

## **Offering Invitations and Prayers for March 2010 based on the Lectionary Readings**

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

### **March 7–Third Sunday in Lent**

In our scripture for today, Luke and Paul both talk about our need to depend on God: Jesus telling us God expects us to fulfill God's purpose and Paul urging us to have God-confidence rather than self-confidence. If we believe this idea, then we should not fear giving of our worldly goods. God is gracious to provide for our needs. Let us give of our tithes and offerings.

O God, be with us when we fear that we will want for what we need while you are with us. As we give these offerings, take and use them to provide for the needs of others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **March 14–Fourth Sunday in Lent**

This parable might best be named the Story of the Lost Sons, for surely, the oldest son was also lost in regards to understanding the love of his father and his own abundance. The father says "...everything that is mine is yours..." God tells us also that we are stewards of all he has. As stewards, let us give that others might also share in God's abundance.

Loving God, we feel your love and your call for us to give as you give. As we bring these gifts, may they be a sign of our love to you. Amen.

### **March 21–Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Jesus recognized and appreciated the extravagant gift that Mary gave him—she anointed and massaged Jesus' feet with expensive oils and used her own hair to wipe them. Mary is certainly a person who understood the overflowing blessings of God. And Jesus would not allow that gift to be diminished. Let us bring our gifts to honor Jesus Christ.

O God, we bring but a token to you now. Help us to continuously work toward giving extravagantly as Mary did. Bless these gifts as they are and increase them to honor your work here on earth. Amen.

### **March 28–Palm Sunday**

What an odd thing for Luke to record amidst the celebration of Palm Sunday. After hearing the shouts from the people, the Pharisees fuss at Jesus "Teacher, get your disciples under control!" But Jesus answers "If they kept quiet, the stones would do it for them, shouting praise." God's people will not be shushed. Let us loudly celebrate through our financial giving.

God among us, with these gifts of money we bring, let us shout our praises to you. Through this giving, let us answer your call to boldly proclaim that you are our King of

Glory. Amen.