

**PRESIDER**

Dear friends, Mary's gracious visit to her cousin Elizabeth was filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit. Sharing their gladness and gratitude, let us pray for God's blessing on the world.

**READER**

We pray for the leaders of the world's great faiths, that together they will proclaim a powerful message of grace and peace for all humankind. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord

We pray for Catholic believers, that the opening of the Jubilee Year on Christmas Eve will call them to set out afresh as pilgrims of hope in our shadowed world. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord

We pray for women of spirit like Mary and Elizabeth, that their bold belief in God's saving power will inspire young and old alike to lives of daring faith. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord

We pray for the countless women around the world living under cruelly oppressive regimes, that their right to education, independence and freedom of expression will come to be respected. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord

We pray for those who carry grief in their hearts at this time of the year, that whatever sorrow afflicts them they will be comforted by the love of friends and the embrace of the community. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord

We pray for those who have died recently, . . . . , and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will be led by the Good Shepherd to the banquet of eternal life. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

**PRESIDER**

Faithful God, from the dawn of time you have watched over your people. Be with us always on our way through the seasons of our lives. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.