Order of Service (including The Lord's Supper)

Reformation Sunday. **Celebration of God's Sovereignty, Justice and Peace**.

(The congregational response is in bold letters)

Call to Worship the Sovereign God: Our Lord Jesus Christ said: Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; and you should love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the great and first commandment.

Opening / Processional Hymn:

Trisagion:
Holy God.
Holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us

Call to Justice & Peace: And the second commandment is: You should love your neighbour as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

Call to confession :

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us, but if we confess our sins, He who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come hear; repent, and believe in the good news.

Confession:
Merciful Father, we have gathered today in your name in great freedom. Yet we acknowledge not all our neighbours are free. We confess our tendency to live comfortably with injustice; we confess our use of liberty for personal gain and self-preservation; we confess our ignorance and apathy towards our neighbours who are vulnerable and abused. Forgive us, Lord Jesus, and transform us to be people who share your heart for justice. Amen.

Absolution:
May the Almighty and merciful God grant us pardon and remission for all our sins, time for amendment of life and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit, so that we may be able to do live a Godly, righteous, just and peaceful life. Amen.

Leader: "The Lord be with you"
Congregation: "**And with thy spirit**"

Collect: God of justice and peace, we praise you for your word that renews our mind in order that we may see as you see, and do as you do. We beseech you to make us channels of justice and peace in the midst of violence, exploitation and mistrust so that all may reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading: ISAIAH 58:1-14 (True and False Fasting)
Epistle Reading: 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-19 (The rich in this present age)
Special song or recital:
Gospel Reading: LUKE 16:19-13 (Rich man and Lazarus)

SERMON:

Nicene Creed: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Announcements.

Offertory.

Intercessory Prayers:
On this Reformation Sunday, and the celebration of Your sovereignty, justice and peace, our hearts are saddened when we hear of men, women and children deceived, transported to unknown places, forced into prostitution or other forms of labour for the financial gain of their owners. We cry out against this degrading practice of slavery and pray for it to end. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
Deliver victims of slavery today, O God, from their perpetrators' hands. And protect those sent to rescue them, as they seek to be the light in places of such darkness. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
God of Grace, we pray for the restoration of survivors, as they adjust to new lives in freedom. Thank you God that you are able to restore us in spite of our brokenness. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
We pray for your wisdom in the conviction of criminals, so that the abusers are held accountable for their actions. We pray that they would repent of their crimes and come to know you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
Almighty God, we pray for those in leadership and positions of authority in our world who can reform the justice systems, so that the rights and dignity of all people can be ensured in the future. Help them work together so that violence and abuse can be prevented, before ever happening in the first place.
Lord, in your mercy,
accept these prayers for the sake our your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer of Response:
Father, thank you that in the beginning you set in place an ordained structure purposefully designed so that the human race could flourish within it.
You created justice and you love justice.
We recognise that it is because of our rebellion that this God-given structure has been broken.
Father, forgive us.
At the cross, divine justice and divine mercy met, embodied in Christ. You came to proclaim good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoners and set the oppressed free.
Thank you that you rescued us, Father. Thank you for the hope and freedom that you alone can bring. **In your name we pray that every yoke would be broken, that the bonds of wickedness would be loosened and the oppressed set free. We ask that you would strengthen justice systems and see the wicked removed from positions of authority. Raise up leaders who share your desire to speak on behalf of the defenceless. We surrender our own agendas and recognise your heart's cry for the marginalised. Break our hearts for what breaks yours and increase our capacity to love**.
You never stopped loving us in the face of our rejection and bitterness. Enable us to show the same grace that you have lavished on us to those who have abused their power and caused others harm. Increase our faith, that you can soften even the hardest of hearts. Let not the needy be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor be taken away. Make us instruments of your peace, and let your glory be over all the earth. Amen.

1st Benediction: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **Amen**.

The Breaking of the Bread may be continued after this.