

Lent 4: March 20, 2024 Worship Summary | Prayer Guide and Prompts:

Prayer Guide and Prompts:

- Begin with a prayer of gratitude for the community you are a part of, thanking God for the people who have supported you in times of need, just as the seminary students supported one another. Ask God to help you see the needs within your own community and to respond with the same spirit of generosity.
- Reflect on the acts of service you have engaged in recently. Pray for the humility to serve without seeking recognition, as Jesus taught in Matthew 25. Ask God to reveal opportunities where you can serve "the least of these" in your daily life.
- As you consider your Lenten journey, ask God to show you how your personal spiritual disciplines can have a communal impact. Pray for guidance on how to use your Lenten practices to bless others and to grow in love and service within your community.
- Meditate on the concept of God's judgment being based on our response to human need. Pray for a heart that prioritizes compassion and service over worldly achievements. Ask God to help you recognize Christ in everyone you meet and to serve them as you would serve Jesus Himself.
- Contemplate the transformation of St. Francis of Assisi and ask God to work a similar change in your own heart. Pray for the courage to leave behind any personal comforts or privileges that may hinder you from fully embracing a life of service.
- Pray for the ability to receive God's grace with joy and to extend that grace to others. Ask God to fill you with the same exuberance and joy that was illustrated with the playful puppies, so that you may share His love freely and enthusiastically.
- Finally, pray for the broader community and world. Ask God to raise up servants in every corner of society, to meet the needs of the hungry, the stranger, the sick, and the imprisoned. Pray for a global movement of compassion and service that reflects the kingdom of God on earth.

Remember to pause between each prompt to listen for God's guidance and to allow the Holy Spirit to move in your heart as you pray.