

The Offertory in the Divine Service

Offertory (according to Strodach and Reed has three parts)

1. **The Offertory Sentences** (Psalm verses which varied by season)
 - A. **Create in Me** (Psalm 51:17-19)
 - B. **The Sacrifices of God** (Psalm 51:17-19)
 - C. **What shall I render to the Lord** (Psalm 116:12-19)
2. **The Reception and Placing of the Offerings**
3. **The General Prayer**

The Offertory

Psalm 51:10-12 (KJV)

Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me.

11 Cast me not away from thy presence;
and take not thy holy spirit from me.

12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;
and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Other Psalm Verse Offertories

Psalm 51:17-19 **The sacrifices of God** are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise. 18 Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. 19 Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, With burnt offering and whole burnt offering;

Psalm 116:12-19 **What shall I render to the Lord** For all His benefits toward me? 13 I will take up the cup of salvation, And call upon the name of the Lord. 14 I will pay my vows to the Lord Now in the presence of all His people. 15 Precious in the sight of the Lord Is the death of His saints. 16 O Lord, truly I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant; You have loosed my bonds. 17 I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, And will call upon the name of the Lord. 18 I will pay my vows to the Lord Now in the presence of all His people, 19 In the courts of the Lord's house, In the midst of you, O Jerusalem. (Lutheran Worship, p. 169)

“Let the Vineyards be fruitful, Lord” (Author John W. Arthur, Lutheran Worship, p. 168-169)

The Offering

Matthew 6:19-20 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20“but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Matthew 10:42 “And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.”

Mark 12:41-44 Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. 42Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. 43So He called His disciples to Himself and said to

them, “Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; 44for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.”

1 Corinthians 16:2 On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5 Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: 2that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. 3For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, 4imploping us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.

2 Corinthians 9:5-9 Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation.

6But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 8And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. 9As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.”

Galatians 6:6-7 Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.

7Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

1 Timothy 5:17-18 Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. 18For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer is worthy of his wages.”

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Hebrews 13:15-16 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. 16But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Offertory a Response or Introduction to Offerings?

“The present use of the Offertory Sentences should not be interpreted as connected with the Sermon or *Votum*, but as an introductory and inspirational to the offering of gifts” (Strodach, p.156).

“The ‘Common Liturgy’ moves the Offertory to after the offering (it had been before it in the ‘Common Service’), because Reed complained, a ‘popular misunderstanding came to regard these sentences as a response to the sermon.’ Again, Reed invoked the ‘early church’: ‘In the primitive church at this point in the Service the people brought food and other gifts for the poor and for the support of the clergy.’ Of course, because of the Roman notions linking the Offertory prayers that were in use at the time of the Reformation to notions of sacrifice, the Lutherans rejected such Offertories and placed Psalm verses in their place” (The Common Service-Heiser, p.237)