**Opening Prayers**

*The first prayer or hymn of the service is of praise and adoration. Prayers of invocation, confession and supplication may be included, especially if the prayer of confession does not follow.*

1. Almighty God,

to you all hearts are open,

all desires known,

and from you no secrets are hidden:

cleanse the thoughts of our hearts

by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

that we may perfectly love you,

and worthily magnify your holy name;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

1. Holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

You chose to become one of us in Jesus Christ,

sharing our joy and sorrow,

manifesting your greatness in the child of the manger,

revealing your Lordship in the master

washing his disciples' feet,

showing forth your glory in the shame of the cross.

And so we praise you for your love

which is great enough to embrace the universe,

yet close enough to enter our hearts.

During our worship,

surprise us with your grace

that we, with the rest of the church

and the whole creation, may praise and adore you,

O God, our Creator and Redeemer.  **Amen**.

1. God of life,

we rejoice in your love

which has filled creation from the beginning

and which calls all life into being.

We praise you for Jesus Christ

who reveals most fully your loving purpose for all people.

We bless you for your Spirit

who draws all humanity

into the circle of your tender love.

Gracious God,

bless us with your presence

so that our worship and our lives

may be a true celebration of your love in Jesus Christ,

in whose name we pray.  **Amen.**

1. Was omitted online due to copyright see page 547.
2. Was omitted online due to copyright see page 548.