

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
EPIPHANY 3 **21 JANUARY 2024**

L Let's come to our Father in repentance and trust, and ask him to hear the prayers we offer in Jesus' name.

Each petition will conclude: Lord, our hope is in you;

Congregation response: **hear our prayer.**

Petitions

Dear Father,

We ask you to give strength and guidance to those of your children who spread your Gospel in our community, our country and beyond our shores. Encourage them in their sometimes difficult and challenging work and move us to pray for them, encourage them and help them in any way we can. Grow your Spirit in each of us so we may be moved to share to the joys of our lives in Christ, with those we meet.

Lord, our hope is in you; **Hear our prayer.**

Our Lord in Heaven

We have so much to be thankful for in our lives. So many of us have food, shelter, employment, family, and material possessions with which you blessed us. Most of all we live in a peaceful country in which we are free to worship you and live lives true to our faith, where we can be a blessing to you and to others. As Australia Day approaches Lord help us to celebrate the many blessings you have bestowed upon us. As bearers of your image help us to bring peace and hope to what can be a difficult time for our country.

Lord, our hope is in you; **Hear our prayer.**

Lord God,

Our country can be a harsh place at times and natural events can bring heartbreak and challenges to our lives and the lives of those around us. We pray particularly for those people and communities who are affected by fire and flood throughout our country. Give them strength to endure these difficult times and give to them your peace knowing that, as the Lord of love, you share in our hardships. Be with the government, emergency services and welfare agencies as they seek to help these communities and strengthen these communities as they seek to help one another.

Lord, our hope is in you; **Hear our prayer.**

Lord of the universe,

Be with all those families who are travelling throughout the next few weeks. We ask that you give all road users patience and care for one another as they share the country's roads. Please help all families return safely to their homes after time away on holidays, protect them so none may have to experience the trauma of losing loved ones through road accidents. We ask especially that you be with Pastor Hans and his family as they enjoyed some well-earned time away. Thank you for bringing them safely back to Horsham after their family holiday.

Lord, our hope is in you; **Hear our prayer.**

Dear God,

We pray for the students, parents, staff, and leadership of Holy Trinity Lutheran College as they prepare for a new school year in the coming weeks. We trust that you have blessed them all with rest and relaxation over the holidays and that they return recharged and ready for the joys and challenges of 2024. Be especially with the reception students and other new students as they experience the nerves and excitement of starting a new school. Strengthen and encourage all staff as they seek to do your work through their chosen vocation.

Lord, our hope is in you; **Hear our prayer.**

Concluding Prayer

L Lord, you have called us to follow your Son in repentance and trust. By your Holy Spirit strengthen us when we are weary, fill us with hope when we despair, and give us your light when we walk in darkness, for you alone are our rock and salvation. 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.**