

# Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in March, 2024

## Introduction

Leader As our Lenten journey continues, we can assess how we are connecting to Christ as he teaches us his Way. Are we entering more deeply into his love offered to us? Are we like the grain of wheat which dies to our selfishness and then produces much fruit?

## Opening Prayer

All God of mercy, as Jesus nears his passion, we thank you for the gift of his sacrifice of love for each of us. Help us prepare for his resurrection and new life in him. We ask this in his name, Amen.

## Word of God John 12:24-33

Reader A reading from the Gospel John (Pause for silent reflection)

*Optional* Discuss these questions in two's or three's. *The reading is on the reverse side.*

1. As we enter into the final weeks of Lent, what are your thoughts or concerns?
2. Discuss these words of Jesus: "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." What could these words mean for your life?

## Response Taken from John 12:24-33

Side 1 "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit."

Side 2 Lord, help us to grow like seeds in the ground and spread your love for every person in the world.

Side 1 "“Father, save me from this hour. But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour.”"

Side 2 We draw close to all who suffer pain or injustice in our world today.

Side 1 "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself."

Side 2 We believe in your sacrifice, O Christ, and know it saves us all.

**Petitions** Individuals add intentions to remember here.

## Closing Prayer Psalm 51:14-15

Give me back the joy of your salvation  
and a willing spirit sustain in me.  
I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners shall return to you.

## **A Reading from the Gospel of John**

“Amen, amen I say to you,  
    unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,  
    it remains just a grain of wheat;  
    but if it dies, it produces much fruit.  
Whoever loves his life loses it,  
    and whoever hates his life in this world  
    will preserve it for eternal life.  
Whoever serves me must follow me,  
    and where I am, there also will my servant be.

I am troubled now. Yet what should I say,  
‘Father save me from this hour’?  
But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour.  
Father, glorify your name.’

Then a voice came from heaven,  
    “I have glorified it and will glorify it again.”

The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder;  
    but others said, “An angel has spoken to him.”  
Jesus answered and said,  
    “This voice did not come for my sake but for yours.  
Now is the time of judgment on this world;  
    now the ruler of this world will be driven out.  
And when I am lifted up from the earth,  
    I will draw everyone to myself.”  
He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.