

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 our Holy Father, Pope Francis,
that the Lord will grant him health and strength
to continue to lead the Church forward.**
(pause)
Lord in your mercy

READER: **For the mission of the Church in our country,
that we may be true witnesses to the gospel,
both in word and in deed.**
(pause)
Lord in your mercy

READER: **For places where violence is used for political ends,
that the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin.**
(pause)
Lord in your mercy

READER: **For our own community that, in keeping Advent well,
our hearts may be opened to God's love.**
(pause)
Lord in your mercy

READER: **For the sick, the lonely and those who feel abandoned,
that God's face may shine upon them and bring them
healing, wholeness and peace.**
(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.