

Vasa Lutheran Church

Help Us See!

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist-Anne Anderson

Sunday, April 6, 2025

OPENING WORDS

P: O Lord, let my soul rise up to meet you

C: as the day rises to meet the sun.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

P: Come let us sing to the Lord:

C: let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.**

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

Transform our lives

and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Lord of the lost, **We are quick to judge and slow to accept those whom we consider lower than ourselves. But you show us the way of acceptance, forgiveness, and peace. We honor your name for teaching us to love, for the sake of the one who is the essence of love itself, Jesus Christ our loving Lord. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 84:1-4, and 10-12

L: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

**C: My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

L: Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,

**C: where she may lay her young, at your altars,
O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.**

L: Happy are those who live in your house,

C: ever singing your praise.

L: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

**C: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness.**

L: For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
he bestows favor and honor.

**C: No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly.
O LORD of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.**

GOSPEL READING: Luke 18:31 - 19:10 Then he took the twelve aside and said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be handed over to the Gentiles; and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. After they have flogged him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again." But they understood nothing about all these things; in fact, what he said was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.

As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." Then he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has saved you." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus

was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

SUNG RESPONSE



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: ZACCHAEUS WAS A WEE LITTLE MAN

HYMN

THERE IN GOD'S GARDEN

ELW 342

We will sing verses 1-3.

SERMON

HYMN

THERE IN GOD'S GARDEN

ELW 342

We will sing verses 4-6.

PROFESSION OF FAITH (This profession of faith was written by Paul and Annette Godtland, friends of Pastor Maureen and Mark Hagen. We have permission to use their work.)

We believe in one God, maker of all that is, seen and unseen. God loves and sees good in all creation, including all people. Yet we sometimes separate ourselves from God—we sin.

We believe God became man as Jesus to bridge those separations and so forgive our sins. Jesus fully experienced and understood human life, and showed people a different way—love God and all people wholeheartedly, forgive sins, and invite all to follow God.

Jesus was killed by people intent on power over others, but he rose from the dead and ascended to heaven, proving the transcendent power and everlasting nature of God's love.

We believe that God's Holy Spirit is always with each person, reaching out to help us live out God's kingdom on earth. We strive to discern what the Holy Spirit is guiding us to do now, while knowing that we are continually called to deeply love—God, our neighbors, and ourselves. Our neighbors include everyone we may interact with, whether or not they believe all that we believe.

We humbly acknowledge that no one can fully understand God or God's creation. Together we seek to learn more about both, yet we also realize others will understand God and creation differently. Even so, each person is unique and loved by God. All are invited to everlasting communion with God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us share God's peace with one another.

GENEROSITY MOMENT

HOLY COMMUNION: *We will receive communion by intinction. All are welcome at the Lord's table. You don't need to be a member of Vasa, nor do you need to be a Lutheran to receive the body and blood of Christ today. Gluten free portions and non-alcoholic wine are available for those who have dietary restrictions. Children are welcome to come forward and will receive a blessing.*

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

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.**

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

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.**

SENDING HYMN: GOD, WHOSE GIVING KNOWS NO ENDING ELW 678

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you:

C: Wherever he may send you;

P: May he guide you through the wilderness:

C: Protect you through the storm;

P: May he bring you home rejoicing:
C: At the wonders he has shown you;
P: May he bring you home rejoicing:
C: Once again into our doors. Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
C: Thanks be to God.



Jay Mikaelson, Scott Sorenson, Anne Rathman, Lorrie Samuelson, Dale Anderson, Lynda Rosener Sack, Carolyn Lindstrom, Merle Pearson, Yvonne Belin, Terri Fredin, and Terri Mandelkow.

Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: Ben Norman
Reader: B-J Norman
Hospitality: Kent Volz
Comm Asst: B-J Norman

Worship Assistants Next Week APRIL 13

Usher: Rick Samuelson
Reader: Sid Featherstone
Hospitality: Marcia Featherstone

Parish Pulse:
March 26 & 30
Participating in Worship: 68
+ 13 Live Streams
Total Offerings:
March 30: \$2,134.77

MUSIC FOR APRIL 6, 2025

HARK, THE GLAD SOUND

Text: Phillip Doddridge, 1702-1751
Music: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

THERE IN GOD'S GARDEN

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Inc.

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GOD WHOSE GIVING KNOWS NO ENDING

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Vasa Family Night

On the Hunt for Easter



Wednesday, April 9th
Vasa Lutheran Center
5:30-7:00pm

Pulled Pork Sandwiches
Scavenger Hunt
Short Devotional

All are welcome!

2025

SAVE THE DATES!

Thursday, April 24, 9 am-7 pm
 Friday, April 25, 9 am-4 pm
 Saturday, April 27, 8am-Noon
(VASA LUTHERAN WILL HOLD ITS SALES THURSDAY & FRIDAY ONLY)

VASA AND WELCH AREA
8-mile RUMMAGE (& BAKE) SALE



Sales to be held at Vasa Lutheran Center on HWY 19, and at various homes along County Rd 7 for over 8 miles!



American Red Cross

VASA'S BLOOD DRIVE

APRIL 16TH

9:00AM-7:00PM



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