

Friday March 19

Readings: Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:8-15; Philippians 2:25—3:1

Prayer: *Generous and loving God, you call us to be disciples of your Son Jesus and stewards of your many gifts.*

*Open our minds and hearts to a greater awareness and a deeper appreciation of your countless blessings.*

*Transform us through the power of your Spirit to nurture a stewardship way of life marked by faith-filled prayer, service to our neighbor, and generous sharing.*

*Teach us to be good stewards of your gifts. With Mary's help, may we return tenfold the gifts you have entrusted to us.*

*Bless us with a deeper devotion to prayer — a prayer that leads us to share more fully in Christ's gift of self in the Eucharist — a growing commitment to service, and true generosity in supporting and advancing the mission of the church.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.<sup>52</sup>*

Focal Verse: “Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: For your sake I will send to Babylon and break down all the bars, and the shouting of the Chaldeans will be turned to lamentation. I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.” Isaiah 43:14-15

Reflection:

Being intentional in one’s giving means to develop a plan for your giving and then follow through with that plan. In 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, Paul writes, “The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion.” If you are to give as you have made up your mind, then you have to have made up your mind, to develop a plan for giving, and then to “walk the walk” as you turn that plan into action.

If you find yourself looking in your wallet or purse as you get out of the car on Sunday morning to discover what may be available for the morning offering, then you probably have some work to do on being intentional in your giving. If your giving to church changes from week to week depending on how your checkbook balance is doing, you likely have some work to do on being intentional in your giving.<sup>53</sup>

## Stewardship Principle

# 7

### Commit intentionally

means making a statement about your intent and following through. As members in the body of Christ, we are asked to make a commitment of our time, talents, and resources as a faithful response to God and as a statement of support for God’s work.

**“... arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you have promised.”**  
2 Corinthians 9:5

What do you hear?

How does it make you feel?

Toward what are you being drawn?

What do you sense you should do?

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.sjbrec.net/stewardship.html>; Saint Jean Baptiste Catholic Church New York City

<sup>53</sup> Charles Lane, Ask, Thank, Tell, © 2006, Augsburg Fortress, p. 46.