PRAYERS FOR ILLUMINATION

Choose one of the following prayers that fits with your scripture reading and with the theme of the service.

Invite the congregation into the prayer with the words, “Let us pray…”

Holy and gracious God,
may your Holy Spirit give us
a spirit of wisdom and revelation,
so that, with the eyes of our hearts enlightened,
we may know the hope to which Christ has called us,
the riches of his glorious inheritance among us,
and the greatness of his power for those who believe.
Amen.

Eternal God, your Spirit inspired those who wrote the Bible
and enlightens us to hear your Word fresh each day.
Help us to rely always on your promises in Scripture.
In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit,
illumine the sacred page, we pray,
that our minds may be open to receive your Word,
our hearts taught to love it,
and our wills strengthened to obey it;
through Jesus 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
to know your truth and your way.
Amen.

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone.
Let the heavenly food of the scripture we are about to hear
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.

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.

Empty us, Great God, of all that prevents us from hearing what you want us to hear. Empty us of our preconceptions, our preoccupations and our prejudices. Empty us that we might be filled with your Spirit and your Word. Empty us that we might be filled for ministry and mission. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

O Fire Divine, go through my heart. O Light eternal, illuminate my soul. May we discover you in our loving, through the Spirit of Christ who abides in us. Amen.
Almighty God,
through your only Son you overcame death
and opened to us the light of eternity.
Enlighten our minds and kindle our hearts
with the presence of your Spirit,
that we may hear your words of comfort and challenge
in the reading of the scriptures,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, you know us better than we know ourselves.
As the scriptures are read, we will listen for your voice.
By your Spirit lead us out of our fears
and into the knowledge of your love,
through Jesus Christ, the Great Shepherd of our souls. Amen.

Spirit of the Living God,
free our minds from error,
teach our hearts the living words of Jesus,
and inspire our lips to share the Good News,
in the name of the blessed Holy Trinity. Amen.

O God,
Lover of humanity,
Joy of creation:
Pour out your Spirit on us
that we may hear your ancient words in a new key.
Inspire us to sing your praise
in every land and with every generation,
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

God, whom we know
through the scriptures and creation,
speak to us in this hour.
Show us the wisdom and joy of your ways
that we may know what is good and do what is right,
through Jesus Christ your Word. Amen.

Everlasting God,
whose tenacious love holds us:
make our hearts the house of your truth,
and make our minds the realm of your wisdom
so that our fellowship will become your dwelling place,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Send your Spirit among us, O God,
as we meditate on your love.
Prepare our minds to hear your Word,
move our hearts to embrace what we hear,
and strengthen our will to follow your way.
This we pray through Christ, our Savior. Amen.