

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH—REFORMATION

Lord, our refuge and strength, we gather to worship and praise you for your ongoing work of reformation in your Church.

Lord, to you alone be glory.

God of grace, in unfathomable love you pitied sinners and sent your Son as our substitute to deliver us from sin, guilt, death, darkness, and despair.

For your grace, Lord, to you alone be glory.

By your grace you sent your Spirit to call us to repentance. Your powerful gospel rescued us from rebellion and fills us with faith in you, the true and living God.

For saving faith, Lord, to you alone be glory.

By your grace we are heirs of your eternal Word and trustees of the inspired Scriptures, through which you proclaim your saving truth to every generation. By the Scriptures you overthrew the darkness of those who perverted your teachings and restored to your church the message of salvation by grace alone.

For the Holy Scriptures, Lord, to you alone be glory.

In these last days, Lord Jesus Christ, protect your little flock. We are like sheep living among fierce wolves. Satan stalks us like a roaring lion. Defend us from false teachers who twist your Word to satisfy their latest longing.

For wisdom and watchfulness under attack, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Never in the history of the world has your Holy Word been so accessible. We lack only the zeal to treasure your restored truth with lives of faithful Bible study.

For the noble character to search the Scriptures daily, hear our prayer, O Lord.

As we celebrate the Reformation that restored your pure gospel to your Church, we also celebrate our common confes-

sion of the pure gospel in Word and sacrament.

For this unity of faith, we give you thanks, O Lord.

We remember the faithful confessors of this and former generations, who have passed down to us your Word of Truth.

For these faithful servants, we give you thanks, O Lord.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer.

In thanksgiving for the many and amazing blessings restored to you Church through Reformation, we now commit ourselves to your care.

Be our mighty fortress, our trusty shield and weapon, O Lord. Amen.