

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 walk with Jesus and remember that Jesus endured the suffering and pain of Good Friday in order to give us eternal life with God. During Lent, we have mirrored Christ's love for us by encountering our brothers and sisters most in need around the world, by giving up what 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, to help us remember what is really important: our relationship with God. We fasted in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who do not have enough to eat each day.

READER 3

WE GAVE ALMS to our CRS Rice Bowls so that our sacrifices will help the poor around the world and in our local community.

LEADER

During Lent, we encountered God in our neighbors through their Stories of Hope and learned how we are helping through CRS Rice Bowl. We now send our prayers to the people we met and to all people in need. The response will be, "Lord, hear our prayer."

READER 1

For the Singh family in India, and all those who struggle to grow crops amidst flooding and other natural disasters.

We pray to the Lord.

READER 2

For Maria and her community in Mexico, that they may continue to find strength and joy in the time they spend planting and harvesting together.

We pray to the Lord.

READER 3

For Dita, the country of Ethiopia and all those affected by drought or lack of clean water, that life-giving rain may revitalize their fields and their spirits.

We pray to the Lord.

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

LEADER

As we end our Lenten journey of encounter, we pray that these, our Lenten sacrifices, may be an offering of solidarity and a promise of continued accompaniment of the poor and vulnerable. As good stewards of your many gifts, may we always remember to love our neighbors as ourselves, and that when we encounter those who thirst and hunger, we are encountering the risen Christ.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen