

Vasa Lutheran Church
The Birth of Our Savior

Pastor Maureen Hagen
Anne Anderson, accompanist

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve



PRELUDE

BLESSING OF THE NATIVITY SCENE

L: O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence, and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever. **Amen**

L: Tonight old dreams die and new dreams come to life.
The promise is fulfilled.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

L: Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

L: The candles tell the story. Dawn invades midnight.
The Light of the world has come.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

L: This light is a light for all, warming us from within, radiating love,
lighting our lives with the presence of God in human flesh,
within us and among us now and always.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

SUNG RESPONSE

Candles glowing, promise showing Jesus born a baby small.
Hosts rejoicing, shepherds voicing – praising Christ the Lord of all.
God is with us, shout hosanna, raise a chorus, singing ever:
Praising Christ the Lord of all! Praising Christ the Lord of all!

*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,
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God-with-us,
**we confess that we have turned away
those seeking shelter,
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.
We have made power and wealth our idols,
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.
We have overlooked the shepherds,
expecting good news in prettier packaging.
Too often, we have valued violence
instead of your peace.
Turn us from our ways to your ways.
Grant us the grace to begin again.
Free us from all that keeps us bound,
and forgive our sin,
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.
Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice!
You are God's chosen ones,
holy and beloved,
† forgiven in Christ,
and freed to respond in joy.

Amen.

HYMN

ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT

ELW 274

PRAYER OF THE DAY: *(In unison)*

Creator God, **by your greatness you became small, by your power you became powerless, by your limitlessness you became limited. Through the birth of your son, we can live in your light that shines on a world transformed by the limitless power of your love. Amen.**

**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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Each petition will end with: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

OFFERING

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be served by kneeling around the railing. Gluten free wafers and non-alcoholic wine are available for those who have dietary restrictions.

CONSECRATION OF COMMUNION ELEMENTS:

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:

beyond the stars; beneath the sea;

within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:

through the water; by night and day;

across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:

at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;

beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

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.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION: YOUR LITTLE ONES DEAR LORD ELW 286

BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ be with you now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER Merciful God, **we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen.**

THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION: John 1:1-14

You are invited to light a candle during the reading of the gospel lesson.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.





Silent Night, Holy Night!
Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face.



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C: The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness,
on them light has shined.

**C: We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

P: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C: In the Word was life,
and the life was the light of all people.**

BLESSING

The God of love,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE





We, the Vasa Congregation,
Called by God, commit to:
Worshipping together,
Growing in faith,
Serving others, and
Welcoming and loving all!



THE POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN

In Loving Memory of:

- Carolyn Gardiner
Given by Wallace Gardiner, Jr.
- Great Grandfather Swan Olson....
Given by Lucy Fountain
- Norvin & Gloria Skog; Magnus & Asta Peterson
Given by Barry Skog
- Jacob Finne, Jim Finne, Kevin Kruckeberg and Sherry Kruckeberg
Given by Kerry Finne
- Bill and Vivian Strusz
Given by Randy and Gail Klein
- Paul and Marilyn Carlson
Given by Tim and Melanie Carlson & Family
- Charles Hauck, Harriet & Philip Nygard
Given by Maureen and John Hauck

In Honor of:

- The Hauck Families
Given by John and Maureen Hauck
- Friends and family in our time of need
Given by Duane and Carolyn Lindstrom

In Memory of Loved Ones, given by:

- *Bruce & Kathy Tilderquist*
- *Steve and Dawn Lindstrom*
- *Sue Hedeem*
- *Audrey Rosener*
- *Lyle and Suzanne Ness*

The poinsettias on the altar are in loving memory of Jim Hedeem.

Thank you to Beth Matthees at Blooms on Broadway in Goodhue for the poinsettia flowers. And many thanks to the volunteers who helped decorate the church sanctuary with such love and care.

MUSIC FOR DECEMBER 24, 2024

ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT

Arr. From the Oxford Book of Carols © Oxford University Press 1928

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

Music: Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857,
st Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

LOVE HAS COME

Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music c/o Integrity Media, Inc.

YOUR LITTLE ONES, DEAR LORD

Text: Hans A. Bronson, 1694-1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845-1925, alt.

Music: Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747-1800

SILENT NIGHT

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

Reprinted/Streamed with Permission under

ONE LICENSE #A-740635

All rights reserved

Worship Assistants Christmas Eve

2:00PM

Usher: Marv Fredrickson

Reader: Mo Hauck

Hospitality: Mo Hauck

Comm. Assts: Kerry, Allie, & Josie

Finne; Alivia &

Avery Schaffer

5:00PM

Usher: Bruce Tilderquist

Reader: Mike Bauch

Comm. Assts: Tim, Melanie, Megan &

Tanner Carlson

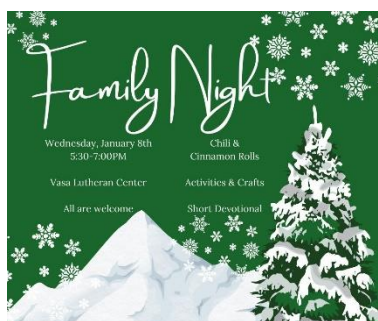


American Red Cross

The next Vasa Lutheran Church Blood Drive is scheduled for **TUESDAY, January 21, 2025 from 9:00am –7:00pm**. You can schedule an appointment by calling 1-800-733-2767, or by visiting RedCrossBlood.org. Enter VasaLutheran to schedule your appointment! PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A ONE-DAY DRIVE ONLY!



ALL HANDS ON DECK!! Volunteers are needed after worship on December 29th to clear the sanctuary of all Christmas Decorations, pew Bibles and Hymnals, and to clean out the “Flower Room” and “Pastor’s Office” in preparation for the repainting of the sanctuary! Please join us! As the saying goes...many hands make light work!!



VASA FAMILY NIGHT! January 8, 5:30-7:00PM!