PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

- PRIEST: Rejoicing that God will listen lovingly to our prayers we turn to him in all humility with our needs and the needs of our world:
- READER: For Francis our Pope and Declan our bishop, that they will continue to encourage the faithful to nurture their faith and grow in their love of God. (*pause*) Lord in your mercy
- READER: For all in government, that their leadership may be one of service rather than of control. (*pause*) Lord in your mercy
- **READER:** For all who are persecuted for their religious beliefs, that their rights may be respected and their voices heard. (*pause*) Lord in your mercy
- READER: For all of us gathered here, that our hearts may be open to the action of the Holy Spirit and our faith ignited and fanned into a flame. (*pause*) Lord in your mercy
- READER: For all who are sick or suffering, homeless or housebound, that they will know Christ's healing love. (*pause*) Lord in your mercy
- READER: For all who have died, that they may receive mercy and grace and rejoice forever in heaven. (pause) Lord in your mercy
- PRIEST: God our Father, you have made us your daughters and sons in Christ.

Open our hearts that we may hear more clearly your message of love and live more closely in accordance with your will. We ask this in his name, Christ our Lord. Amen.