

PRIEST: Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again.  
Let us pray that we may be always ready to welcome him:

READER: **For the Church and its leaders, that it may be fully engaged  
in the task Christ has entrusted to it.  
May it be awake and alert for the coming of the Lord.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy**

READER: **For the peoples of the world and their leaders,  
that the promise of Christ's return may bring  
a new dawn of justice and peace among nations.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy**

READER: **For those in government and all who exercise authority,  
that they may be guided to work for the common good,  
especially for the powerless and voiceless in our society.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy**

READER: **For our own parish community, that the keeping of Advent  
may open our hearts to God's love and our Advent wreath may  
constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy**

READER: **For the bereaved and for all who are sick or suffering in any way  
that Christ's love for them will bring them comfort and strength.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy**

PRIEST: Gracious God,  
your patience with us is beyond our understanding.  
We place our prayers before you,  
trusting that you will hear and answer them,  
through Christ, our Lord.