

³⁵ Do you not say, "There are yet four months, then comes the harvest"? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. ³⁶ Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.

— John 4:35-38



In today's world it's popular to "look down" at farmers. Yet the farmer must be wise in their dealings in order to survive. And they know this truth about their crops: when it's time to harvest, it's time to harvest.

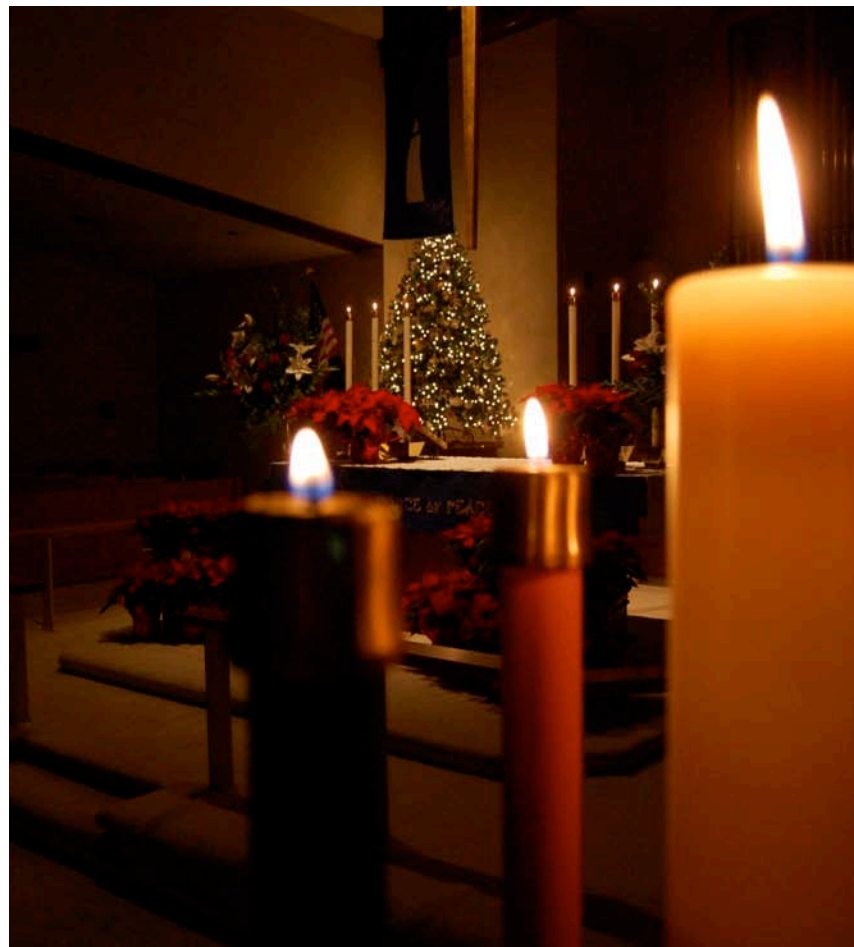
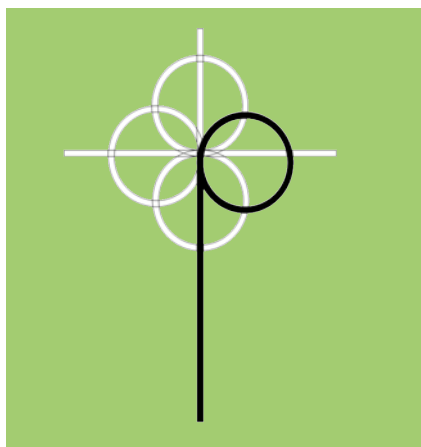
If you try to pick a crop before it's ready, the fruit or grain won't be usable. It will be too hard or too tart. In some way it will be unsuitable for use. If you wait too long and the crop ripens too much, the fruit or grain will be spoiled and unusable. If you lose the harvest window you might not be able to get into the field to get to harvest the crop.

The time to harvest a crop is when it is **ready** — not before, not after. Timing is everything in harvest work.

Jesus has something to tell us about harvest timing. The harvest is ready — now. It is ripe.

For farmers, talk is cheap at harvest time. They get to work as if their lives — and their livelihood — depend upon it. Effort and timing is everything!

Ponder Jesus' words. What is He saying to **you** about harvest time? Has He placed you at the opportune location for a ready harvest? ✠



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Church *Bible Prayer Meeting*

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
5500 Massachusetts Ave.
Bethesda, MD 20816-1933
P 301-229-2800
F 301-320-7085
www.pilgrimbethesda.org
office@pilgrimbethesda.org



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