

## Summary of From Conflict to Communion

The historic events in Lund and Malmö on 31 October are the fruit of 50 years of ecumenical dialogue between Lutherans and Catholics, of which key milestones are the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification in 1999, and the joint publication *From Conflict to Communion* in 2013.

*From Conflict to Communion* marks the first time that Lutherans and Catholics tell together the history of the Reformation. They express regret over the pain that they inflicted on each other, but also give thanks to the theological insights that both parties contributed and the fruits of the reformation that they have both received. At the same time, the document emphasizes the common responsibility to bear witness to the Christian faith and to work for justice, peace and the environment and fight poverty.

The publication analyzes the issues which Lutherans and Catholics have overcome and addresses the topics requiring further discussion on the path to unity. It is mainly about the understanding of the Church, the priesthood and the Eucharist.

The content and spirit of the document *From Conflict to Communion* is the basis for the common prayer in the Lund Cathedral and the public event at the Malmö Arena.

The document ends in five joint commitments ("five ecumenical imperatives") for the continuation of the dialogue:

- 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.
- Lutherans and Catholics must let themselves continuously be transformed by the encounter with the other and by the mutual witness of faith.
- 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.
- Lutherans and Catholics should jointly rediscover the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ for our time.
- Catholics and Lutherans should witness together to the mercy of God in proclamation and service to the world.

The last point is particularly reflected during the event at the Malmö Arena, where the message of hope and joint service to the world is in focus.