

Vasa Lutheran Church

God's Word Accomplishes God's Purpose

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist: Anne Anderson

Sunday, December 12, 2021

The Third Sunday of Advent

ANNOUNCING THE DAY: Lighting the Third Advent Candle

Blessed are you, God of restoration, for you promise to cause the mountains to burst into song, and to transform thorns and briars into cypress and myrtle. The rain and the snow shall come down and shall not return until they have watered the earth.

As we light these candles, satisfy us with your words so that we partner with you to accomplish that which you intend for your creation.

O people restored by the Lord, come, let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord.
Amen.

ADVENT SONG

Candles glowing, promise showing joy that fills our very soul.
Grace abounding, hymns resounding, Christ restores and makes us whole.
Mercies gleaming, wonders beaming, justice streaming, Christ redeeming –
Christ restores and makes us whole! Christ restores and makes us whole!

Sung to the tune of Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Lyrics by Rev. Elana Keppel Levy, 2021

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,
in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.
We falter in our call to tend your creation.
We find our sense of self in material wealth.
We fear those different from ourselves.
We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
✚ your sins are forgiven.
You are children of the Most High,
inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE ELW 256

GREETING

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

C: and also with you.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

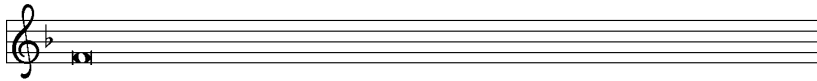
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

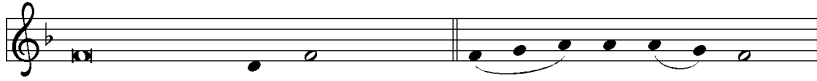
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

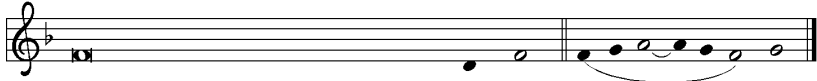


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. 3 Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. 4 See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. 5 See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. 6 Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; 7 let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall

not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. 12 For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. 13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

L: Word of God, word of life,

C: Thanks be to God.

Mark 6:34-44 As [Jesus] went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. 35 When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; 36 send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." 37 But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?" 38 And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." When they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." 39 Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. 40 So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. 41 Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. 42 And all ate and were filled; 43 and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. 44 Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

HYMN

I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY

ELW 611

SERMON

HYMN

WE WALK BY FAITH

ELW 635

We will sing verses 1, 3, 4, and 5.

CONFESSION OF FAITH using the words of the Apostles' Creed
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION: Each petition will end with the words: Lord, in your mercy. Please respond with: **hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be 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,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

GENEROSITY MOMENT:

SENDING HYMN:

ALL EARTH IS HOPEFUL

ELW 266

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Christ is near. **C:** Thanks be to God.



Scott Sorenson, Linda Thompson, Max Tilderquist, Irene Carpenter, Paul Mikaelson, Jay Mikaelson, Grace Nelson, Violet Nelson, and David Hagen (Mark Hagen's father)

Parish Pulse:

December 5, 2021

Participating in Worship: 61
(7 at WEW on 12/8/2021)

Total Offerings: \$3,205.00

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Usher: Duane Hanson

Reader: Marilyn Hanson

Assisting Next Week:

Usher: Bruce Tilderquist



Advent Bible Study: Our Advent Bible Study continues today at about 10:15 in the Fellowship Room of the Lutheran Center. This is part 2 of a 3 part study entitled *Animals at the Manger* which will bring us a deeper understanding of the biblical culture concerning sheep, cattle, and donkeys in Israel. Feel free to **bring a nativity set to show the group!**

children's
program



The children's Christmas program will be presented next Sunday at 10:30am. It is part of the Sunday worship service, so please note the later start time.

GOODHUE COUNTY CHRISTMAS TREE PROJECT



Please bring your unwrapped gifts, with the ornament from the tree attached, to the Lutheran Center or the church by the end of worship on **Sunday, December 19th.**



Christmas Eve Services will be held at 2:00pm and 5:00pm in the Sanctuary. For those who are unable to attend, we will also live-stream the 5:00pm service. **We are in need of a family with children who are good readers and who plan to come to the 5:00 Christmas Eve service. The family would be reading the Christmas story from Luke.**



NOTE!
ADDRESS CHANGE

Grace Nelson has moved! Please note her new address below:
Grace Nelson
Mill City Senior Living
1520 17th St. #108
Faribault, MN 55021

If you are looking for a winter woodworking project, have we got a deal for you!



The picnic tables in the shelter east of the church are in need of sanding and a coat of paint. We will transport the tables to your workshop and provide the paint.



The Parish Life team would like to install a Little Free Food Pantry near the Lutheran Center. Drawings are available and expenses for supplies will be reimbursed.

See Pastor Maureen if you are interested in taking on one of these projects.

We, the Vasa Congregation,
Called by God, commit to:
Worshipping together,
Growing in Faith,
Serving Others,
Welcoming and Loving All.



Vasa Lutheran Church

office@vasalutheran.org

651.258.4327