

# Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in March 2021

## Introduction

Leader How has Lent progressed for you? Do you have a closer relationship with Jesus now? Are you like the grain of wheat which falls to the ground and dies and produces much fruit? (John 12:24)

## Opening Prayer

All God of all goodness, hear our prayer as we continue on our Lenten retreat. Give us the grace to be like the seed that seems to die in the ground, yet brings forth new life and goodness. Teach us to stay close to the words of Jesus and produce much fruit. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

## Word of God John 12:23-26

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

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

1. How do you deal with the daily struggles each of us knows? Describe one such struggle and the help you sought.
2. Tell of the fruits of goodness you see in others. How do they influence you?

## Response (Taken from John 12:23-26)

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

Side 2 May we die to selfishness, conceit and all that keeps us from producing the fruits of goodness.

Side 1 "Whoever serves me must follow me."

Side 2 Lord, we will follow you. Help us to be the seed that continues to learn from you how to live a fruitful life.

Side 1 "The Father will honor whoever serves me."

Side 2 We are honored when we serve one another as the image of Christ in our lives.

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

## Closing Prayer

All Jesus, our savior, be with us as we renew our decision to serve you as we remember the last weeks of your ministry among us. Help us to open up to your loving messages. Save us from narrow, isolated, small lives, bearing little fruit. We ask this in your name through your Spirit. Amen.

*A Reading from the Gospel of John*

Jesus answered them,

“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

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.

The Father will honor whoever serves me.