

# WRITING LENT PRAYER POEMS

By Phyllis Wezeman

Writing activities, especially poetry, can be used to help people discover creative ways to express their thoughts and feelings. During the seasons of Lent individual and group prayer can be enhanced by incorporating creative writing experiences into the devotional process. For group activities, offer the opportunity to use poetry as a way to reflect, remember, and respond before, during, or after classes, events, or services. Or compile individual or group prayer booklets to use during the special days of Lent. For use as an "at-home" project, print the instructions in a bulletin, newsletter, or "take home" sheet. Experiment with poetry patterns such as:

## ASH WEDNESDAY: RHYMES

Write a traditional four line poem in which every other line rhymes. Use the story of Jesus cleansing the temple as a theme and incorporate ideas on things in people's lives which prevent them from attaining and maintaining a spiritual relationship with God.

## SUNDAYS IN LENT: QUICK COUPLETS

During Jesus' life, the Great Teacher offered many truths. Write short statements describing ways in which Jesus' teachings effect our lives today. A quick couplet contains two lines with three syllables in each line, such as:

	<u>EXAMPLE</u>	<u>EXAMPLE</u>
Line One:	Jesus' words	Let me live
Line Two:	Must be heard!	To forgive!

## PALM SUNDAY: CINQUAIN

A cinquain poem contains five lines and is based on the following formula. An example of a poem using the theme of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem:

	<u>EXAMPLE</u>
Line One: A one word noun	Jesus
Line Two: Two adjectives that describe the noun	Divine, human
Line Three: Three "ing" words that describe the noun	Loving, sharing, giving
Line Four: Four words that express a feeling about the noun	King of my life
Line Five: One word that is a synonym for the noun	Savior

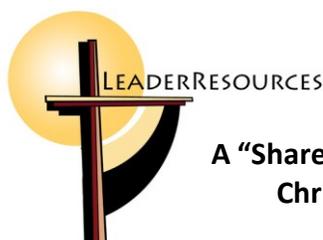
## MAUNDY THURSDAY: DIAMOND

Try a five line diamond shaped poem as a way to think about Jesus' betrayal:

	<u>EXAMPLE</u>
Line One: One word which is an opposite of line five	Betrayal
Line Two: Two words which describe line one	Deception; Dishonesty
Line Three: Three words which resolve the conflict	Conscience; Sincerity; Trust
Line Four: Two words which describe line five	Faithful; Steadfast
Line Five: One word which is an opposite of line one	Loyalty

## GOOD FRIDAY: FREE VERSE

Express emotions related to the events of Good Friday by writing free verse poetry. Free verse is a style of poetry without a pattern of rhyme and rhythm. Consider inviting people to write poetry during your Good Friday services to take home or to leave in some central spot for others to read.



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