

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
EASTER 2 7 APRIL, 2024

L We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one. So let us come to the Father in the name of Jesus, to pray for all we need.

Each petition will conclude: God and Lord,
Congregation Response **fill us with your Spirit of life.**

Petitions

* Dear Father God, before your dear Son Jesus ascended into heaven 50 days after Easter, he promised his followers, “I will be with you always to the end of the age.” Now, 2000 years later, your promise still stands sure. So, whenever we feel alone or afraid, reassure us, Jesus, that you are right beside us, loving, strengthening, and encouraging us as we journey through life.

God and Lord, **fill us with your Spirit of life.**

* Loving Jesus, you welcomed and blessed the little children in spite of the disciples’ impatience. We pray your special blessing on the students and staff of Holy Trinity Lutheran College, and Nhill and Dimboola Lutheran Schools. May your Holy Spirit lead and guide everyone involved in the amalgamation process. Help the light of Jesus to be reflected in all decisions and outcomes, so your name is glorified.

God and Lord, **fill us with your Spirit of life.**

* Heavenly Father, we rejoice with two families today: Simon and Rebecca and their children Charles and Eva Foster, and also with Heath and Kelsey Kelm and their son Luca, as they celebrate their baptismal birthdays. Bless these families, Lord, and help the parents to regularly share Bible stories, prayers, and songs with their children, as Jesus has commanded us to do, so they grow in your love.

God and Lord, **fill us with your Spirit of life.**

* Lord of the Church, we pray for the LCA NZ Way Forward process. You have gone before us and made a pathway for your church. Help us to follow the Holy Spirit’s guidance along the way you have planned. We do know that you want us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and be his witnesses to the world around us. Therefore, in these discussions let our words always be full of grace and wisdom, so that your name is honoured at all times.

God and Lord, **fill us with your Spirit of life.**

* Dear God, we thank you for school holidays and the opportunity for rest and refreshment. Please bless all families and staff and keep them safe during this special time.

God and Lord, **fill us with your Spirit of life.**

* Dear Lord, we pray for the Horsham community and all who are blessed to live in this area. Inspire all our leaders in church, healthcare, policing, and community positions, and help them to use Godly wisdom so they serve faithfully to encourage all citizens.

God and Lord, **fill us with your Spirit of life.**

Concluding Prayer

L God of life, show us the risen Lord through your life-giving Spirit, so that we may be filled with faith to do the work you have given us to do. We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**