

This prayer service can be used as a closing ceremony for CRS Rice Bowl.

**Leader:**

During this Holy Week, we remember that Jesus endured the suffering and pain of Good Friday in order to give us eternal life with God. He loved us so much that he sacrificed, or gave up, his life for us so that we may live forever in God's kingdom. During Lent, we have imitated Christ's love for us by giving up things we enjoy and making sacrifices for the good of others.

**Reader 1:**

We **prayed** to thank God for the gifts he has given us, and asked for guidance to use our gifts to help our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

**Reader 2:**

We **fasted**, or gave up something that we did not need, to help us remember what was really important: our relationship with God. We fasted with our brothers and sisters who do not have enough to eat each day.

**Reader 3:**

We **gave** to our CRS Rice Bowls so that our sacrifices can help the poor around the world and in our own community.

**Leader:**

During Lent we followed six Stories of Hope from people we are helping through CRS Rice Bowl. Let's send our prayers to them and to all people in need. The response will be, "Lord, hear our prayer."

**Reader 1:**

We pray for Gertruda in Tanzania and for Habibou in Niger, that they may find meaningful work that allows them to provide for their families.

We pray to the Lord.

**Reader 2:**

We pray for Melvin in Nicaragua and Hamuli in the Democratic Republic of Congo, that their farms stay healthy and their harvests are abundant enough to provide for their families.

We pray to the Lord.

**Reader 3:**

We pray for Tanious' family in Lebanon and those in our own communities without a home, food or livelihood.

We pray to the Lord.

*Invite students to bring their CRS Rice Bowls forward to a common collection space.*

**Leader:**

As we end our Lenten journey, we pray that these, our Lenten sacrifices, may be an offering of solidarity and a promise of continued work on behalf of the poor and vulnerable. As good stewards of your many gifts, may we always remember to love our neighbors as ourselves, and that wherever we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty or clothe the naked, we are encountering the risen Christ.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen