

“The Blessings of Generous Giving”

July 25, 2021

As We Gather

In chapters 8 and 9 of 2nd Corinthians, the Apostle Paul’s focus is on riches and poverty. He is gathering an offering for the poor in Jerusalem. In joy and amazement, he shares with the believers in Corinth the eagerness on the Macedonian churches to participate. Out of their extreme poverty, the grace of God moved them to give beyond their ability. Paul invites the Corinthians to know the blessings of generous giving as well. This generosity not only provides for the needs of the poor, but it also overflows into praise and thanks to God. Do you know the blessings of generous giving? Today’s 2nd Corinthians text highlights how the Lord enables us to be generous and cheerful in our giving.

Welcome

“Praise and Thanksgiving” (LSB 789)

1 Praise and thanksgiving,
Father, we offer
For all things living,
Created good:
Harvest of sown fields,
Fruits of the orchard,
Hay from the mown fields,
Blossom and wood.

2 Bless, Lord, the labor
We bring to serve You
That with our neighbor
We may be fed.

Sowing or tilling,
We would work with You,
Harvesting, milling
For daily bread.

3 Father, providing
Food for your children,
By Your wise guiding
Teach us to share
One with another,
So that, rejoicing
With us, all others
May know Your care.

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

(1 John 1:8-9)

Silence for self-examination on our need for the cross of Christ

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
(John 20:19-23)

C: Amen.

Prayer

Readings

First Reading: Psalm 24

- ¹The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;
²for He founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters.
³Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?
Who may stand in His holy place?
⁴The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.
⁵They will receive blessing from the LORD
and vindication from God their Savior.
⁶Such is the generation of those who seek Him,
who seek your face, God of Jacob.
⁷Lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
⁸Who is this King of glory?
The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.
⁹Lift up your heads, you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
¹⁰Who is He, this King of glory?
The LORD Almighty—
He is the King of glory.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6-14

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰ Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia

All: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: Mark 12:41-44

⁴¹ Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. ⁴² But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

⁴³ Calling His disciples to Him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴ They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You O Christ!

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Children's Message

Sermon

The Blessings of Generous Giving

Prayers

Please add your prayer requests to the live chat.

Thanksgivings

Pastor: O Lord, we praise You.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Petitions

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

St. John's People and Families

Neill & Pam Barker
Wendy, Abriana, Cailyn, & Noah Helfrich
Doug & Georgia Marum
Sharon Mitchell
Lewis & Teresa Yeh
Brian, Ameris, & Ezra Cleary
Nicholas, Suzanna, Rylan, & Jarrett Dalessi
Alicia & Gavin Lemke
Trevor, Alyssa, & Sophie Pridmore
Belia Ramos & Sofia, Lucas, & Liliana Bennett

Offering

The Service of Holy Communion

Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary . . .

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come,

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;

Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Institution

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

Communion

Pastor: Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

People: Amen. *(Take and eat)*

Pastor: Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

People: Amen. *(Take and drink)*

Communion Song**“O Come to the Altar”**

Are you hurting and broken within
 Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
 Jesus is calling
 Have you come to the end of yourself
 Do you thirst for a drink from the well
 Jesus is calling

From the ashes a new life is born
 Jesus is calling

Oh what a Savior
 Isn't He wonderful
 Sing alleluia Christ is risen
 Bow down before Him
 For He is Lord of all
 Sing alleluia Christ is risen

O come to the altar
 The Father's arms are open wide
 Forgiveness was bought with
 The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
 Tell the world of the treasure you've found

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
 Come today there's no reason to wait
 Jesus is calling
 Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy

Musical Offering*“Sing to the Lord”**Sanctuary Choir***Communion Blessing**

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. His peace be with you.

People: Amen.

Prayer**Blessing****“We Praise You, O God” (LSB 785)**

1 We praise you, O God, our Redeemer,
 Creator;
 In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
 We lay it before You, we kneel and adore
 You;
 We bless Your holy name, glad praises we
 sing.

When perils o'ertake us, You will not
 forsake us.
 And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles
 we win.

2 We worship You, God of our fathers, we
 bless You;
 Through trial and tempest our guide You
 have been.

3 With voices united our praises we offer
 And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we
 raise.
 With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm
 will guide us.
 To You, our great Redeemer, forever be
 praise!

Offering

<http://stjohnslutheran.net/give/>

You may also mail your offering to St. John's (3521 Linda Vista, Napa, CA 94558)

Right Now Media Recommendation

The Treasure Principle

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/198062>



Jesus told a story about a hidden treasure that, once discovered, brought life-changing joy. In this new video series based on the best-selling book, *The Treasure Principle*, Randy Alcorn unearths a simple yet profound principle that will radically change your concept of stewardship. Short on guilt, Alcorn illuminates the liberating joy of giving and its impact, not only for today but for eternity as well.

If you haven't already signed up for Right Now Media, click on this link: <http://bit.ly/STJOHNSNAPA>

Memory Verse for This Week

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.
2 Corinthians 8:9

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS / COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

CCLI License # 665004

All music used by permission

"O Come to the Altar" by Chris Brown | Mack Brock | Steven Furtick | Wade Joye © 2015 Music by Elevation Worship Publishing (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) CCLI Song # 7051511

Serving in Worship Today

Preacher	Rev. Mark G. Heine
Liturgist	Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Lay Readers	Soren De Young & Matthew Wahlers
Communion Assistants	Mike Newton, Andrea & George Clark
Sound Technician	Bill Clark
Streaming Technician	Martin Meissenhalter, Joshua Wright, Joel Wahlers
Worship Preparation Team	Ruth Peterson & Marlen Virkus
Ushers	The De Young Family
Projection Technician	Sarah Kramer
Musicians	Erin Blackwood, Pastor Mike and Teresa Schmid

St. John's People and Families to Pray for This Week

Neill & Pam Barker
Wendy, Abriana, Cailyn, & Noah Helfrich
Doug & Georgia Marum
Sharon Mitchell
Lewis & Teresa Yeh
Brian, Ameris, & Ezra Cleary
Nicholas, Suzanna, Rylan, & Jarrett Dalessi
Alicia & Gavin Lemke
Trevor, Alyssa, & Sophie Pridmore
Belia Ramos & Sofia, Lucas, & Liliana Bennett