

Offering Invitations and Prayers for September 2009 based on the Lectionary Readings

These resources are written from the reading of scriptures from The Message Bible.

September 6–Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

We are all asked to give at times when what we would rather do is escape and hide. Even Jesus had times when he was able to learn this lesson from others. The Syro-Phoenician woman asked for Jesus' mercy and he gave it. The people of our world persistently ask for our help. Let us give as we are able.

O God, you promise that generous hands are blessed in the giving. May it be so for us, as we bring these gifts for others. Amen.

September 13–Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Jesus says "Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to saving yourself, your true self. What good would it do to get everything you want and lose you, the real you? What could you ever trade your soul for?" Taken out of context, money can be our downfall. But Jesus puts it in context and asks for us to give.

All-Knowing God, you teach us to give of ourselves, but it is hard to let go of what we think we own. Give us eyes to see where our resources come from and hearts to give back some of what you have generously given to us. Amen.

September 20–Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

The world says "Grab all you can for as long as you can." Jesus says "So you want first place? Then take the last place. Be the servant of all." These contradictory ideas collide over the offering plates—keep all you can—give all you can. Our answer is required.

Giving God, through scripture you continue to remind us that Christianity is a religion of opposites—to be first, be servant—to live you must die to yourself—to have abundance, give abundantly. As we bring these gifts to your table, may their humbleness be made extravagance. Amen.

September 27–Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

There is good being done all over the world by many different people. We see God using us all as tools in the fight against evil. Let's not let anything block our way from being a part of this good—not even our own attitudes! Let us give of ourselves through our tithes and offerings.

God of all that is good, use us and all that we have to bring good into this world. Use these gifts to further your kingdom here on earth. Amen.