

Prayer of the Church Sunday 15th August, 2021 Year B

Loving Father: thank you that your Son is the Word who became flesh to dwell among us as our Saviour and Lord. Bind your whole church on earth together as one body in Christ and keep us united in him. Lead us by your Holy Spirit to feed on the Word everyday and strengthen us in faith and love to live as members of the body of your Son. *Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Continue to give life to the world from day to day. Restrain all that is false and wrong, and promote all that is true and good. Give wisdom and skill to all government leaders and world powers, especially as they respond to the pandemic. *Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Sanctify the church on earth. Purify her belief and teaching. Fill her with the presence of Christ in word and sacrament, and bless her presence in the world as the body of Christ. Fill us with a strong sense of our own identity and purpose as the body of our Lord, and so bless our daily life and work. *Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Have mercy on peoples and countries damaged by disease and violence, and bring order, justice and peace. Fill the nations given plenty with generous hearts to help and support those with little. And give success to the work of Australian Lutheran World Service both here and overseas. *Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Thank you for the gift of marriage as a reflection of the union of Christ with the church. Fill all married couples with loyalty to one another, and preserve marriage in our community. *Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Have mercy on those who are sick, injured or in any other distress. Support those who are caring for them, and bind them together in gentle love and firm faith in Christ. Fill the needs of all in want, including Dave Hermann, Ross Christiansen, and others near and dear to us whom we now name silently in our hearts... *(brief silence)* *Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Loving Father, you have called us to be wise in the way we live. Hear our prayers and encourage us to continue to pray to you and sing your praises as a witness to your grace. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**