

A Prayer for the Congregation Written by Martin Luther

Dearest Jesus, our Redeemer and the Shepherd of our souls, We thank You that through Holy Baptism You have made us a member of Your body, the Church.

We ask You to bless most richly the congregation of saints of which You have called us to be a part of.

May Your Word always be purely preached and taught among us, and may we gladly hear and learn it and grow in knowledge of and love for You.

May Your Sacraments be given according to Your command, and may we always value most highly the forgiveness of sins and eternal life You give us through them. Work in us love and respect for our pastor.

Help us to uphold him and his family in prayer and obey him as Your under-shepherd, so that with joy he may fulfill the task You have given him of guarding our souls.

Prepare us through his ministry to use the gifts You have given each of us in service to others, that Your body might be built up.

Keep far from us pride and dissension.

Help us, without jealousy, to value the diverse gifts You have given our brothers and sisters.

Teach us to weep with and support those who suffer and to rejoice with those who rejoice. Call, gather, and enlighten many others to travel with us on the journey to heaven, where You together with the Father and the Holy Spirit are worshiped by saints and angels, now and forever. Amen