

PRIEST: As we rejoice at the birth of Jesus, our Saviour,  
we turn with confidence to God our Father  
praying that the peace and light which Christ brings  
will be welcomed into the world:

READER: **For the Church, that the people of God will always be  
a light to the world for those who live in darkness.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy**

READER: **For peace on earth, that the peace which Christ offers  
will be a reality for all peoples.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy**

READER: **For all who are welcoming a new child into their family,  
that they may receive this gift of new life with joy  
and be blessed with patience, health and strength.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy**

READER: **For our own community,  
that our celebration of the birth of our Saviour  
will make us more aware of our unity in Jesus Christ.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy**

READER: **For the lonely, the bereaved, the sick,  
and all those who are suffering in any way,  
that the light of Christ will shine on them.**  
*(pause)*  
**Lord in your mercy**

PRIEST: God of love, Father of all,  
the darkness that covered the earth has given way  
to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh.

Make us a people of this light.  
Make us faithful to your Word,  
that we may bring your life to the waiting world.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
in the splendour of eternal light, God for ever and ever.