

PRAYING for GENEROSITY of TIME, TREASURE and TALENT

**Keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who Himself said,
"It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20: 35**



Let us pause and remember that the Lord God Who made heaven and earth also created us in His image and likeness and crowned us with glory and honor. We are His people, the work of His hands and He is our God and He continually holds us in the palms of His hands.

In the name of God our Father and Creator Who loves us without measure;

In the name of Jesus our Brother and Redeemer Who showed us how to live and to love and Who loved us to the cross,

and to the Holy Spirit of God Who continually inspires and loves us to life and to holiness, all honor and glory are Yours now and forever.

Amen.

1 Corinthians 12



The Lord has blessed each and every one of us with a variety of gifts and talents and because we are members of a community we are called to use those gifts to help build up that community.

**There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit;
there are different forms of service but the same Lord;**

there are different workings but the same God Who produces all of them in everyone.

To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

Now the body is not a single part, but many.

But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it.

The Servant Song

**Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey; we are travelers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow 'til we've seen this journey through.**

**Won't you let me be your servant; let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

Mark 10: 44-46

**Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant;
whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all.
For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and
to give His life as a ransom for many.**

A Thought Judith Davis

Certainly in our culture, Jesus words about servanthood seem strange. Our culture is so saturated with the demand for pleasure and instant gratification that Jesus' words about suffering often strike us as sour grapes. Jesus speaks about the reality of a world of following him in the Way of the Cross. Jesus would tell future Christians that they do not hide from pain and suffering, but they overcome those realities through loving service. Jesus continually tells the Twelve that the first will be last, and that the goal is not to be on top, or be Number One. But they're a hardheaded lot, and like each of us, they want to be first. A friend has a wonderful button that says, "Jesus loves you, but I'm his favorite." That's what we all want—not a life of suffering and service, but to be Jesus' favorite. That's surely what James and John, those sons of thunder wanted.

What I think this passage means for us today, is that we need to follow Jesus by following in service to others. We need to allow others to be as Christ to us as well. That requires us to be vulnerable, to take risks with each other, to be honest with each other, to be like family in our community of faith. What are the ways you can be a servant to others this day, this week? Can you serve others and also let others serve you?

Luke 10: 29–37

A man said to Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead.

A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.

Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.

But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight.

He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him.

The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.'

Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?"

He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

John 12: 24–26

"Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves Me must follow Me, and where I am, there also will My servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves Me."

Discovery Toyohiko Kagawa

I cannot invent

New things

Like the airships

Which sail

On silver wings;

But today

A wonderful thought

Was given.

And the thought was this:

That a secret plan

**Is hid in my hand;
That my hand is big,
Big,
Because of this plan.
That God,
Who dwells in my hand,
Knows this secret plan
Of the things He will do for the world
Using my hand.**

**Are You hiding your light under a bushel basket?
Here is a chance to let it shine!**

Our prayerful gifts of time, talent and treasure are concrete expressions of our faith – the way we give glory to God. You are Invited to be a Christian steward of your God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure. "Will you make some return to God by serving others in His name?" Please join us in being good stewards of God's Church and World.

"Stewardship is everything we do after we say we believe." (John Westerhoff)

Could you be involved in a more active role in liturgy? Lector, server, extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, greeter, choir member etc.

Can you mentor/tutor another person? How about teaching a religious education class?

**Can you befriend someone new to the community, country, job?
Someone who is grieving?**

**Can you give time to serve others in some special project?
Reading to the blind, running errands for a shut-in, etc.**

Can you give time visiting the sick and/or elderly or writing notes for them?

Can you be a Big Brother/Sister to a younger boy/girl who needs a role model?

Can you make financial contributions to a charity of your choosing? To your parish?

Can you take time to be with those who need you to be with them?

Can you share some special talent you have with others?

Etc. etc. etc.

Reflection

What in God's name are we doing here?

What in God's name are we doing here?

What in God's name are WE doing here?

What in God's name ARE we doing here?

What in God's name are we doing here?

What in GOD'S name are we doing here?

What IN God's name are we doing here?

What in God's name are we doing here?

A Psalm of Giving

Let me continue to love as You love, Lord.

Not that many of my debts on earth or heaven could ever be repaid by any act of generosity of kindness

But let me love as the kingdom of God is here on earth

Without limits, knowing that my needs will be provided by Your very hand

Let me give with gladness

Let me live simply, so that all my excess can be used for those that need it.

And help me to present it with dignity

Let it show on my face the joy of providing for others

And make me a person of integrity

Let my 'yes' be yes

Let me not only be intuitive to others needs, but prompt me to ask what is going on in their lives.

And let me find times to be quiet and listen to Your heart, Lord, so I know I'm acting on it.

Lord, may You shine on this day and as the night comes, may You rest with us. Amen

Intercessions

Generously responding to God's call is at the heart of the life of faith.

Trusting that God will provide for us as we provide for others requires even deeper faith. When we make a generous return to God in

thanksgiving for all He has given us, God blesses our gifts and multiplies them.

That we may be filled with a spirit of love and generosity, we pray...

That we may realize our gifts and talents and be willing to share them with others, we pray...

That Your Spirit, O Lord, will continually be alive in us, we pray...

That we will have a true understanding of stewardship and servanthood, we pray...

For all those who reach out to others in service, we pray...



**We will be Your people--
We have made the choice.
We will be Your Body,
Heart and soul and voice.
We will be Your presence;
We will be Your hands,
Always gladly giving
All that love demands.**

Prayer

**O Lord of All Gifts, You taught us to live and to love.
You taught us how to serve one another as You served, not counting the cost but being available to all. We pray that You will give us generous hearts and spirits that willingly give of our time, talent and treasure to build up Your Kingdom here on earth. Take our feet where they need to go, give us hands that readily reach out to others, give us ears to hear the silent cries of another, eyes to see their needs and hearts to reach out to them. May we bring You to them in our own unique way. We ask this in all humility and gratitude. Amen.**

We are called, we are chosen. We are Christ for one another.

We are promise for tomorrow while we are for Him today.

We are sign, we are wonder.

We are sower, we are seed.

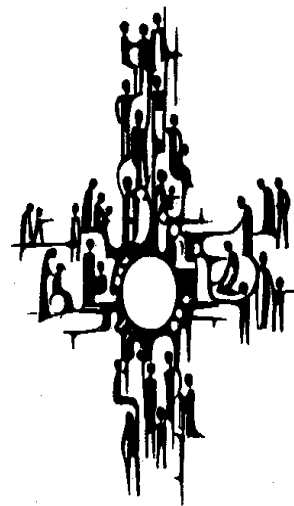
We are harvest, we are hunger.

We are question, we are creed.

While you have breath on this day,

Give yourself. Forward go!

Anthem, Tom Conry, 1979, New Dawn Music



Saint John Baptist de La Salle, and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us, help us to see the face of Christ in others and serve them however we can, wherever we are, in whatever we do, generously doing it in God's name.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!

