

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**  
**EPIPHANY 4**                      **28 JANUARY 2024**

L        Our Lord Jesus Christ speaks with authority, so that even the unclean spirits obey him. Let us pray to our heavenly Father in Jesus' name.

*Each petition will conclude:*        Lord, in your mercy,

*Congregation response:*    **hear our prayer.**

Petitions

Almighty God, Creator of the universe, today we bring your church here on earth before you as we struggle to be a force in a world that ignores who you are and is intent on quashing your work to bring others into your fold. Strengthen our faith and enable us to be bold in doing your work and speaking of you to those we meet each day. Grant us wisdom and discernment so we can conduct ourselves in a way that is pleasing to you and that helps our fellow citizens.

*Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.***

Loving God, ruler of all,

We bring all those in authority before you many of whom do not see you as their Lord and Creator. We know you can work through such people and governments so that the greater good of your beloved children can be achieved. We pray that King Charles will follow in his mother's footsteps and develop a deep faith in you alone rather than follow the popular idea of including many gods. We pray for our Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, our Premier Jacinta Alan and our local government officials who make important decision each day about how our country should be run. Guide their thoughts and ideas so that the greater good is considered and followed.

*Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.***

Kind and patient God,

Our world is endeavouring to cope with many disasters at this time. Some are dealing with floods yet again in a very short space of time. Many are dealing with ongoing war and its consequences. Send caring, brave workers into these areas who can make a real difference in the lives of those suffering loss, fear, and devastation. We pray you will be able to use these difficult times to grow a sustaining faith in these suffering people when all hope seems lost.

*Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.***

Sustaining God,

May your guiding hand be upon our Lutheran College and its staff and students as they commence a new year of learning and interaction. We pray especially for Jason Przibilla as he takes on the very important role of Acting Principal this year. There are many decisions both big and small to be made every day. We pray you give him, wisdom, and guidance so that the school can be a place of peace and joy as well as a place of learning and growth. Enable Jason to have time for his growing children and his wife Amanda also as they support each other in the important tasks they have, before them. Give your peace and courage to those students who will be new to our school this year and may be feeling nervous about making new friends. Surround them with caring and kind students and teachers so their transition is smooth and easy.

*Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.***

Concluding prayer

L Lord, only you can deliver us from evil, and keep us walking in your saving light. Let us always love and walk with you, so that we may live wisely, and continually join with the whole church on earth and the hosts of heaven as they praise you forever. Hear our prayers for the sake of Jesus in whose dear name we pray.

C **Amen.**