



Welcome to Good Shepherd
Called by God to: Grow; Serve; Love; Care and Worship

Contemporary Worship

January 17, 2016

“Parables”

How can we say what God’s kingdom is like? Even Jesus had to use metaphors to talk about and try to explain the kingdom of God. To crowds hungry for hope, he talked about scattering seeds and huge crop yields, of a tiny promise that grew into a shelter for many. God’s word is like a seed in many ways. Now only in how it grows and the necessity for good soil or a ready heart, but also in how it grows only by God’s hand. Our role seems to be as that of light, with God’s love shining through us.

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Prelude **“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”** (violin & flute)

Welcome & Announcements

***Gathering Song:** **WOV 718 “Gather Us In”**
 vs 1 & 4 - All, v 2 Men, v 3 - Women

***Call to Worship:**

P: As we gather together in this season of Epiphany we celebrate our light in Christ!

C: Through the seed of God’s Word we are drawn to the light!

P: We are called by the Gospel of Jesus Christ to faithfully serve in his Kingdom, and to let our light shine. Let us boldly proclaim the good news through the words of Jesus!

All: “Let your light shine before all people, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven”.

Song: **“Bring Forth the Kingdom”** Printed

Confession and Forgiveness (sit or kneel)

P: As the seeds of the Gospel take root in our hearts, we come to see what it is that separates us from God. Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection

P: Let us pray: Gracious God, sower of seeds.

All: We long to be the good seed in good soil. We love to live the way you would have us live, but the secrets of your kingdom seem beyond our understanding. We so often turn away from you, imagining that we can live our own way under our own power. Forgive us. Guide us, God, so we can live in the abundance of your kingdom. Amen.

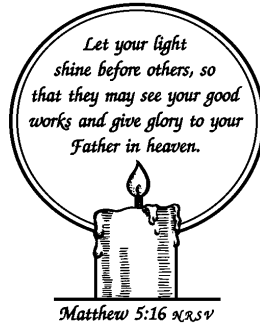
P: Hear the good news of Jesus Christ: The seed of grace has been sown. You are called to live in the ways of love and forgiveness that have already been granted you.

Prayer of the Day:

C: Gracious God, in the parable of the sower you showed us how your word can take root and grow within us. Nurture the seeds of your word in our hearts and help us to grow in faith and love. Amen.

Song: **WOV 713 “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”**

Children’s Message



Psalm: 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Announcement of Scripture Reading

P: A reading from the book of Mark, Chapter 4

C: Praise to you, O Lord.

Bible Story Mark 4:1-34

Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.” And he said, “Let anyone with ears to hear listen!” When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; in order that ‘they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.’” And he said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.” He said to them, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand? For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. Let anyone with ears to hear listen!” And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.” He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and

the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.” He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

P: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

Song: ELW 670 “Build Us Up, Lord”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S CALL

***Statement of Faith:**

C: We believe in a powerful God who created all, and continues to create. We believe in God who came to earth in human form through His Son, Jesus, to save a troubled world from sin and death and to give us the hope of eternal life. We believe that the Holy Spirit is God with us ... working in and through us to make all things new. We believe that God calls each one of us to discipleship...to reach out and care, to be kind to others, to work for justice on earth, to feed the hungry, and clothe the poor. God calls each of us to publicly proclaim Jesus as the Savior and light of the world so that others also may know the joy of an abundant life in his Kingdom forever!

Sharing the Peace

Offering: “Lord, Reign in Me” (worship team)

Prayers of the Church

Words of Institution/The Lord’s Prayer

Holy Communion

Songs during distribution:

WOV 783 “Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

PW 231 “Jehovah to Me”

***Blessing**

***Sending Song:** “This Little Light of Mine” vs 1, 2, 3, 1. Printed

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. The light of Christ shines through you!

C: Thanks be to God!

Preaching & Presiding: Rev. Mary Iverson **Scripture Reader:** Jon Melby

Communion Helpers: Pam Melby, Chad Groskreutz, Dennis Rollenhagen

Birthdays-Jan 17-23 (If your birthday is not listed please contact the church office with mm/dd/yy.)

18-Erinn Hotzler 20-Ruth Heggen 22-Kathryn Weyhrauch Lizzy Leland
Mike Rebelein 21-Hunter Malwitz 23-Kathleen Ehlert

Senior Saints: Join us on January 20th at 11:00 a.m. at the Broadway Apartments when the VIP(Volunteers in Plays) come to share a play with us. Everyone 55 and older is invited to share in the food and fellowship. Thanks to the January service group for providing the food!

January Food Collection - During the month of January, a grocery cart located next to the pulpit in the sanctuary will be collecting donations of individual fruit and pudding cups. All items collected this month will go to the Backpack/Communities Against Student Hunger. A special thanks for the many jars of peanut butter that were collected in December for the Wells Area Food Shelf.

Annual Congregational Meeting - Sunday, January 31, 2016. Following the 9:00 a.m. worship service (10:00 a.m.) In the Good Shepherd Sanctuary. *The Agenda includes:* the election of Good Shepherd leadership, leadership reports along with the discussion of the proposed 2016 Good Shepherd budget.

Youth Event – Happy Birthday! - Sunday, January 31 at 1-3pm. Youth in grades 3-12 are invited to gather together for an afternoon all about birthdays. We will put together “birthday bags” for the Wells Food Shelf clients who have a child’s birthday. Please bring a cake mix and cake frosting to include in the gift bags. We will also eat some Dairy Queen ice cream birthday cake, sing Happy Birthday to Pastor Mary and make some birthday cards for homebound members. We will also play some fun games together, including *sardines!* Please sign up on the church office door for this event. No cost, but please bring a cake mix and frosting.

Good Shepherd Reads - *All The Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. All are welcome to be a part of a discussion on the bestselling novel that tells the story of a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. A discussion will be led by Pastor Mary on Sunday, January 24 at 10:30 a.m. in the basement Church Parlor. All are welcome!

“We Care for Your Care” campaign. The Social Concerns Ministry Team are collecting personal care items for the Wells Area Food Shelf. The items needed are tooth brushes, tooth paste, combs, brushes, shower gel, nail clippers, nail files, lotions, deodorant, etc. **no sample sizes** please. Items are needed by Feb. 14th. Thank you for helping our community.

Overnight Lock-in for grades 6-9 - Moonlight Madness in Mankato - Friday, February 12. Good Shepherd youth will join together with other ELCA middle school aged youth in the Mankato area for a great night of fun. We will leave Good Shepherd Church at 10pm and travel first to Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter for open gym time and a midnight chapel service. Then we will take over the Mankato Grand Cinema 4 to watch a movie (your choice of four movies) and finally we will go to the Wow Zone for free everything (including free arcade games, bowling, laser tag and

mini golf). We will return to Good Shepherd at 9am on Saturday, February 13. The cost for this great night of fun is \$25 and you must sign up and pay by January 27. *IMPORTANT: space is limited for this event. Good Shepherd members will get first priority of sign up. If there are any spots left after January 27, you may bring one friend.*

In the cold and flu season - or any time - worshipers may greet others during the Passing of the Peace without shaking hands. Feel free to do what keeps you healthy or makes you comfortable.

Daily Scripture Readings

Jan 18- Psalm 145
Isaiah 54:1-8
Romans 12:9-21

Jan 19- Psalm 145
Song of Solomon 4:1-8
1 Corinthians 1:3-17

Jan 20- Psalm 145
Song of Solomon 4:9—5:1
Luke 5:33-39

Jan 21- Psalm 19
Isaiah 61:1-7
Romans 7:1-6

Jan 22- Psalm 19
Nehemiah 2:1-10
Romans 12:1-8

Jan 23- Psalm 19
Nehemiah 5:1-13
Luke 2:39-52