

## LETTING GO

*"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. Jeremiah 29:11-13*

*Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing. Isaiah 43:18-19*

A little girl, pressing her face against the window of the dime store, saw the most beautiful pearls there on display. Oh, how she loved those pearls! She saved her allowance and did as many odd jobs around the house as she could to earn money. And finally, at last, was able to buy the beautiful pearls. How she loved the way they sparkled and the way they shone so brightly. Every night after reading her a bedtime story, her father asked her if he could have her pearls. How heartbroken and disappointed she was. She had waited so long and worked so hard to get them. They were beautiful pearls. And each time her father asked, she sadly said no. Then one day the little girl decided to give her beautiful pearls to her father. And as she laid them in his hands, he brought out a beautiful silk-lined box and placed it in her hands. When she opened it, her eyes grew big, and she saw the most beautiful, real pearls inside the box.

Today as we look around our homes at the comfortable chair we are so used to, our couch with all the comfy pillows, the row of well-read books we love so much, the pictures on the walls, and all the things that help us feel safe and secure--a truly safe haven in the midst of the storms of life--Jesus, looking deep into our eyes with all the love possible in them, asks us if we would be willing to let go of our attachment to all

Trust in God at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him. God is a refuge for us. Psalm 62:8

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

these things that are so meaningful and comfortable for us.  
And we sadly say, "Oh Jesus, no."

And then we look at our volunteer work in the church and in the community, which gives us value and meaning in our lives. And we think about the dear people we serve in all different ways, who we care deeply about. Jesus comes to us again with the question. "Can you let go of the importance for you of all that you do in my name?"

Is it really possible for us to let go of our "dime store pearls?" "Oh Lord, please, not all those feelings of importance that we hold on to, which we *think* mean so much to us."

And then the question comes once again. Jesus simply looks into our eyes and our heart and waits . . .

In the right time, we will be ready to let go and place everything in Jesus' hands. And it will be at that very moment, a priceless gift of peace and love will be placed into our hands.

Today, Jesus softly takes your hand and says to you, (insert your name here) \_\_\_\_\_, I have something so much more for you. A real and genuine love and peace for your heart, and it is all for you.

*God our Father,*

*Help us . . .*

*be willing*

*to give you what we have worked so hard for . . .*

*and waited so long for . . .*

*all those attachments and feelings of importance  
we hold on to.*

*We know with you, Oh God,*

*all things are possible! Amen.*

Lord of all hopefulness,  
Lord of all joy. Whose  
trust ever child-like no  
cares could destroy. Be  
there at our waking, and  
give us we pray. Your bliss  
in our hearts, Lord at the  
break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord  
of all faith, whose strong  
hands were skilled at the  
plane and the lathe; Be  
there at our labors and  
give us we pray, your  
strength in our hearts, Lord  
at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord  
of all grace, your hands  
swift to welcome, your  
arms to embrace; be there  
at our homing and give us  
we pray, your love in our  
hearts Lord at the end of  
the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord  
of all calm, whose voice is  
contentment, whose  
presence is balm; be there  
at our sleeping, and give us  
we pray, your peace in our  
hearts, Lord, at the end of  
the day.

Lutheran Book of Worship