

Opening prayer: Dear Lord, you are the God of mystery and power for whom the feeding of five thousand is like the bathing of an infant. Help us to behave in your power and in your love. Feed us with the spiritual food that will make our souls grow in faith. We ask this in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen!

Pastoral prayer: Gracious and merciful God, give us the grace and wisdom to truly repent of our sins. Inspire in the hearts of your servants, those affections and desires that will set aside and destroy the base imagings and sinful thoughts that conflict with the truth and goodness of our Lord Jesus Christ. Keep us to think on those things that are pure and true and lovely.

Free us from fascination with sin. Keep us from the allurements of this world. Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil. O Holy God, cause us to see the hurt and shame that accompanies and sin. Cause us to see the ugliness of lust and the ruthlessness of vice. Make us hate what is evil and love what is good.

Prompt within us, O God, a true reverence for righteousness. We do not pray only that we may do the right thing. We pray that we might be in such a right relationship with you, that we will honor what you honor, love what you love.

Hear our prayers O God, in the name of him who taught us to pray-