

Thursday, February 25

Readings: Psalm 27

Genesis 13:1-7, 13:14-18

Philippians 3:2-12



Contribute regularly

means practicing our stewardship on a daily basis. By doing so this becomes a lifestyle. Paul instructs us:

**“On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn.”
1 Corinthians 16:2**

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, you remind us that “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35) You have given us the greatest gift, everlasting life in you kingdom. You invite us to participate in your kingdom now as we experience the joy of giving. In all we do, may we be joyful and regular in our giving as we are a blessing to others. Amen.*

Focal Verse: “So Abram moved his tent, and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron; and there he built an altar to the Lord.” Genesis 13:18

Reflection:

St. Paul speaks of two motivations for giving our selves, our time and our possessions to God’s work. In 2 Corinthians 8:9, he appeals to the model and example of Jesus and asks us to give as Jesus did. In 2 Corinthians 9:8, he reminds us that God promises to richly supply all that is needed for us to continue to give.

The model of Jesus and the promise of God’s provision motivate us to be generous.

Our generosity honors God, the source of all generosity. Our generosity makes God’s purposes known. By God’s power, our generosity provides the announcement of the Good News of salvation and the deeds of mercy, the actions of love, which serve the needs of people everywhere.

Our generosity draws us closer to God, the Giver of all good gifts. Generous deeds shape our lives and our understandings. Through generosity we begin to know more deeply and more broadly the graciousness of God. Generosity does not change God’s behavior toward us, but it changes our behavior toward God.¹⁸

What do you hear?

How does it make you feel?

Toward what are you being drawn?

What do you sense you should do?

¹⁸ Meier, Michael, Step by Step, © 2001,ELCA, p. I.