

Offering Invitations and Prayers for April 2010 based on the Lectionary Readings

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

April 4–Easter Sunday

The task of the women close to Jesus was turned upside down. They come to the tomb with the sad job of preparing Jesus' dead body only to hear and accept the wonderful news that Jesus was no longer among the dead, but had risen. Through our giving, we are able to fulfill ministries geared toward sharing that wonderful news with those, up to this point, who are lost in a world of darkness. Let us bring our gifts to light the world.

God, you sent Jesus to light this world of darkness and we can never stop praising you for it. Take these gifts and increase them to spread the light of Jesus throughout the world. Amen.

April 11–Second Sunday of Easter

We are all slow to believe at times—the women believed, but the men didn't believe them; then they believed, but Thomas didn't believe them. The Good News is that Jesus says "Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing." Let us affirm our belief by giving of our tithes and offerings.

Revealing God, thank you for accepting our doubts even as we are trying to deepen our belief in you. Take these gifts and transform them into the unbelievable. Amen.

April 18–Third Sunday of Easter

Even if we don't recognize him, Jesus is filling our nets to overflowing every single day. And beyond that, he is nurturing us with the good things we need for our very selves. Open your eyes to the goodness that God brings you every day and share it now with others. Let us bring our gifts to God.

Sustaining God, your overflowing love to us is a blessing that we sometimes take for granted. As we bring our gifts to this altar, may they be symbols of our love to you. Amen.

April 25–Fourth Sunday of Easter

Peter, the person who denied Jesus three times, becomes in Acts, the person who denies death to Tabitha and brings her back to life. God sees the potential in all people and uses us for miraculous things. Let us bring the ordinary to God in order for God to transform it. Let us bring our offerings.

God of Miracles, as Peter raised Tabitha from death, take these simple gifts and make them new again so they may serve you better. Amen.