

Prayers for Illumination

Loving God,
you have so made us that we cannot live by bread alone,
but by every word that proceeds from your mouth.
Give us a hunger for your Word,
and in that food, satisfy our daily need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Almighty God,
you built your church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
with Jesus Christ himself as the cornerstone.
Join us together by their teaching so that we may be a holy temple
in whom your Spirit dwells;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

God of Courage, be in our speaking.
Be also in our listening,
and speak to our souls' deep understanding.
In Christ's name we pray.
Amen.

Mother of all Wisdom, and Father of Surprise,
your thoughts are not our thoughts,
nor are your ways our ways.
Where we are closed,
open us with your Word,
that we might recognize the Christ and follow.
Amen.

We are hungry, Lord,
for truth,
for justice,
for love.
Nourish us this day with better food
than we could ever purchase, engineer or manufacture,
your Word,
your love,
your Spirit,
your daily bread for our life's journey,
in the company of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

In the beginning was the Word.
And the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
For the Word of God written,
for the Word of God proclaimed,
for the Word of God made flesh,
Alpha and Omega, we give you thanks.
May that everlasting Word be written on our hearts this day.
Amen.

O Great Spirit,
move among us,
within us,
and around us if necessary,
that your Kingdom might come and your will be done,
according to your living Word this day.
Amen.

God of all creation,
send your Holy Spirit among us this day,
that the seed of your Word might take root in our hearts,
and bear the fruits of peace, love, and justice for all.
Amen.

Come Holy Spirit!
Come with the power of a great wind,
to clear out the cobwebs of our hearts,
or come stealthily, as close as our own breathing,
to whisper your truth into the silence of our lives.
However you come, come with the power to change us
that we might truly become the body of Christ in the world.
Amen.

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
to know your truth and your way.
Amen.

Shine within our hearts, loving God,
the pure light of your divine knowledge,
and open the eyes of our minds and hearts
that we may understand and embrace the message
of the Scripture.
Amen.

Nurturing God,
we are hungry for Good News.
Let the heavenly food of scripture nourish us today
in the ways of eternal life,
through Jesus Christ,
the bread of heaven.
Amen

God of mercy,
you promised never to break your covenant with us.
In the midst of the multitude of words in our daily lives,
speak your eternal Word to us
that we may respond to your gracious promises
with faithfulness, service and love.
Amen.

Living God,
help us so to hear your Word that we may truly understand;
that, understanding, we may believe;
and believing, we may follow your way in all faithfulness,
seeking your honor and glory in all that we do.
Amen.

Gracious God,
give us humble, teachable, and obedient hearts,
that we may receive what you have revealed,
and do what you have commanded.
Make us hunger for your word,
that it may nourish us in the ways of eternal life.
Amen.

God our helper,
show us your ways and teach us your paths.
By your Holy Spirit,
open our minds that we may be led in your truth
and taught your will.
Then may we praise you by listening to your Word
and by obeying it.
Amen.

Lord our God,
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,
that we may be obedient to your will
and live always for your glory.
Amen.

Almighty God,
in you are hidden all 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.
Amen.

God of mercy,
you promised never to break your covenant with us.
Amid all the changing words of our generation,
may we hear your eternal Word that does not change.
Then may we respond to your gracious promises
with faithful and obedient lives.
Amen.

Blessed Lord,
who caused the scriptures to be written for our learning,
grant us so to hear them that we may embrace
and ever hold fast the hope of eternal life.
Amen.

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 your peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prepare our hearts, O God,
to accept your Word.
Silence in us any voice but your own,
that, hearing, we may also obey your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

God,
tell us what we need to hear,
and show us what we ought to do
to obey Jesus Christ.
Amen.

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.

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.

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 we do;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Almighty and ever-living God,
increase in us your gift of faith,
that, forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to that which is before us,
we may travel the way of your promise and will,
and so live in your eternal joy;
through Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Almighty God,
your grace is poured into our hearts
as our lives are joined to Christ
and by the work of your Spirit in us.
Speak your word to us today,
that we may not be fearful,
but eagerly put your gifts to work,
and so enter the joy you have prepared in our Lord Jesus.
Amen.

Ever-loving God,
whose Word is life,
and whose touch brings healing and salvation,
make your Word real to us now.
Speak your presence in our hearts and lives,
that we may know the reality of your grace,
and bear it to others in your name.
Amen.

God of light,
may the brightness of heaven
shine through the scriptures today,
and shine in us as we listen.
May your Spirit speak to us and teach us
to be citizens of your realm
that is coming into being among us.
Prepare us to come with joy
to the feast you have prepared,
through our Lord Jesus.
Amen.

Open our hearts and minds, O Lord,
by your Word and Spirit,
that we may see your light.
Send out your truth to light our path, O God,
and lead us, through Jesus Christ, your Son,
in whom we pray.
Amen

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.

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.

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.

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.

Prepare our hearts, O God,
to accept you 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.

Gracious God,
give us humble, teachable, and obedient hearts,
that we may receive what you have revealed,
and do what you have commanded.
Amen.

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.

Guide us, O God,
by your Word and Spirit,
that in your light we may see light,
in your truth find freedom,
and in your will discover your peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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.

God our helper,
by your Holy Spirit,
open our minds,
that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed,
we may be led into your truth and taught your will,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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.

God, source of all light,
by your Word you give light to the soul.
Pour out upon us the spirit of wisdom and understanding
that, being taught by you in Holy Scripture,
our hearts and minds may be opened to know the things
that pertain to life and holiness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

God of mercy,
you promised never to break your covenant with us.
Amid all the changing words of our 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Advent

O Christ who comes,
not only as the sweet babe in a manger,
but also as Messiah of justice,
baptizing with Spirit and fire,
may we hear the words of your prophet.
Let John's passionate voice
melt our hardened hearts and speak through us of the power of your coming.
This Advent, transform the dead branches of our apathy
into the good fruit of repentance.
May hostility give way to openness,
oppression to justice,
greed to generosity
and despair to hope.
We ask this through you,
whose coming is certain,
even if not always in the ways we imagine.
Amen.

Epiphany

Illumine your word by your Holy Spirit, O God.
Let your good news radiate from these pages;
Let your Epiphany grace
break into our hearts and minds.
Captivate all who hear these words,
that we might believe and obey,
in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.