A LITURGY BEFORE GIVING I

Adapted from Every Moment Holy

First teach me to treasure you, Jesus, above all things. Then let that increasing devotion be increasingly demonstrated in a joyful generosity - for to give is to live out the declaration that you alone are my provision and supply. I need not fear what comes tomorrow.

When I give to meet the needs of others, when I give to the work of those who serve the poor, the sick, the oppressed, when I give to the service of your Body and your Kingdom, I give not what is mine, but only what is already yours. With every charitable act I am simply practicing the fact that nothing which passes through my hands has ever belonged to me. You are my generous master. Make me your faithful trustee, teaching me to live as a wiser conduit of this liberal grace, learning to hold loosely the things of this world, never holding that which is yours, never seeking the mean preservation of my own comforts. Rather let me love well in my giving, even as you, O Father, have loved me so well by giving me all things in Christ.

Bless now, O Lord, this gift and its benefits, that it might be received as evidence of your mercies, and multiplied in effectiveness for your kingdom. Through this and other acts of giving, train my heart toward a greater generosity, that the habits of my stewardship might be ever more pleasing to you, and ever more expressive of your own holy heart and passions.

All that I have is yours, Lord Christ. All that I have is you.

Use then this small gift for works of love and mercy, and unto the increase of your glory.

Amen.

