

Week 4: The Widow's Mite

Focus Verse: "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." Romans 5:5

This week's Bible reading: Luke 21: 1-4

Additional Bible readings:

- Deuteronomy 15:7-5

Video Resources:

David Flowers – Is Generosity in Our DNA? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEgoSwYV6ms>

Generosity Stories - Dott <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBdxUaMZHIA>

Prayers

Thematic Prayer

Loving Father, you have made us your people, richly provided us with good gifts and called us to live for you. May gratitude be in our hearts, may generosity be in our hands, may justice and righteousness guide our feet, and may the life of your kingdom and the joy of heaven be found among us. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Faithful One, whose word is life: come with saving power to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives. For the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession

*Lord, when your generous love overwhelms us; Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Jesus, when you pour out your Spirit upon us in full measure; Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.***

*Lord, may we reflect your generosity in our own lifestyle; Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.***

*May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and keep us in eternal life. **Amen.***

Collect

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the abundance of your love, for all that you give us through Jesus.

May we show forth in our lives the generosity which flows to us from you; make us warm hearted and generous people. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen

A Prayer for Giving

Heavenly Father, give grace to us, the living stones who form your Church, to reflect prayerfully at this special time on our love for you and our neighbour.

Make us mindful of the many gifts you bestow upon us. We ask that your Holy Spirit will inspire and direct us in our choice of giving, remembering that we are only giving back that which is truly yours. Strengthen us, Lord, to meet this challenge according to your will.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord who has given all that we might live. Amen.

A Prayer of Declaration

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

In humility of heart let us pray to God the Father of all.

Lord, in your word you teach us that sparse sowing means meagre reaping; give us generous hearts as we respond to your love.

*Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.***

Lord, you teach us that a generous heart produces a bountiful harvest; pour your love within us.

*Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.***

Lord, you teach us to pray for those who govern us; bless all in positions of authority who take decisions for the nations of your world.

*Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.***

Lord, you teach us to bring your healing to the sick and suffering; may your healing be upon those whom we name before you now.

*Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.***

Lord, your Word teaches us to love your Church, the Body of Christ; make us generous in support of its mission and ministry.

*Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.***

*Merciful Father, **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.***

Offertory

Consider all that God has done for you, especially as you see this in Jesus. 'Count your blessings' and respond with appropriate generosity from your material wealth.

Blessing

*May God our Father, whose grace is everlastingly poured into our hearts, fill you with an overflowing love. **Amen.***

*May God the Son, through whose death and resurrection we receive life in abundance, shine in your lives. **Amen.***

*May God the Holy Spirit, who works in us and through us to redeem God's world, give you the power and persistence to follow him. **Amen.***

*And may Almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.***

*Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.***