

## **Prayer for the Persecuted Church**

Lord Jesus Christ, the head of the Church, look with compassion on those who courageously confess your Name, even in hostile circumstances, and, in so doing, arouse the wrath of Satan and the forces of evil that do his bidding. Strengthen those whose faith is put to the test and enable them to remain steadfast in their confession, even as they remain blameless in their lives. Frustrate the plans of those who inflict persecution on your children so that they will not hinder the spread of your saving Word. Turn the hearts of their persecutors so that they will be won over by the powerful working of your Spirit, and the godly example of those who patiently bear the cross of suffering for your name's sake. Instill in our own hearts a deep sense of gratitude for the religious freedoms we enjoy. Let us never abuse those blessings, but in godly fear and piety shine forth as lights in a world that prefers to live in darkness. Hear us, we pray, for the sake of your saving love. Amen.