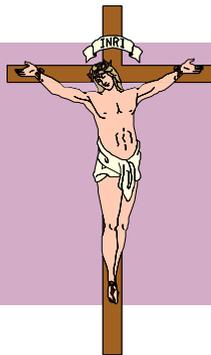




Lenten Prayer Service

Preparation:

Place a crucifix on the prayer table; it must be of a size that could be easily held by a student. All are invited to gather around the prayer table. Assign students to the various reader parts.



Leader: We are beginning the season of Lent in our Church. Throughout the coming 40 days, we will imitate Jesus' going into the desert for 40 days and resisting the temptations of Satan. We will offer prayers, almsgiving, self-denial, and good works. On Ash Wednesday, we receive ashes on our foreheads as an outward sign of our resolve to put Jesus first in our hearts.

Reader 1: *Read Psalm 51:3-5*

All: Dear Jesus, give me the strength to do your will.

Leader: During the 40 days of Lent, we have an opportunity to give up those words and actions that separate us from God and his people. We have an opportunity to follow the Ten Commandments and treat others as we would like to be treated.

Reader 2: *Read Psalm 25:1-7*

All: Dear Jesus, give me the strength to do your will.

At this point the Leader picks up the cross from the prayer table and holds it reverently.

Leader: We have already been thinking about what we plan to do for Lent. As the crucifix is passed to you, you may choose to pray to Jesus in your mind rather than out

loud, or pray so all may hear. Tell Jesus what you hope to do better. Tell Jesus the sacrifice you are willing to make, just as he sacrificed himself on the cross for you.

Play religious music quietly in the background as the crucifix is passed from person to person. Make sure that all understand they do not have to speak, but may hold the cross and then pass it on when they are comfortable and ready to do so.

Leader: We thank you for being with us today in our hearts. We offer you, Jesus, our best efforts to keep our promise or covenant with you.

All: Dear Jesus, give me the strength to do your will.

Reader 3: *Read Exodus 20:1-17*

Leader: Let us all join hands and pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us, the Our Father.

Close with the Sign of the Cross, and have students return to their seats.

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