

Monday, February 22
Readings: Psalm 17
1 Chronicles 21:1-17
1 John 2:1-6

5 **Share abundantly**

as we have received. The purpose of these gifts is for the good of the community of God. We give to build up the body of Christ. We use and share our gifts for the benefit of all.

“... and God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”
2 Corinthians 8:3

Prayer: *Generous God, I give thanks to you for the gifts you have given me -my life, my family, my friends - time, talents, and material possessions. All that I have comes from you. Help me to remember this and rejoice in your goodness.*

Walk with me, my God. Help me on my spiritual journey, so that I may constantly renew my relationship with you and all the good people in our parish and throughout [the world].

Renew in me your Spirit. Give me the strength and courage to become a better follower of Jesus, to be a disciple. Help me hear the call to "Come, Follow Me."

*I give glory to you, my God, as I make stewardship a way of life. Amen.*¹²

Focal Verse: “I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words. Wondrously show your steadfast love, O savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand.” Psalm 17:6-7

Reflection: Why do God’s people give money away?

What do you hear?

How does it make you feel?

Toward what are you being drawn?

What do you sense you should do?

The simple answer is that we can’t help it. Since we are God’s people, we model our lives after our loving God, whose abundant, generous giving fills our lives and provides the call for our giving.

Why do we give?
Because as God’s people we can’t help it. Giving is at the heart of who God is. Giving is at the heart of who God’s people are. The bonus is that through our giving we are able to make a difference for good in our world.¹³

¹² Diocese of Rockville Centre,

¹³ Charles Lane, ELCA, Stories of Faith in Action – 2008, p. 8.