

# The Offering

We call our worship a Divine Service because God is doing a great work among us. He gives us forgiveness in the Absolution, speaks to us and is present among us in His Word, and graces us with the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith through the body and blood of His son during the Sacrament of the Altar.

We have been standing for the Creed and the Prayer of the Church and I say, "You may be seated as we receive the tithes and offerings." Do you know the difference between a tithe and an offering? Even though tithing isn't commanded in the New Testament, many Christians, me included, practice this discipline. A tithe is a set amount of money that you determine beforehand to give on a regular basis. The most common amount is 10% of your income. Since there is no law, the amount could be greater or less, depending on what you choose. The main thing is that you commit to it and stick to it.

An offering is anything above and beyond that tithe. Since the New Testament doesn't command a tithe, how much should our offerings be? Apostle Paul tells us we are to be cheerful and generous in our giving, remembering that it is God who supplies all our needs. Remembering this, helps us see our work as an opportunity to earn gifts to return to God.

*Prayer:*

*God, You have given us every good and perfect gift. Help us to be cheerful, generous givers. In Jesus' name, Amen.*