

Liturgy for the Offering

based on Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Introduction: (read this or use your own words)

As the Hebrews were coming home from a 400 year absence from the land God had promised to their ancestors, Moses instituted the discipline of giving first fruits. The people were directed to take the first fruit of the ground and bring it before the Lord. As they brought it to the priests, they were instructed to declare their reason for coming before the Lord and then recite their people's history, including the powerful acts of God that made deliverance from oppression possible.

As we take up our offering on this first Sunday of Lent, we will bring our fruits forward doing the same thing. *[Direct your congregation's traffic as is appropriate for your facility.]* As you arrive at the front of the sanctuary, place your envelope in the plate and say, "I declare today that the Lord has brought me to this time and place, delivered me out of affliction, and has blessed me. The road is long and not always easy, but by the grace of Christ, I have gifts to share". Let us worship God with our gifts and our lives beginning with the litany printed in the bulletin.

Litany: (use this litany or one that covers your own congregation's history of salvation)

Leader: Our ancestors Abraham and Sarah were called and blessed by God and their descendants became a great nation..

Response: Our ancestors were delivered out of slavery by God's mighty acts of salvation. God brought them home.

Leader: Our ancestors followed Jesus Christ in his ministry in Galilee, and, filled with the Holy Spirit, carried the Gospel into the world, despite resistance and persecution.

Response: Our ancestors, over many centuries, struggled to be faithful to God's grace, sometimes failing, sometimes fulfilling their call, yet always under the guiding hand of the Holy Spirit.

Leader: Our ancestors founded this congregation, ... *<add your history in 1 sentence here>*

Response: Today the Lord has brought me to this time and place, delivered me out of affliction, and has blessed me. The road is long and not always easy, but by the grace of Christ, I have gifts to share.

Leader: Let us praise the Lord and rejoice!

Response: Amen!

The Offering:

Instruct your congregation's movement for bringing their gifts forward one more time if necessary.

Leader: Let us worship God with our gifts and our lives.