

Prayer Service

Materials Needed

Table, candles, cross, Bible, *Rice Bowl/Lenten Calendar* for each participant, copies of *Prayer Service* for each participant, *Gather Comprehensive* hymnal for each participant

Procedure

Ask 8 participants to be readers. Provide readers with a copy of the *Prayer Service* ahead of time and highlight the part you would like each of them to read. Place a *Rice Bowl*, candles and cross on a table in the center of the prayer space.

Prayer Service

Leader: We gather together today in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let us remember that we are now, as always, in the presence of God. *(Pause)* In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus teaches us that when we serve our brothers and sisters in need, we also serve Him. In this spirit, we enter into solidarity with our neighbors around the world who suffer from hunger, thirst, marginalization, and illness.

Song: *Blest Are They* (GC 636)

Leader: **For I was hungry and you gave me food.** Nearly one billion people in the world are suffering from hunger. One out of every four children in developing countries is underweight.

Reader 1: *Isaiah 58:6-10*

Reader 2: *Operation Rice Bowl Story: Madagascar (Lenten Calendar)*

Leader: **For I was thirsty and you gave me drink.** Approximately one in eight people around the world lack access to safe water supplies. 2.5 billion people do not have access to improved sanitation.

Reader 3: *John 4:5-14*

Reader 4: *Operation Rice Bowl Story: El Salvador (Lenten Calendar)*

Song: *Come to the Water* (GC 502)

Leader: **For I was a stranger and you welcomed me.** Sixty-nine million school age children are currently not enrolled in school. Poverty, malnutrition, poor infrastructure and political instability are some of the factors that contribute to low enrollment rates. Orphans and vulnerable children and children with disabilities are especially susceptible to these factors. Too often, these children live on the margins of society, becoming strangers to the world.

Reader 5: *Hebrews 13:1-2*

Reader 6: *Operation Rice Bowl Story: Vietnam (Lenten Calendar)*

Leader: **For I was ill and you cared for me.** Nearly 9 million children under five die in developing countries each year from malnutrition, poor sanitation and lack of access to sufficient health care.

Reader 7: *Luke 10:25-37*

Reader 8: *Operation Rice Bowl Story: India (Lenten Calendar)*

Leader: As we go forth into the world, we ask God to bless our Rice Bowls. Together we pledge to journey with Operation Rice Bowl this Lent, as a concrete response to the call to assist our global family in need. Let us close by praying together the Operation Rice Bowl *Lenten Prayer*.

All: Operation Rice Bowl *Lenten Prayer*. (Located on side panel of *Rice Bowl*)

Song: *We Are Called* (GC 710)