

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
EASTER 4 21 APRIL, 2024

L As sheep trust their shepherd for guidance and protection; let us turn to our God in prayer, certain that he hears our voice for the sake of Jesus Christ his Son.

Each petition will conclude: Lord, hear the voice of your sheep,
Congregation response: **as we cry to you for help.**

Petitions

Jesus Christ, our loving Shepherd, and leader of your people. We give thanks and pray for all pastors, but especially for those of our LCANZ. Keep them faithful and true to your Word, using it to guide their thoughts and teaching. Protect them in their work and give them the needed strength to remain passionate about their ministry. May they serve diligently, as a trusted shepherd to their flocks. We pray that our pastors feel supported by their members so that all work harmoniously together, for the continued growth of your kingdom.

Lord, hear the voice of your sheep,
as we cry to you for help.

Father God, we bring before you all in authority, and particularly those who rule or govern. Help them to lead conscientiously and guide them with your wisdom. Help them to be compassionate, humble, and honest, always seeking the best for the people they serve. We also pray for unity among our leaders so that they may work for the common good in our communities. May we also show respect and support those in authority.

Lord, hear the voice of your sheep,
as we cry to you for help.

Heavenly Father, we pray for your blessing and provision for our congregation and Sunnyside Retirement Home. Thank you for the many faithful members of our congregation, and for those who serve willingly and selflessly in many and varied ways. Bless the work of our members so that their endeavours help promote the growth of our church family. Continue to also guide and safeguard the staff at SLRV, so that they are enabled to work happily and tirelessly for the residents in their care.

Lord, hear the voice of your sheep,
as we cry to you for help.

Gracious God, we thank you for the youth and children in our church family. We especially pray and seek your blessing for those preparing for their 'Growing Faith. May they be encouraged by their families and friends to continue and grow in their faith journey. We ask that they may experience a closer relationship with Jesus and enjoy their time with their leaders and other group members. Keep these young adults and their families safe in all they do.

Lord, hear the voice of your sheep,
as we cry to you for help.

Dear Saviour, as we approach Anzac Day, we pay tribute to the men and women who serve or have served in the armed forces. We remember those who have given their lives for freedoms that we now enjoy, and for their bravery and selfless service. We also seek your protection for those who sustained injury in mind or body in the course of their duty. Comfort those who grieve the loss of loved ones serving their country. Be with all who continue to serve in the forces and if it is your will, preserve the lives of the men and women in uniform. Bless them and their families and grant them your loving care.

Lord, hear the voice of your sheep,
as we cry to you for help.

Almighty God, our nation has been shocked with the recent tragedy at the Bondi Junction shopping centre. We ask that you comfort all those who mourn the loss of a family member or friend. Give them the strength to adjust and continue life and routines without their loved ones. Protect and be with the injured and give them patience in returning to better health. We also ask for your blessing on the emergency service and medical personnel involved in this event and may affected shoppers and staff find help and support following their ordeal. Bring gradual healing and peace to this shopping area and community.

Lord, hear the voice of your sheep,
as we cry to you for help.

Concluding Prayer

- L** Lord God, may we and all people hear your voice, and be gathered into the one flock of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**