

Blessing of the Rice Bowls

God of all people, You are the source of every blessing.

May we be mindful of your presence now and as we use these Rice Bowls in prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

May they be instruments of encounter, bringing us closer to you, our God, and to our neighbors both near and far.

May our fasting be a hunger for justice, our alms an offering of peace, and our prayers a reflection of humble and grateful hearts.

Let this time of reflection help us to learn how to care for the most vulnerable—those who are hungry, who lack of economic opportunity and who flee violence.

Through these 40 days, may we deepen our faith in you, and our love for one another, as we prepare for the great celebration of Easter.

We ask these things through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen