

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
EPIPHANY 2 **14 JANUARY 2024**

L Jesus has called us to follow him. So let us follow where he leads us, and pray to God our Father for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Each petition will conclude: Lord God, in your grace,
Congregation Response: **hear our prayer.**

Petitions

- * Lord Jesus, as You called the disciples to follow, to learn and then to go, we pray that You would continue to call people into the ministry of the church. Guide and direct the teaching and training of all people who heed the call to become shepherds for our congregations.
 Lord God, in your grace, **hear our prayer.**

- * Father God, your blessings of creation are all around us to bless us with all that we need for this life on earth. This year there is continuous changes to the weather pattern – meaning we have had lots of rain. In many places flood damage has occurred and houses damaged. Be with those who have been affected by the continuous wet weather --- the people who clean up the rubbish, those who are unable to live in their houses, and aid organisations who provide meals, clothing, and support during the recovery time.
 Lord God, in your grace, **hear our prayer.**

- * Holy Spirit, thank you for keeping us in the faith of our baptism, and for growing the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Be with those new to faith and call back all those who have strayed from the path of following of Jesus. Help us to be friends with all who come to be part of our congregation.
 Lord God, in your grace, **hear our prayer.**

- * Lord God, you have placed us in congregations within the Lutheran Church of Australia New Zealand. Help us to support the leaders through prayer, offerings and being active in all the ways that give glory to You. There are many plans and meetings for this year's convention meeting. Bless the Way Forward for LCA NZ
 Lord God, in your grace, **hear our prayer.**

- * Gracious Father, you have given us children and instructed us to teach them to Your glory and the good of all people. Be with our schools as another academic year begins. For Holy Trinity Lutheran College, we pray for blessings for new teachers and all staff preparing for another new year; for Principal Jason Przibilla on his installation 4 February and that the college community of students, parents, staff, and volunteers to work together for a year of growing, learning, and achieving.
Lord God, in your grace, **hear our prayer.**

Concluding Prayer

- L Lord God, since you have called us and received us as your disciples, keep us true to our calling. Build us up in trust in you, and in love towards each other, until we finally see you face to face. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**