

Monday, March 1

Readings: Psalm 105:1-15, 105:42; Exodus 33:1-6;
Romans 4:1-12

Prayer: *Merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature. Make us always thankful for your living providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*²⁶

Focal Verse: “Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually. Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered, O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.”
Psalm 105:4-6



Respond gratefully

to what God has first given us. All that we do is a response to God’s grace. Everything we are, have, and use comes from God. Best of all, God gives the gift of Jesus Christ and the community of believers. It all begins with God. Our confession of faith in Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior is not of our doing. Grateful stewards put God first.

“... but they gave themselves first to the Lord.”
2 Corinthians 8:5

Reflection: Who is a Christian steward? What does it mean to live stewardship?

A Christian steward is a disciple of Jesus Christ who incorporates four essential virtues into his or her daily living: gratitude, responsibility, generosity and the willingness to give back with increase. Stewardship begins with discipleship. First, we must freely accept the Lord's call to follow him without counting the cost. In order to respond wholeheartedly to Jesus' invitation, we must let go of our dependence on the things of this world. Then, we must cast off self-centeredness and fear, and we must place our trust wholly and completely in the Lord.

Discipleship requires us to make a choice: to surrender ourselves through the power of God's grace and to follow in the Lord’s footsteps. Once we have made this choice - to let go absolutely and follow Jesus' way - stewardship is not an option. To be disciples of Christ who invite others to follow Him, we must be grateful, responsible and generous stewards of all God's gifts. We must learn to invest everything we have, and all that we are, in living as He taught us. We must grow God's gifts and return them to the Lord with increase.

Most of us think of money when we hear the word stewardship. That's because too often stewardship is only spoken about when it’s time to renew our financial commitment to the Church. This is a serious misunderstanding of the concept of stewardship. As important as Church support is for sustaining the ministries of our parishes, diocese and the universal Church, a true understanding of stewardship calls us to a much broader and deeper awareness of the ways in which we have been called and gifted as Christian disciples who develop and share God's abundant blessings out of a profound sense of justice and charity.²⁷

What do you hear?
How does it make you feel?
Toward what are you being drawn?
What do you sense you should do?

²⁶ Evangelical Lutheran Worship

²⁷ The Most Reverend Paul A. Zipfel, Bishop of Bismarck, North Dakota; www.dcdiocese.org