

## Prayer of the church- *Epiphany 2, Year A*

*Paul reminds us of our true identity as God's holy people. We can therefore come into his presence and present our petitions and thanksgiving. So let us pray for the church, the world, and for those in need.*

Heavenly Father - thank you that Jesus showed himself to be the all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. We pray for the church, that it may follow the Lamb of God in sacrificial love and clear witness to the gospel.

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

Give us strength to participate in our congregational programs with joy and enthusiasm, privileged to be your instruments of care and witness. Bless our leaders as they plan and prepare for this New Year.

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

We pray for all in public office, and in particular our local members of parliament and council. Guide them to make right decisions for the good of all.

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

We pray for all professionals dealing with those in need - medical workers, social workers, emergency and relief services. Give them compassion for those they help, protect them if their work is dangerous and direct them in your will.

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

Thank you for the healing you bring through modern medicine. Bring the sick to good health, and assure them of your eternal love and the coming resurrection. Meet the needs of all people in want including (*insert names here*) and those we know and now name in our hearts... (*brief silence*)

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

Almighty Lord, you have called your church to witness to your reconciling love for the world in Christ Jesus; help us to be true to our calling and proclaim the good news of your love, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**