

Vasa Lutheran Church

Simeon and Anna

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist: Anne Anderson

Sunday, December 27, 2020

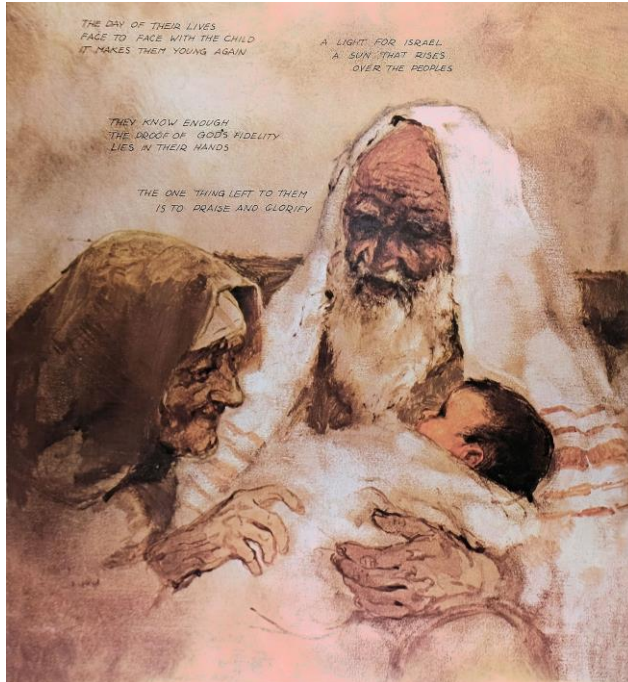


Photo credit: Rien Poortvliet

ANNOUNCING THE DAY

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who was in the beginning,
who makes a dwelling among us,
who covers us with justice and mercy.
Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of goodness and lovingkindness,
**we confess that we have sinned against you
and our neighbors.
We have turned away from your invitation to new life.
We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden.
In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins,
those we know and those known only to you,
for the sake of the one who came to live among us,
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hear the good news of peace and salvation!
God forgives us all our sins,
not through our own work,
but through ✝ Jesus Christ, made known to all people.
With all who come to the manger,
rejoice in this amazing gift of grace. **Amen.**

MUSICAL INTERLUDE AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET ELW 242

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent from heaven above, be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Glory of Israel, **the coming of your son, Jesus, broke open the heavens and prepared a way for all of your children to come home to you. Give us eyes to see your miraculous spirit moving in this church and in this world. Teach us to be proclaimers of your love to the nations, for the sake of the one whose name is redemption for the peoples, Jesus Christ, our salvation. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:21-38

MUSICAL INTERLUDE O LORD, NOW LET YOUR SERVANT ELW 313

MEDITATION

HYMN OF THE DAY and CONFESSION OF FAITH

to the tune of "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"

**I believe in God the Father, the Almighty God above,
Maker of the earth and heaven which were formed in God's great love.
And in Jesus, loving Jesus, God's own Son, who makes us new.
This, the creed of generations, is the faith for our church, too.**

**Jesus, by God's Holy Spirit, was so wondrously conceived,
Born unto the Virgin Mary, who your promises believed.
Jesus suffering under Pilate, on a cross was crucified.
Soldiers mocked him, friends denied him; he hung there until he died.**

**So it was, our Lord was buried, in a borrowed tomb he lay.
To the dead he then descended, where was joy on earth that day?
There is more to God's great story: In three days he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and he sits at God's right hand.**

**I believe what God has promised: Christ will come as he has said.
He will judge the nations' peoples, both the living and the dead.
I believe God's Holy Spirit makes the church one family.
We're surrounded by God's people, saints who in our Lord believe.**

**I believe that God forgives us for the times we turn away,
And that God will raise our bodies on that resurrection day.
We rejoice we'll live forever, singing praise to God's great name.
This, the creed of generations, is the faith that we proclaim.**

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

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION WILL CLOSE WITH THIS RESPONSE

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of peace.

You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary.

You share our humanity.

**Have mercy on the sick, the dying,
and all who suffer this day.**

Blessed are you, Son of God.

You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament
that we may bear your light to all the world.**

GENEROSITY MOMENT

CONSECRATION OF COMMUNION ELEMENTS: After the words of institution you will be invited to partake in the body and blood of Christ. We believe that God is present with us in our homes as we share in this sacred meal.

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 in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

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 We give you thanks, **gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

SENDING CAROL:

CANTICLE OF THE TURNING

ELW 723

BLESSING

Almighty God,
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,
proclaimed joy through the angels,
sent the shepherds with good news,
and led the magi by a star,
bless you this day ✚ through the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.



Scott Sorenson, Linda Thompson, Max Tilderquist, Jessie Otto, Jerry McRae,
Eileen Anderson, Sherri Broin, Jeannette Larson, Merle Pearson, Ezekiel
(Zeke) Pearson, Paul Mikaelson.

Parish Pulse:
December 20, 2020
Participating in Worship: All, in spirit!
Total Offerings: \$2,743.00.



Pastor Maureen and Mark will be on vacation in North Central MN from Sunday, December 27th through Sunday, January 3rd. The worship service for January 3rd will be one that the synod office has prepared especially so that pastors can take a Sunday off. You will receive the link via email. Pastor Maureen will return Monday, January 4.

Team Meetings are scheduled for Monday, January 4 as follows:

- Property Team – 9:30AM
- Finance Team – 1:00PM
- Parish Life Team – 6:30PM

The Leadership of Vasa Lutheran meets on a routine basis to assess the current state-wide Covid-19 restrictions and determine what is the safest way for the members of Vasa Congregation to worship. We will continue to provide pre-recorded worship services for the foreseeable future. The Council has not determined when Vasa will return to in-person worship.



Help is needed to disassemble the Christmas tree on Saturday, January 2nd. It's a simpler task than putting it up, but your help will be appreciated. We will start at 10AM.

In addition, the ornaments are in need of some tender loving care. If any of you are looking for a winter project call the church office.



COMMUNITY DINNER

Because of Covid Restrictions, the January 13 Community Dinner is cancelled. It's not the drive-through that poses the challenge; it's the volunteers working in the kitchen and our inability to maintain appropriate social distances behind the scenes.



Annual Reports are due to the office by January 15.

Along those same lines, the Church Council is giving consideration to the Annual Meeting which is currently scheduled for the last Sunday in February, February 28. By Constitution, 40 people must attend to provide a quorum. A final decision will be made at the January 18 Council Meeting.



American Red Cross

The next American Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for January 21, 2021 from 1:00-7:00pm AND January 22, 2021, from 9:00am-3:00pm. To sign up, go to www.redcrossblood.org. If you need assistance, go to customercare@redcross.org.



Thank you to every member of Vasa who has contributed financially during this past year. With your on-going support we are ending the year on solid financial ground. We look forward to the new year with optimism and hope as we patiently wait to worship in person and see all of our friends. Oh, what a joyous day that will be!



Poinsettias that adorned the Sanctuary for Christmas Eve were given by *Carolyn & Everett Smith* in memory of Ray & Erma Swanson, Ray & Lucille Peterson and Ray & Edith Berg; by *Jim & Sue Hedeem* in Memory of Loved Ones; and by *Randy & Gail Klein and Family* in memory of Bill Strusz, and Arnold & Margaret Samuelson.

