

The Prayer of the Church

There are so many things I'd like to say about the Prayer of the Church. But I want to focus on one thing, it is the prayer *of the church*. It's not the pastor's prayer, it's your prayer. That's why you answer each petition, "hear our prayer" or "Lord, have mercy," depending on which form we're using. So, listen to each petition and make it your own as you respond. And at the end, say a strong, clear "Amen," which means, "Yes, yes it shall be so," trusting God to answer your prayer.

Prayer

Father God, You have given us the gift of prayer and invited us to bring our requests to you as a church. Hear our prayer and have mercy on Your children, O Lord; we pray through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.