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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 all the suffering and pain that he endured on Good Friday to give us eternal life. Throughout Lent, we have imitated Christ's love for us by meeting our sisters and brothers 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 him to teach us to share what we have to help our sisters and brothers throughout the world.

## READER 2

We **gave up** something to remember what is really important: our relationship with God and our neighbor. We **fasted** in solidarity with our sisters and brothers who do not have enough to eat.

## READER 3

We **gave alms** to our CRS Rice Bowls to help our human family around the world and in our local community.

## LEADER

During Lent, we encountered God in the communities and families whose Stories of Hope inspired us, and we learned about the impact of our CRS Rice Bowl gifts. We now raise our prayers for the people of Guatemala, Bangladesh and Rwanda, and for all people in need. Our response will be, "Lord, hear our prayer."

## READER 1

For all families in the entire world and for all who lack access to basic services such as education and clean water, that they have opportunities and resources to create positive change for their communities. We pray to the Lord ...

## READER 2

For farmers near and far and for all who experience severe weather, that they can protect their homes and livelihoods and become more resilient to a changing climate. We pray to the Lord ...

## READER 3

For our sisters and brothers who struggle with malnutrition, that they can overcome the obstacles that prevent them from accessing healthy and nutritious food. We pray to the Lord ...

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

## LEADER

*Lord,*

*As we end our Lenten journey, we pray that our Lenten sacrifices may be an offering of solidarity and a promise to continue to serve our sisters and brothers experiencing poverty and vulnerability. As good stewards of your many gifts, may we always remember that when we help those that are in need we are also helping Jesus.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*