

MARCH – LENTEN REFLECTION – WE TURN OUR LIVES TOWARD GOD

PRAYER SERVICE – WE TURN OUR LIVES TOWARD GOD

Introduction: Ash Wednesday begins the forty days of preparation for celebrating the resurrection. This period we call Lent means spring, and we celebrate it in memory of the forty days Jesus spent alone in the desert.

Materials needed: A table, a cross, a lighted candle and a Bible.

Leader: For forty days we prepare for the new life of Easter. We place a cross on the table to remind us of all the hard things we have to do in life. When we accept these tasks as Jesus accepted his cross, we know we are following Jesus.

We place this lighted candle on the table to remind us that Jesus is with us as we face hard things and take up our cross to follow him.

We place this Bible on the table to remind us that in reading the Word of God we begin to know and understand the ways of God.

Reading: Mark 14:33, 37. "He took with him Peter, James, and John, and began to be troubled and distressed....When he returned he found them asleep. He said to Peter, 'Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour?'"

Leader: Taking time to pray can be a reminder to us to use God's name carefully and respectfully. Think of times during the day when we should stop and give thanks for all God does for us.

All: We adore you and we bless you, Lord, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading: Mark 15:21 "They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross."

Leader: Think of ways in which we are like Simon. Do we help others? Do we understand persons who are outside of our usual circle of friends?

All: We adore you and we bless you, Lord, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading: Luke 9:23 "Then he said to all, 'If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'"

Leader: Let us think about how we do our work. Is it easy to give up when the work gets hard? Do we accept and love the person that each of us is, knowing that God made each of us to be ourselves alone?

All: We adore you and we bless you, Lord, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Leader: Lord, we are all here with our weaknesses and strengths as we take up our crosses and follow you. We are not afraid when we know you are with us, Lord.

"Prayer Service - We Turn Our Lives Toward God" is excerpted from Gaynell Bordes Cronin [Holy Days and Holidays](#).