

Prayer of the Church - Sunday 21 March, 2021 - Lent 5B

Our Lord Jesus Christ is our high priest, and he stands at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us. Let us pray to the Father, knowing that he listens to us for Jesus' sake.

Dear Lord God Heavenly Father: we thank you that your Son was lifted up upon the cross for us. We pray that all people would be drawn to him, so that they may see and believe that his is indeed the Christ and Saviour of the world.

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

We pray for all the baptised. Lead us in repentance that we may daily die to sin and rise to new life with Christ in the power of the Spirit. Help us face death in the certain hope of resurrection, confident that we will be raised up together with all who have died in Christ.

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

We pray for all those who are sick and in need for healing, especially those we name silently in our hearts. We pray for the dying, those who mourn the death of loved ones, and those who work with the dying as they walk with those in the shadow of the valley of death.

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

We pray for those who battle alcoholism and drug addiction, and those who work with them. May your transformative power bring new life for them, and help us never to place stumbling blocks in their way.

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

Guide the rulers of the world and especially our Federal and State Governments. We pray that our elected officials will serve their constituents faithfully. Be at work through our leaders, so that at all times and in all matters your perfect will may be done.

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

Bless your universal church. Support those who are persecuted for your name's sake. Uphold all the pastors of the Lutheran Church of Australia and be with all parishes who do not have a pastor at this time and those going through the call process. Encourage those studying for public ministry and those considering the call to become pastors.

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

Heavenly Father, your Son descended into the grave like a grain of wheat, but you glorified him by raising him up to life. Restore us to life, so that we may serve you in the world; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.