirect them; where they fail to proclaim your Gospel, reform them; where they witness to what is right, strengthen them; where they are in need, provide for them; and where they are divided, reunite them. Let us pray to the Lord:

**L:** Almighty Father, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus Christ, your Son. Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred that infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love, so that every people and nation may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne. Let us pray to the Lord:

**L:** Holy Spirit, Giver of Life, we are created to become whole in you and to share this life on earth with our brothers and sisters. Awaken in each of us your compassion and love. Give us strength and courage to work for justice in our neighbourhoods, to create peace within our families, to comfort the sick and the dying, and to share all we have with those who are in need. Let us pray to the Lord:

## The Lord's Prayer - E to mātou Matua i te rangi

E to mātou Matua i te rangi, kia whakatapua tōu ingoa, kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga, kia whakaritea tōu hiahia i te whenua kia pērā i to te rangi. Homai ki a mātou aianei he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā. Whakakāhoretia ō mātou hara, me mātou e whakakore nei i ngā hara o te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou. Kaua mātou e tukua kia whakawaia, engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino. Amene	Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen
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### IV. Live Reconciled

**L** Let us pray: Gracious God and Father in Heaven, we have heard your word that you have reconciled us to yourself through your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. By the power of the Holy Spirit transform our hearts of stone. Help us to become ministers of reconciliation and heal our churches' divisions so that we may better serve as instruments of your peace in the world.

**C Amen.**

### The Peace

**L** The peace of the Lord be with you always. Let us give one another a sign of peace.

### VI. Blessing and Sending

**L:** We call out to you, most merciful God: Let all who seek reconciliation experience your help so they may proclaim your mighty deeds of Love! We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**A: Amen.**

**L:** May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit come upon you and remain with you forever.

**A: Amen.**

**L:** Go in God's Peace.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

### Hymn

*Adapted for Aotearoa New Zealand by the Catholic Bishops Committee for Ecumenism. from resource provided by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches.*

## Ecumenical Order of Service

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 28 May to 4 June 2017**  
**Ko te Wā Karakia mō te Kotahitanga o Ngā Hāhi Karaitiana**

*Reconciliation – The Love of Christ Compels Us (cf. 2 Cor. 5:14-20)*

### I. Gathering

#### Processional Hymn

**Leader:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen**

**L:** Grace and peace from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ, be with you all. (2 Cor. 5:18)

**A: And with your spirit.**

**L:** Dear friends in Christ, as we gather to pray for unity, we thank God for our Christian dignity and vocation. This year many Christians and churches are commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. Saint Paul reminds us that God has reconciled us through Jesus Christ and that the love of Christ compels us to be ministers of reconciliation. Let us pray together in the unity of the Holy Spirit!

#### Psalms 98

### II. Divided by Our Sins (Confession)

**L:** In the course of history, there have been many renewal movements in the Church which is always in need of deeper conversion to her head, Jesus Christ. Sometimes these movements have led to divisions, contradicting what Jesus asks the Father in John 17:23: "that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." Let us confess our sins and pray for forgiveness and healing for the wounds which have resulted from our divisions. (*All pray silently*) God and Father in heaven, we come to you in Jesus' name. We experience renewal through your Holy Spirit, yet we still construct walls that divide us, walls which hinder community and unity. We bring before you now the stones with which we erect our walls and seek your forgiveness and healing. One stone in our wall is "lack of love".