**Prayer of the Church –** *Augsburg Confession*

*Jesus made his confession before Pontius Pilate. Our forebears made their confession before the world. Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.*

Loving Father, thank you that at times of great error in the church you have raised up reformers to bring your church back to the gospel. Continue to bless you church with pastors and teachers who can properly distinguish law and gospel so that your people may know the truth and receive salvation by your grace, for Christ's sake, through faith.

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

Bless all theological colleges and places of Christian learning. Bless Australian Lutheran College and those who teach and study there, and be with our church in central Australia - watch over the aboriginal pastors and evangelists there. Guide us all in our Christian walk so that we may live by the gospel, confident in your mercy, free of the law's condemnation, and eager to please you in all that we do.

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

Thank you for the confessional unity we have in the Lutheran Church of Australia, and keep us united in the faith. Bless our Bishop (insert name), guide our theology, and give us unity with Christians in other denominations on the basis of the gospel.

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

Keep us focused on Christ in our work here in this congregation (parish), dear Father. Provide us with sufficient finances, and bless all our groups and activities. Give us the leaders and helpers we need to carry out our ministry effectively.

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

Help those suffering injustice in this world, and bring the changes that are needed for the good of all. Uphold the rule of law so that evil may be curbed and the gospel spread. And have mercy on those who struggle with burdens of any sort, including those we know personally to be in need and whom we now name silently in our hearts*...(brief silence)*

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

Father, you are the only Ruler. You are the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Give us the courage to stand before the rulers of the world and to speak your word in the name of your beloved Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**.