
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 how he assumed our human condition and experienced pain until his death on the Cross. Throughout Lent, we have imitated Christ's love for us by giving up what we enjoy and making sacrifices for the good of our sisters and brothers most in need around the world.

READER 1

We **prayed** to thank God for the gifts he has given us and for the opportunity to share what we have with our global family.

READER 2

We **gave up** something to remember what is important: our relationship with God and our neighbors. We **fasted** in solidarity with our sisters and brothers who don't have enough to eat.

READER 3

We **gave alms** by donating to CRS Rice Bowl to help our neighbors around the world and in our local community.

LEADER

We encountered God in the communities and families whose Stories of Hope inspired us, and we learned about the impact of our Rice Bowl gifts. Now let us lift up our prayers for the people of Honduras, the Philippines and Kenya, and for all people in need. Our response will be, "Lord, hear our prayer."

READER 1

For all families around the 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 resilient to climate change. We pray to the Lord ...

READER 3

For our sisters and brothers who struggle with hunger and malnutrition, that they can overcome the obstacles that prevent them from accessing healthy and nutritious food, and for us, that we may continue to work to build a world free from hunger. We pray to the Lord ...

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

LEADER

Lord,

As we end our Lenten journey, we pray that our sacrifices may be an offering of solidarity and a promise to continue to serve people experiencing poverty, hunger, the consequences of climate change and other vulnerabilities. Help us to be good stewards of your many gifts so all our sisters and brothers can have what they need to thrive, remembering that we encounter you in them.

Amen