

Advent Morning Prayer
December 22, 2024
Fourth Sunday in Advent
Bethlehem Lutheran Church



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

ELW pg. 94

Advent Candle Lighting

Light One Candle

ELW # 240 all verses

Candle Lighting Dialog

L: When we look around we see shadows of conflict, hunger, homelessness, sorrow and despair.

C: May these candles be an assurance to us that your light does shine in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Gathering Hymn

People Look East

ELW 248

Greeting – The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Responsive Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

L: ² Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust and will not be afraid,

**R: for the Lord is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation."**

³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ And you will say on that day:

**"Give thanks to the Lord;
call on his name;**

make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.

**⁵ Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal^[b] Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

Prayer of the Day

God who saves us, make us good soil, receptive to the good news of the coming of Christ, in a stable 2000 years ago, in our hearts today, and at the end of all things. **Amen**

Gospel Reading - Luke 8:4-18

⁴ When a large crowd was gathering, as people were coming to him from town after town, he said in a parable: ⁵ "A sower went out to sow his seed, and as he sowed some fell on a path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. ⁶ Some fell on rock, and as it grew up it withered for lack of moisture. ⁷ Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. ⁸ Some fell into good soil, and when it grew it produced a hundredfold."

As he said this, he called out, "If you have ears to hear, then hear!"

⁹ Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰ He said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but to others I speak in parables, so that

'looking they may not perceive

and hearing they may not understand.'

The Parable of the Sower Explained

¹¹ "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹² The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. ¹⁴ As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and

riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵ But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart and bear fruit with endurance.

A Lamp under a Jar

¹⁶ “No one after lighting a lamp hides it under a jar or puts it under a bed; rather, one puts it on a lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light. ¹⁷ For nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed, nor is anything secret that will not become known and come to light. ¹⁸ So pay attention to how you listen, for to those who have, more will be given, and from those who do not have, even what they seem to have will be taken away.”

Message

Hymn of the Day

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

ELW 512

Apostle’s Creed

Prayers of Intercession

Exchange of Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you all

R: And also with you.

Please share the peace with one another

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Blessed are you O God, Creator of the universe. You open your hand in blessing and all we have is a gift to you. Use these gifts and our abilities to serve your world. In your name we pray, **Amen.**

Lord’s Prayer

Sending Prayer

L: Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Sending Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

ELW 244

Dismissal

P: Go in peace to love God and your neighbor

C: Thanks be to God!

Announcements

Worship at Liberty House Tomorrow at 1 pm. Let me know if you'd like to go

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - December 24 at 9 pm

Combined Epiphany Worship - January 5 at 10:30 at Grace. Potluck to follow