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# PRAYER SERVICE TO END LENT

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

## LEADER

During Holy Week, we walk with Jesus and remember that he endured the suffering and pain of Good Friday 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 we asked for guidance to use these 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. And we fasted in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who do not have enough to eat.

## READER 3

**WE GAVE ALMS** to our CRS Rice Bowls to 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 help them 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 Norma and her family in Guatemala, that she continues to be a beacon of hope and guidance for other families in her community. We pray to the Lord.

## READER 2

For Annet, her family in Uganda, and all refugees fleeing violence and hardship, that they may find safety and security. We pray to the Lord.

## READER 3

For Ona and the people in Gaza struggling to find meaningful work, that their God-given gifts may be used for the common good. 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 to continue to serve the poor and vulnerable. As good stewards of your many gifts, may we always remember that when we encounter those who thirst and hunger, those forced to flee their homes because of violence or lack of opportunity, and anyone who needs comfort, we are encountering the risen Christ.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen