

PRAYER PETITIONS

You are encouraged to use some of these prayers in congregational worship, in your family and private devotion time, and whenever you meet with each other about the Way Forward project.

Heavenly Father, through your living, Spirit‐filled word you guide your people into all truth and bring glory to your Son. Send us your Spirit of truth, that He may guide our bishops, pastors, theologians, teachers, and all your people as they consider the way forward for the Lutheran Church of Australia and New Zealand in the matter of the ordination of women to the office of the holy ministry. Give us hearts and minds which are devoted to you. Give us that unity of purpose which brings glory to you.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Lord, we thank you for the congregations of the Lutheran Church across Australia and New Zealand. Give encouragement and strength to all church leaders as they seek to serve you in their community. We pray especially for those nominated to serve as delegates to 2024 General Convention. Strengthen them with power in their inner being and enable them to be supported by the prayers of God’s people, so that they may know how wide and long and high your love is.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Lord, you have taught us that, without love, all our doings are worthless. Send us your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts the gift of love. Help us not to envy, boast, be proud, rude, or self‐seeking, be easily angered, remember wrongs, or delight in evil. Help us, rather, to be patient and kind, to rejoice with the truth, to bear, trust, hope, and endure all things. When we fall, raise and restore us by your love in Jesus Christ.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

God, from whom all holy desires, all good purposes, and all right works proceed: give to your servants that peace which the world cannot give. Defend us from the fear of our enemies, and set our hearts to obey your commandments, so that we may live on earth in rest and quietness.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Almighty and everlasting God, you want all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the Truth. Grant us your Holy Spirit, so that as we consider and debate various aspects of the office of the holy ministry, we may not be a cause of offence to the unbelieving world by our disagreement with each other. Give us love for you and your word which shows itself in love for one another, so that the world may believe in your Son.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Heavenly Father, we thank you for giving us your own Son, who has promised that where two or three are gathered in your name, he is with us. Thank you that we are reconciled to you by his precious blood, and to each other, as your forgiven and restored children. Be our refuge and strength, and minister to us now your peace, which the world can neither give, nor take away, that we may be at peace with one another.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Dear Father in heaven, we give thanks to you that you have chosen us be your people and made us holy through the love shown in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through your Holy Spirit grow in us the good fruits of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Enable us to bear with one another in the matter of ordination, and make us quick to forgive one another, as we have been forgiven by you. Above all, inspire us to love one another deeply, from the heart, so that we may live in the unity that you have given us.

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

Heavenly Father, you have made us your own through baptism into Christ: help us to press on in faith and holy living.

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

You call us to be still before you: help all Christian families caught up in the busyness of life to pray together.

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

Dear Father in heaven, we give thanks to you that you have given us your Spirit of wisdom and revelation. Teach us to know you better and enlighten our hearts so that we are filled with hope. Thank you for the inheritance of eternal life in which all your people share and remind us of the mighty power you exert through your Son Jesus Christ for the sake of your church, and for the healing of the nations.

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

Dear Father in heaven, we thank you for calling your church into being through the saving work of your Son, Jesus Christ. We thank you that he prays for us, that we might be one, and you and your Son are one. We thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit, pouring out your love into our hearts. Thank you that your Spirit intercedes for us with wordless groans. May you guide us as your pilgrim people along the path of truth and love.

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

Dear Father in heaven, we thank you for the gift of the office of the Public Ministry by which you serve your people with your saving word and life‐giving sacraments. Give us thankful hearts for those who serve us as pastors, and strengthen them in their preaching, care, leadership and public witness, that good news of your Son Jesus Christ will bring life and hope to all people.

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

Dear Father in heaven, help the church study your word with care and diligence as it seeks to know your will in the question of the ordination of women. Remove all mistaken zeal, religious pride, party spirit and divisiveness that would cloud the issue and damage your people and your witness to the world.

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

Dear Father in heaven, as we seek to walk together as brothers and sisters in Christ, please keep us in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Enable us to gather with gladness in Christian fellowship each Sunday, humbly listening to your word together, and coming as brothers and sisters to your table. Hold us together as your family, even while we robustly debate your word and seek your will.

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

Dear Father in heaven, through the cross of your Son, you have destroyed the dividing of hostility between people, and reconciled us all to you. As we struggle with our differences on the matter of ordination, fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, and the only one through whose saving work we are united as brothers and sisters together.

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

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, according to your bountiful grace, and support us with your continual help, so that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life.

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

God, you make all things work together for good to those who love you: Pour into our hearts such love toward you, that the pure desires which have been stirred up in us by your Spirit may not be spoiled by any temptation.

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

Lord, you have taught us that, without love, all our doings are worthless. Send us your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts the gift of love. Help us not to envy, boast, be proud, rude, or self‐seeking, be easily angered, remember wrongs, or delight in evil. Help us, rather, to be patient and kind, to rejoice with the truth, to bear, trust, hope, and endure all things. When we fall, raise and restore us by your love in Jesus Christ.

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

Father in heaven, you resist the proud and give grace to the humble. Grant us true humility like that which was revealed in your Son, that we may never become puffed up and provoke your wrath, but in all lowliness be made to share in the fruit of your Spirit.

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