

PRAYERS FOR ILLUMINATION (For Scripture Readers)

Before the congregation hears the weekly scripture readings, the Prayer of Illumination turns our attention to God to ask that we hear God's word in order to better know God's will for our lives. This time also allows a moment for the congregation to "get settled" and ready to hear God's written word.

Each scripture reader is asked to choose from among these prayers – or write or speak their own brief prayer – and to pray before reading the first reading.

1. Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word; and give us grace that we may clearly understand and freely choose the way of your wisdom; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
2. Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. **Amen.**
3. Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, **Amen.**
4. God, source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that our hearts and minds may be opened. **Amen.**
5. Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voices but your own, so that we may hear your Word and also do it; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
6. Gracious God, give us humble, teachable and obedient hearts, that we may receive what you have revealed, and do what you have commanded. **Amen.**
7. Since we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth, make us hunger for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**
8. O Lord, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, and strength to follow on the path you set before us; through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**
9. Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Make us hungry for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**
10. Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

11. Gracious Lord, like Nicodemus, we come to the word with many questions. Like the Pharisees, we can be captivated by correctness, intent on right answers. As we turn to your word, Spirit of God, do not let our desire for information dominate our need for transformation. Let us hear the word and be moved to greater faith and obedience. **Amen.**
12. God of mercy, you promised never to break your covenant with us. Amid all the changing words of generation, speak your eternal Word that does not change. Then may we respond to your gracious promises with faithful and obedient lives; through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**
13. Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**
14. O Lord, on this Sunday of Transfiguration, we pray that your light would pour over these pages and illumine these old, old words – that they would dance with newness in our hearts and minds, that we would be radiant in reflecting your Word in our living and serving one another. **Amen.**
15. O God, your Word is more precious than fine gold, and sweeter than purest honey. As we turn to your Scripture, send your Holy Spirit to infuse your Word with truth and grace – so that the good news of your love would shine before our eyes and delight our senses...so that we cannot help but respond with wonder, faith and trust. **Amen.**
16. Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the Scriptures are read and the Word is proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts, and let all other words slip away. May there be one voice we hear today – the voice of truth and grace. **Amen.**
17. Holy God, Word made flesh, let us come to this word open to being surprised. Silence our agendas; banish our assumptions; cast out our casual detachment. Confound our expectations; clear the cobwebs from our ears; penetrate the corners of our hearts with this word. We know that you can, we pray that you will, and we wait with great anticipation. **Amen.**
18. Calm us now, O Lord, into a quietness that heals and listens. Open wounded hearts to the balm of your Word. Speak to us in clear tones so that we might feel our spirits leap for joy and skip with hope as your resurrection witnesses. **Amen.**
19. Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. **Amen.**