

## *Prayers from the Reformation*

Because it is a requirement that no one should come to the table of communion but with full trust in God's mercy, with a quiet conscience, if anyone knows he requires further comfort or counsel before going before the Lord, let him seek a Christian of God's Word and open his grief. Then the ministry of God's holy Word, together with spiritual counsel, can heal his conscience and prepare him to celebrate at the table of the Lord.

1. Minister: God spoke these words and said, I am the Lord your God: You should have no other gods before me.

People: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

M: You should not make yourself any idol, or the likeness of anything that is in heaven above or earth beneath, or in the water under the earth. You should not bow down to them, nor worship them: for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, and visit the sins of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, and show mercy unto the thousands who love me and keep my commandments.

P: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

M: You should not take the name of the Lord your God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless.

P: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

M: Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

P: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

M: Do not murder.

P: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

M: Do not commit adultery

P: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

M: Do not steal.

P: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

M: Do not bear false witness against your neighbor.

P: Lord, have mercy on us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

M: Do not covet your neighbor's house, his wife, his servant, his maid, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is his.

P: Lord, have mercy on us, and write all these, your laws, on our hearts.

2. Lord, through your help we come to your table. It is our duty to give you, Almighty God, our most humble and heart-felt thanks for giving your Son our Savior, not only to die for us, but also to be our spiritual food in this holy communion. This is a divine thing we do when we receive this gift worthily. It is a dangerous thing when we do it unworthily. We now consider the dignity of this holy mystery and ask that we may come holy and clean to such a heavenly feast, in the marriage garment required by you in holy Scripture, and be received as worthy guests of that holy table. This is a pledge of love. We continually thank you – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and we continually submit ourselves wholly to your holy will and pleasure. We ask to study and serve you in true holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives.

3. We that do truly and earnestly repent of our sins, that are in love and community with our neighbors, that intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God and walking in your holy ways; we draw near with faith and take this holy meal.
4. Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men – we acknowledge humbly our sins and weaknesses which we, from time to time, have indulged in. The memory of them grieves us. The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy on us, have mercy on us, have mercy on us most merciful Father. Grant that we may serve and please you in newness of life to the honor and glory of your name through Jesus Christ our Lord.
5. We are all here present, for the Lord Christ's sake. We could not refuse to come, being so lovingly called and bidden by you, Almighty God, yourself. How unkind it is, when we have prepared a feast for our friends and not one comes! How can we say we cannot commune with you – that we have worldly business to take care of? How can we say, "we are not worthy," when you yourself have chosen us? We cannot abstain from the Lord's Table and separate ourselves from our brothers and sisters who come to feast on the banquet of your most heavenly food.
6. The bread and cup are powerful for us. If we spiritually eat the flesh of Christ and drink his blood, then we dwell in Christ and Christ in us; we are one with Christ and Christ with us. Our broken bodies are made whole by his body, and our souls are made clean so that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.
7. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of your tender mercy gave your only Son: hear us, O mercifully Father, we most humbly ask you; grant that we are receiving this bread and wine in remembrance of Christ's death and passion so that we may be participators in his most blessed Body and Blood. His body and blood were given for us to preserve our bodies and souls. Let him be our sustenance in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.
8. Lord and heavenly Father, we your humble servants altogether desire you to accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving in your merciful goodness. We offer you ourselves, our souls and our bodies, to be a holy and lively sacrifice to you. We ask that we participants in this holy communion may be fulfilled with your grace.
9. Almighty and ever-living God, we most gratefully thank you, for you certainly do feed us who receive this holy mystery of bread and wine. Through them you assure us that we are the very members of the mystical body of your Son, which is the blessed community of all faithful people, and also heirs of your everlasting kingdom. We ask that you grant us grace that we can continue in this holy community and do all such good works you have prepared in advance for us to

- do. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, world without end, amen.
10. Glory to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only Son Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. You who take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. You who take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. You who sit at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy on us. For you only are holy, you only are the Lord, you only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father.
  11. The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with us always.
  12. Assist us mercifully, O Lord, with our prayers and incline our way (your servants) towards the advancement of salvation on this earth. Direct, govern, and make holy both our hearts and our bodies.
  13. We ask that you grant us the words from you we have heard today with our ears may through your grace be grafted in our hearts so that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living, to the honor and praise of your name.
  14. We do not presume to come to this your Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not even worthy to gather the crumbs under your Table. But you are the Lord whose very character it is to have mercy. Grant us, gracious Lord, to understand that we are chosen – that we belong here because you have made it so.
  15. Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know what we need before we ask, you know our blindness and lack of courage that keeps us from asking what we should. As we gather at your Table, we rely on you. We ask that you grant us your will for your glory.