

PRAYER SERVICE to End Lent

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

Reader 1: We **pray** for Maria in Colombia, that she may continue the meaningful work of cultivating fair trade coffee, and that we may all find ways to care for the most vulnerable and poor of our world. We pray to the Lord.

Reader 2: We pray for Hongkham, her family and the students in her community, that they receive the nutrition they need to flourish and the education they need to build a better future. We pray to the Lord.

Reader 3: We pray for Vaviroa and her family in Madagascar, that their harvests are abundant enough to provide for her family and community. In a special way, we keep in mind our call to care for all of creation, knowing that we are stewards of the earth. We pray to the Lord.

*Invite students to place their
CRS Rice Bowls in the collection basket.*

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 whenever 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