

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
EPIPHANY 1 **7 JANUARY 2024**

L As God's dear children through holy baptism, let us pray to our loving Father
 in heaven, trusting that he will hear us in his mercy.

Each petition will conclude: Lord, in your mercy,
Congregation response: **hear the prayers of your children.**

Petitions

Creator God, you brought your light into the world the very first day of creation. Thank you for the light we have around us, and for all the blessings it brings. Above all, we thank you for the light you brought into our lives through our baptism, by removing the darkness of sin and filling us with your Holy Spirit. Help us to remember these blessings every day and for the forgiveness you give. Keep us strong in our faith and our trust in you, always ready to speak of your love as we live in your grace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear the prayers of your children.**

We thank you, loving Father, for the children who have been brought to faith through their baptism during the past year. We pray for their parents. Strengthen their faith and help them to be role models by living their faith every day and nurturing these precious ones in their faith. Remind the godparents and congregational sponsors of their responsibility to fulfil their promise of love and encouragement. Surround all children with supportive people who will be there to guide and help them through any difficult times.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear the prayers of your children.**

Now that we are into the New Year, we realise staff and committees will be making plans for Holy Trinity Lutheran College to take them into the year ahead. Help them to focus on the foundation of the school – your Holy Word – as they work together to build each other up and maintain high standards. Help them to find ways to minister to the needs of each child as they rely on your guiding Spirit. Thank you for the blessings of the past year and help us all to look confidently to the year ahead.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear the prayers of your children.**

Give us grateful hearts, Lord, to show our love by serving you and those around us. Fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we respond to the needs of others with willing and gracious hearts. Thank you for all who volunteer to serve here at Holy Trinity. There are so many opportunities to serve, some more challenging than others. We pray that any vacant positions on committees will be filled and we as members value all that others do to assist in the well-being of the congregation and community.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear the prayers of your children.**

Concluding Prayer

L Father, you have sustained your whole church in faith by freely giving your
 Holy Spirit. Keep us in the power of your Spirit, so that we may always live with the freedom
 that comes from trusting your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and
 the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**