

Tuesday, February 23  
 Readings: Psalm 17  
 Zechariah 3:1-10  
 2 Peter 2:4-21

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**Give proportionately**

is our way of giving in relation to our abundance. We are to give according to our “means,” not according to an income or a budget.

**“If the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has – not according to what one does not have.”**  
 2 Corinthians 8:12

Prayer: *Send your Spirit upon us, Lord,  
 To teach us to be generous –  
 With praise, with kindness, with charity.  
 You have blessed us in so many ways:  
 Our lives, our abilities,  
 Our joys and sorrows, our resources.  
 Help us share a portion of our gifts,  
 So that we may as a parish realize our vision  
 To become united as the Body of Christ,  
 Dedicated to collaboration, stewardship, Peace,  
 justice and respect,  
 A healing presence guided by the Holy Spirit,  
 To go forth United as disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen<sup>14</sup>*

Focal Verse: “Then the angel of the Lord assured Joshua, saying “Thus says the Lord of hosts: If you will walk in my ways and keep my requirements, then you shall rule my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you the right of access among those who are standing here.” Zechariah 3:6-7

Reflection:

Christian stewardship involves the faithful management (conserving, developing and distributing) of all God’s gifts to humankind: the created world, life, time, abilities and money. Many think of financial stewardship only in terms of current income. Scripture teaches us that all we are and all we have is entrusted to us by God. Therefore, stewardship also includes our accumulated, inherited and appreciated resources. As Christians, just as we give proportionately for the Lord’s work from our income annually, so we are encouraged to give proportionately from our accumulated resources as legacy gifts. Creating a mission endowment fund provides the receptacle for receiving such legacy gifts.<sup>15</sup>

What do you hear?

How does it make you feel?

Toward what are you being drawn?

What do you sense you should do?

<sup>14</sup> Archdiocese of Newark

<sup>15</sup> ELCA Foundation, How to Create a Mission Endowment Fund, © 2002.