

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

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

August 2–Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Selfishness has no place in God's kingdom and God makes that clear through God's teachers. Through Nathan, God shows David the error of coveting and stealing his neighbor's wife. Through Jesus, God accuses the crowds of coming to Jesus not to hear the Good News, but to be fed for free. The scripture says just as we receive, we must also give. Let us generously give our tithes and offerings.

Generous God, just as you pour out your blessings on us, so we should pour out our blessings on others. Remind us to give to your work with a grateful heart. Amen.

August 9–Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

What an exciting message Jesus has to preach! "I am the Bread—living Bread!...Anyone who eats this Bread will live—and forever!" As Christians we are a part of this exciting news. But how do we transform ourselves into living bread for others? By becoming the hands and feet and food and money—Christ's body! As we give, let us remember that we are creating the reality that Jesus has taught.

God, we know that with Jesus—the Bread of Life—we will never want for anything else. Take this "bread" that we offer here and now and transform it into life for others. Amen.

August 16–Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

God ask Solomon what he wants—long life, riches, evil to come to his enemies? No, Solomon asks for discernment and to be able to lead well. And God honors his request because he asks for what is good for the whole community. Solomon's selfless request reminds us to think of others in all that we do. Let us give of ourselves to others.

O God, you have given us so much and for this we thank you. Help us to think of our whole community while we think of ourselves. Bless these gifts and use them as you will. Amen.

August 23–Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Paul says that God has given us all sorts of weapons to use against the evil in the world. Things we can't see like truth, righteousness, peace, faith and salvation. And things we can see, the scriptures and resources given to us from God. As we collect our tithes and offerings, let them be a symbol of work against evil here and now and into the future.

Strong God, you have given us your strengthen and your wisdom to use on this earth. As we take these gifts to use to battle evil, may we feel your support in all we do. Amen.

August 30–Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

James calls us to “Act on what you hear!...Anyone who sets himself up as ‘religious’ by talking a good game is self-deceived. This kind of religion is hot air and only hot air. Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight....” Let us act on these words by bringing our gifts to God.

Holy God, we pray that we will “find delight and affirmation in the action” of bringing these gifts to you. Use them to further your kingdom. Amen.