**Prayers for Illumination**

*A prayer for illumination may come before the first reading of Scripture. It is then not necessary to have another prayer before the sermon.*

Prepare our hearts and minds, O God,

to receive your Word.

Silence in us any voice but your own,

that, hearing, we may obey your will

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

Lord, open our hearts and minds

by the power of your Spirit

that we may hear your living Word

as the Scriptures are read and interpreted. **Amen.**

Speak to us, O Lord,

as you open to us the Scriptures

and interpret them to us for this day. **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.**

*Instead of a prayer for illumination, the Authority may be used in words such as:*

In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.