

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

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

October 4–Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Jesus comes to us offering salvation. We are but humans, but Christ in his humanity experienced all for us, even death. Just as Christ offered all as a sacrifice in our place, so we are called to sacrifice, perhaps not our physical bodies, but certainly of our resources. Let us give our tithes and offerings.

God, we know through your grace that we are saved, forgiven and granted new life. Allow us to use these gifts, a part of our lives, to share your grace with others. Amen.

October 11–Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

When Jesus told the man “Go sell whatever you own and give it to the poor...And come follow me,” the man went away with a heavy heart for “He was holding on tight to a lot of things, and not about to let go.” God calls us to let go of those things that are hardest to let go of. Perhaps because God knows in the process of letting go, we are able to receive more than we give. As we bring our offerings, let us loosen up our grasp and give of ourselves willingly.

God of mercy, we pray that even as we recognize that we don’t have it all, we do have more than we need. Help us to give and give again that our scarcity thinking will become abundant knowledge. Amen.

October 18–Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

“[This] is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not to be served –and then to give away his life in exchange for many who are held hostage.” Many people are being held hostage by the evil in this world. Let us give of ourselves for their sake just as Jesus did so long ago.

Servant God, you call us to serve rather than to be served, to give rather than to be given to. Take these gifts that we have given to raise others out of the clutches of evil. Amen.

October 25–Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost

The people following Jesus told Blind Bartimaeus that it was his lucky day–“Get up! [Jesus]’ calling you to come!” Jesus is calling us to come and to give. We have asked and received a blessing from Jesus and now it is time for us to see and follow him. As we give today, may we be mindful of the joys Jesus has shared with us all.

God of mercy, we call to you and you heal our lives. Use these gifts that we give out of our healing to give others the sweet balm of your mercy. Amen.