

## ***Lent Prayer Service***

***Greeting:*** Lent is a special time in the church, the time when we prepare for Easter. We prepare through almsgiving, prayer, penance, good works, fasting, and sacrifice. We renew our faith and reflect on Jesus' love—his living, dying, and rising from the dead. He is our Savior and our Lord. He has redeemed us from our sins. He gives us eternal life. Let us enter into the spirit of Lent in song.

### ***"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"***

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer.  
When I call answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer.  
O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

### ***Penitential Rite***

Lord, you sent all the prophets and, finally, your own Son, Jesus, to call us back to you. Lord have mercy....

Lord, give us the strength to fast strictly, pray frequently, and give alms generously. Christ have mercy...

Help us give up what is unnecessary and evil; help us be one with your poor; help us be filled with your light. Lord have mercy...

### ***First reading***

A reading from the letter of James

What good is it if a person claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

*Quiet reflection for 2 minutes*

## **Responsorial Psalm**

### **R. Commit your life to the Lord, and he will help you.**

Trust in the Lord and do good, that you may dwell in the land and be fed in security. Take delight in the Lord, and he will grant you your heart's requests. **R.**

The Lord watches over the lives of the wholehearted; their inheritance lasts forever. They are not put to shame in an evil time; in days of famine they have plenty. **R.**

Turn from evil and do good, that you may abide forever; For the Lord loves what is right, and forsakes not his faithful ones. **R.**

The salvation of the just is from the Lord; he is their refuge in time of distress. And the Lord helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him. **R.**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Jennifer Anstey

\*Acclamation

Praise to you, glo-ry and praise, Lord Je - sus Christ!

Praise and hon-or to the Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ!

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## **Gospel**

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you? And the Lord will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did for one on the least of my brothers or sister, you did for me".

The gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

*Reflection ~ quiet for 2 minutes*

Presider: Please have a representative from each room come forward and receive their Rice Bowls.

***"Wait For The Lord"***

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; keep watch, take heart!

***Prayer of the Faithful***

Presider: We take refuge in God our Father, and therefore our hearts rejoice. This joy marks the prayers we now make.

Student: Please respond, Lord, hear our prayer.

- ✠ For those who have no bread to break, we pray...R.
- ✠ That we may recognize Christ here at this table of thanksgiving and celebration, we pray...R.
- ✠ For those who have no word from God, we pray...R.
- ✠ For those whose hearts are brittle with hate and whose eyes are closed to love, we pray...R.
- ✠ For the people of Haiti, Indonesia, Senegal, and Honduras, that they may continue to grow in their knowledge and love of the Lord, we pray...R.
- ✠ That all may know the joy of the Risen Savior, we pray...R.
- ✠ For those who are ill, for our brothers and sisters who have died, that they may know God's love and peace, we pray...R.

Presider: God our Father, we still rejoice in the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ. Show us the path to life and bring us into the fullness of your presence which will last forever and ever. Amen.

***Lord's Prayer***

Presider: My sisters and brothers let us pray together as Jesus taught us.

All: Our Father...

Presider: O holy and righteous One, may we walk in your ways with renewed vigor. Turn our hearts to you as we pray, mindful of our sisters and brothers in need. Speed our steps to you as we fast, unburden us from whatever keeps us from you, direct our acts of almsgiving, that we may reflect Jesus' empowerment of the poor. May our Rice Bowl participation be a faith-filled cooperation with the vision of your kingdom of truth, peace, and love.

All: Amen

### JESUS, REMEMBER ME

Jacques Berthier

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major and 3/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (F major), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics 'Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.' are written below the staff. The second staff is identical to the first, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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## ***Operation Rice Bowl Reflection***

### ***Closing Prayer: Prayer for Operation Rice Bowl***

Presider: We lift our prayers to you, God of Love, on behalf of our brothers and sisters in need. As we learn about their struggles, our almsgiving comes to their aid; our fasting unites us in their hunger. You call us to be disciples for all nations. Bless us this Lenten season. Amen

### ***Operation Rice Bowl Reflection: Haiti***

My name is Jeanne Ornelie Desir, and I live in Bon Pas, a small town on the coast of Haiti. My husband and I are working to support a family of twenty, six of our own children and twelve additional relatives who had to leave Port-au-Prince after the January 12, 2010 earthquake. Many households in our community expanded to care for refugees of the earthquake. This has placed a serious strain on our food resources. Like most of our neighbors, we rely on farming to support our family, and we usually only grow enough to feed our own family of eight.

Since I started attending CRS' agriculture school, I have begun growing tomatoes, eggplant, leeks and carrots. I will use some of this food to feed my family and will sell the rest at the local market. Now we have beautiful gardens with plenty of vegetables to eat. And we are planting trees to fertilize the land.

### ***Catholic social teaching focus: Care for God's Creation***

We are called to be good stewards of what has been entrusted to us.

Through protecting the environment in which we live, we respect the goodness of nature, a gift God has given.

## ***Indonesia***

My name is Agustinus Koto Blolon, and I live on Flores Island, which is one of the poorest provinces in Indonesia. Our land is dry and sandy, so every year we struggle to feed our family of four. Using traditional farming methods, we could only produce enough food for six months. To meet our needs for the remaining part of the year, I sold cashews from my farm so I could buy rice. Because I had to spend all of my money on food, I was unable to save for the future.

CRS educated farmers in my village about drought resistant crops, organic fertilizers, and other ways to improve our harvests. Using these new farming methods I can now grow enough food to feed my family for at least ten months. My wife received training on how to prepare more nutritious meals from the new crops on our farm. CRS also taught the farmers in my village about selling our crops together as a group so that we can receive a better price from buyers. Now I have plenty of food for my family, and I am even able to save money for the future.

### ***Catholic social teaching focus: Option for the Poor***

As a community of faith, we have the obligation to reach out to those most in need. The Gospel specifically calls us to take action on behalf of the most vulnerable members of society.

## ***Senegal***

My name is Boubacar Diao and I live in Galouel, a village in Senegal. I bake bread to sell to people in my village. Before joining the microfinance project, I was only able to work when stores were willing to provide me with credit to buy flour. During Ramadan or other important community events I usually could convince them that I would sell enough bread and be able to pay for the credit. Sometimes the stores would give me flour, but other times they would not. It was difficult to provide food for my family because I did not have stable work or a steady income.

With the support of CRS, I joined a microfinance project that allows me to take out small loans to buy flour and other supplies that I need to bake bread. I am now able to work throughout the year and have started to save a little money. I can buy school materials for my children and provide food for my family. I've been able to pay off my original loan, and I hope with my next loan to buy some new equipment to expand my business.

## ***Catholic social teaching focus: Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers***

The ability to work to earn a living is a right of all people. All workers have the right to a fair wage, to organize themselves and to work in good conditions.

## ***Honduras***

My name is Reina Matilde Vasquez, and I live with my family in southwestern Honduras. I am the mother of seven children, and I work on our farm growing corn and beans to support my family. When my last child was born, I experienced dangerous complications and I nearly died. I was transported to CRS' Maternal Health Clinic where the nurses treated me and saved my life.

Now that I have regained my strength, I regularly attend the Health Center's meetings, and I am a volunteer on the Emergency Committee. We plan activities that raise funds to help families who are facing health crises. We also weigh infants to make sure they are growing at a healthy rate, and we sell nutritious foods to families who visit the center. I believe that it is important to help improve our community, and I am proud to do all that I can to support the Health Center.

### ***Catholic social teaching focus: Community and Participation***

Human beings are not only sacred, but social. How we participate in our family and community, from our daily actions to our policy decisions, affects each and every person.