

## **Offering Invitations and Prayers for May 2009 based on the Lectionary Readings**

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

### **May 3–Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Jesus said “This is why the Father loves me: because I freely lay down my life.” Jesus freely gave everything he had—his very life—so that we might live. May we give of ourselves through our tithes and offerings so that others may live.

O God, we are thankful for Jesus, the cornerstone that some saw as unworthy. We bring our gifts knowing that they are indeed unworthy, but knowing that you will lift them up to help the world. Amen.

### **May 10–Fifth Sunday of Easter**

In Christ Jesus, the true Vine, we are in relation with one another and with him. Like Philip teaching the eunuch, we are called by God to help one another grow in our faith. As we bring our offerings this morning, let us think about how our gifts are creating relationships between us and those we help.

All-Knowing God, you lead us to the places in which we can be an aid to others. You know where our gifts will go and whose lives they will touch. As you make these connections, make us mindful of those lives to which we have become the hands and feet of Christ. Amen.

### **May 17–Sixth Sunday of Easter**

“Remember the root command: Love one another.” So says Jesus. Jesus chose us to be his followers and to follow his example—to bear fruit, to love, to put our lives on the line for friends. The world is desperately seeking a friend. Through our giving, may we reach out our hands in friendship to a hurting world.

Loving God, we seek to keep your commands by loving you and loving one another. Let these gifts of money symbolize our love to a world crying for help. Amen.

### **May 24–Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Just as Jesus called and prayed for his disciples in their future ministry, we also have been called—to show we are Christians through our actions, our stewardship, our faith. True stewardship is giving regularly and sacrificially. As stewards, may we now bring our tithes and offerings to God.

God, as we bring our material goods to you at this time, consecrate them and use them to allow us fulfill the mission you have given us on this earth—to bring your truth to the world. Amen.

### **May 31–Pentecost**

“When the time comes, I’ll pour out my Spirit on those who serve me, men and

women both, and they'll prophecy." The Holy Spirit has called us to action. Let us arise and bring our gifts to the Lord.

God of Spirit, your wonders amaze us and we are dazzled by your greatness. Use these humble offerings to continue your wondrous work in our world. Amen.