

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Lord, we are a people with questions on our minds and in our hearts. We wonder who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? Your scriptures proclaim the answer, only the righteous. We know the commandments. We can memorize them. We can recite them forwards and backwards. We can inscribe them on monuments and use them in a hundred different ways. In our hearts we know that you gave them to us as guidelines to live by. Your scriptures proclaim that anyone whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous is welcome on your holy hill. Yet Lord, we confess that we are better at noticing another's faults than accepting our own. We confess that we prefer to blame someone else, anyone else than to admit our own failures. Lord you call us to speak the truth and to proclaim the good news of your gospel. We confess that we are reluctant to speak out. That we offer the world a weak witness at best. Lord, we pray for your forgiveness. We also pray that you will strengthen us, encourage us, and guide us as we seek to become the people you have created us to be. In Christ Jesus' name, Amen.