

Theresa Lungu:

Good morning.

Speaker 2:

Good morning.

Theresa Lungu:

And welcome to morning prayers. Today's service will begin with a responsive reading from the black Appleton Soto book, Psalm number 104 found on page 52. Please stand as you're able to read responsively by whole verse.

Theresa Lungu:

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God. You are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty.

Congregation:

Wrapped in light as with a garment. You stretch out the heavens like a tent.

Theresa Lungu:

You set the beams of your chambers on the waters. You make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind.

Congregation:

You make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.

Theresa Lungu:

You set the earth on its foundations so that it shall never be shaken.

Congregation:

You cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.

Theresa Lungu:

At your rebuke they flee; at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.

Congregation:

They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys to the place that you appointed for them.

Theresa Lungu:

May the glory of the Lord endure forever. May the Lord rejoice in his words.

Congregation:

Who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke.

Choir:
(singing).

Kevin Bryant:
Good morning, saints.

Kevin Bryant:
What a blessing it is to be in the house of the Lord. Amen? You know, in the text, in the Bible, Jesus fed 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish. Saints, between October, 2020 and January 21st, in Massachusetts, 58% of Latinx adults, 45% of Black adults, 26% of Asian adults, 24% of White adults, and 42% of adults with children reported experiencing food insecurity. My brothers and sisters, one in 11 children in Massachusetts face hunger. Food insecurity negatively impacts a child's opportunity to learn, but Jesus fed 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish. Many college students experience food insecurity. Fifty-two percent of Black public university students in Massachusetts experience food insecurity. Forty-seven percent of Latinx public university students in Massachusetts experience food insecurity. Forty-six percent of LGBTQ plus public university students in Massachusetts experience food insecurity. And by the way, 53% of the students' parents are likely disproportionately affected by food insecurity. But in a text, it says that Jesus fed 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish.

One point six million adults in Massachusetts are still struggling to get enough to eat. Everyone has a role in ending hunger in our communities. My brothers and sisters, we need to be like Jesus and feed our food insecure peoples in Massachusetts. Amen? Now, you could donate to your local food pantry, go on the Boston Food Bank website, which will also lead you to the Massachusetts Campus Hunger Coalition. My brothers and sisters, my message is short today, but it is very sincere and internal.

There's no greater service than service to others. And as Christians, we must do our part. Amen? Can we bow our heads in prayer, please?

Lord, allow your healing hand to heal us. Touch our souls with your compassion so that may have compassion for others. Touch our hearts with your courage so that we may have infinite love for all. Touch our minds with your wisdom so that our mouths may always proclaim your praise. Teach us to reach out to you in our times of need. Lord, heal not only our bodies, but also heal our spirit so that we may serve others with all of our strength and touch gently this life which you have created, now and forever, in Jesus' holy name, I pray. Amen.

Theresa Lungu:
Please stand as you're able and together let us recite the Lord's Prayer, saying, Our Father who are in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever, amen. Please let us sing the hymn, In Christ There is No East or West, number 341 in crimson Harvard Hymnal.

Congregation:

(singing)

Theresa Lungu:

As we go forth unto this day, let us rejoice in the privilege of being able to share in this time together, time to connect with heaven and God's promises, time to reflect and to breathe in the wonder of God's love. Amen.