

Prayer of the Church – *Christmas 1C*

The word of the prophets has been fulfilled: the Lord has come to his temple. Let us pray to God who is here with us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord God, heavenly Father, you have made us glad through the birth of your Son and the celebration of Christmas this year. We pray that the your word may be fruitful in all who have heard it and will hear it proclaimed at this festival time, and that you will send out workers to gather in your harvest. *Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer***

As your Son grew in wisdom and grace before you and all people, help all the children and young people of the church to learn your word and call upon you in prayer. Protect them from the evil one, and help them make the faith they have received their own. Be with parents as they seek to pass on the faith in an unbelieving environment. Give them grace to persevere in this calling. *Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer***

We give you thanks for our land and the blessings we receive from it. Bless and guide our leaders: our Prime Minister and all who serve in our federal and state parliaments. May they promote justice and goodness, both for this generation and for the future. Grant all Australian citizens a will to serve their community, a dissatisfaction with bare materialism, and a spiritual hunger that only your Son can satisfy. *Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer***

Have mercy on the nations of the world, and all places that suffer violence, natural disasters, and daily hardship. May good people and peacemakers prosper. May evil doers repent, before they perish. *Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer***

Lord, we commend to you those in need: David Hermann, Valerie Naguib, Rae Sawade, and all those among us who are sick, dying or distressed, and whom we now name before you in our hearts. Let the light of Christmas shine into their hearts, that they may accept your fatherly will with peace and joy. Comfort those who mourn the passing of loved ones. *Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer***

God our Father, we give you thanks for all you have done for us. Hear our prayers, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**