

# Vasa Lutheran Church

## *I am the Good Shepherd*

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist- Anne Anderson

February 18, 2026

Ash Wednesday



## **OPENING LITURGY FOR HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER .....(page 2)**

### **INVITATION to LENT**

L: In Old Testament days, ashes were often used as a mark of repentance. We read of individuals or groups of people putting on sackcloth and using ashes as a sign of personal repentance. The sign of the ashes was to portray the inward sorrow or repentance that a person felt for their sinfulness. In sorrow and repentance they came before God seeking his mercy and asking his forgiveness.

L: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**C: God's mercy endures forever.**

L: We come from many families to worship God as one family of God.

**C: Remembering our covenant, we come in faithfulness.**

L: We come to mark the beginning of the season of Lent.

**C: We come to remember through ashes and prayer.**

L: We come to break bread together.

**C: We come to receive the cup in Christ's name.**

L: Come then, let us renew ourselves as we worship together.

**C: Let us worship God!**

### **THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES**

**Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### **CONFESSION AND PARDON**

L: For all the times we fail to do what we know is right,

**C: We are sorry, Lord.**

L: For all the times we do what we know is wrong,

**C: We are sorry, Lord.**

L: For all the times we fail to love each other,

**C: We are sorry, Lord.**

L: For all the times we fail to love you,

**C: We are sorry, Lord.**

**Forgive us, and give us clean hearts.**

### **IMPOSITION of ASHES**

*Those who desire to receive ashes on their foreheads may come forward. If you wish to receive the ashes on your hand please hold it out when you approach. After the imposition, you may return to your seat.*

*(To be sung during the imposition of ashes.)*

L: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**C: That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

L: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

**C: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

L: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen**

**EVENING THANKSGIVING** found on page 4

**PSALMODY SONG** found on pages 4 through 7

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**PSALM 23** *(read in unison by the congregation)*

**The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:**

**he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

**He restoreth my soul:**

**he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness**

**for his name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

**I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;**

**thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

**Thou preparest a table before me**

**in the presence of mine enemies:**

**thou anointest my head with oil;**

**my cup runneth over.**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me**

**all the days of my life:**

**and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

**John 10:1-18** "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." 6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

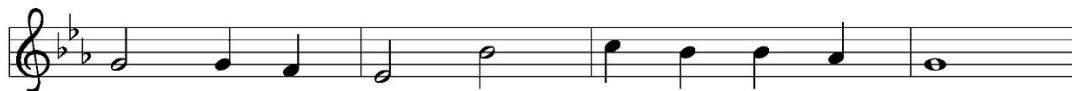
7 So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away-- and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Abide with Me



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.  
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.  
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!  
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847

Music: EVENTIDE, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

## **MEDITATION**

**THE ANNUNCIATION and THE MAGNIFICAT** from pages 8 and 9

### **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
you have brought us this far along the way.  
In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,  
but guided us into the path of love and light.

In every age you sent prophets  
to make known your loving will for all humanity.  
The cry of the poor has become your own cry;  
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant  
to preach good news to the afflicted,  
to break bread with the outcast and despised,  
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,  
we await the day when Jesus shall return  
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.  
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen  
**Amen.**

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,

to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup  
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.  
Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen  
**Amen.**

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,  
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,  
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.  
Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

***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**

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION:** *After the words of institution you will be invited to partake in the body and blood of Christ by kneeling at the railing. Gluten free wafers and non-alcoholic wine are available for those who have dietary restrictions. Children are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.*

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER** Generous Host, **you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**FINAL BLESSING** from page 12

**DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Serve in love.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Worship Assistants Today**  
**Usher:** John & Mo Hauck  
**Lector:** Ben Norman  
**Communion Asst.:** Katie Featherstone

**Worship Assistants Next Week**  
**February 22**  
**Usher:** Tim Carlson  
**Lector:** Tim Carlson  
**Hospitality:** *Volunteer Needed*

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## The “I Am” Sayings of Jesus

This year’s pilgrimage through the season of Lent will include a soup supper at 5:30 in the Lutheran Center. At about 6:00 we will worship by singing Holden Evening Prayer. This service will include a brief meditation on the “I Am” saying of Jesus from the gospel of John.

February 25th— I am the **Bread** of Life (John 6:35)

March 4th— I am the **Light** of the world (John 8:12)

March 11th— I am the **Gate/Door** (John 10:9)

March 18— I am the **Way the Truth and the Life** (John 14:6)

March 25th— I am the **Vine** (John 15:1-5)