

# Vasa Lutheran Church

## *Ezekiel: Valley of Dry Bones*

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist: Anne Anderson

**Sunday, December 5, 2021**

**The Second Sunday of Advent**

### **ANNOUNCING THE DAY: Lighting the Second Advent Candle**

Blessed are you, God of breath. Help us to trust that even when it appears that we are living in a valley of dry bones that you have the power to bring forth new life. You alone, O God of breath have the power to breathe these dry bones back to life.

As we light these candles, transform our hearts so that we might grow in our trust of you. Wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.

O breathing living people, come,  
let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.

### **ADVENT SONG**

Candles glowing, promise showing holy peace so still and bright.  
New tomorrow, free from sorrow – living in Christ's holy light.  
Shunning violence, loving neighbor, joy of silence, trust our savior –  
Living in Christ's holy light! Living in Christ's holy light!

*Sung to the tune of Infant Holy, Infant Lowly  
Lyrics by Rev. Elana Keppel Levy, 2021*

### **BAPTISM OF Bodin Daniel Smith**

Pastor: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your son Bodin baptized into Christ? If so say, "I do."

*Response:* I do.

As you bring Bodin to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Bodin grow in the Christian faith and life?

*Brad and Shelby respond:* I do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Bodin in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

*Coty, Andrea, and Sarah respond:* I do.

Pastor: People of God, do you promise to support Bodin and pray for him in his new life in Christ? **We do.**

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

If so answer, "I renounce them."

**Response: I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

If so answer, "I renounce them."

**Response: I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

If so answer, "I renounce them."

**Response: I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

Pastor: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

## **BAPTISM**

Bodin Daniel Smith is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Bodin with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

Bodin Daniel Smith, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen.

## **WELCOME**

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

## **GATHERING HYMN**

## **BLESSED BE THE GOD OF ISRAEL**

**ELW 250**

*We will sing verses 1 and 2*

## **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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** God of breath, **You promised new life to your people in exile by breathing into a valley full of dry bones. Breathe new life into us, so that we might live passionately for you. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING Ezekiel 37:1-14**

Ezekiel 37:1-14 The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2 He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. 3 He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." 4 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. 5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6 I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." 7 So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8 I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. 9 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." 10 I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. 11 Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' 12 Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 14 I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

L: Word of God, word of life,

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**

**NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISES**

**ELW 379**

**SERMON**

**HYMN**

**EACH WINTER AS THE YEAR GROWS OLDER**

**ELW 252**

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

**GENEROSITY MOMENT:**

**CONSECRATION OF COMMUNION ELEMENTS:** *After the consecration of the communion elements you will be invited to come forward for communion by intinction. If you prefer, you may use a communion portion and remain in your seats.*

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.**

L. Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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:** *We will remain seated and use pre-packaged communion portions today*

### **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** Most High God, **you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen.**

**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 Mikaelsen, Jay Mikaelsen, Grace Nelson, Violet Nelson, and David Hagen (Mark Hagen's father)



We celebrate today the baptism of Bodin Daniel Smith, son of Shelby Hyllengren Smith and Brad Smith, and grandson of Steve and Lori Hyllengren. Sponsors are Sarah Smith and Coty and Andrea Hyllengren.

Welcome to God's family, Bodin!

Parish Pulse:

**November 28, 2021**

Participating in Worship: 32  
(7 at WEW on 12/1/2021)  
Total Offerings: \$7,960.00

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

***Usher:*** Rick Samuelson

***Reader:*** Volunteer Needed

### ***Assisting Next Week:***

***Usher:*** Duane Hanson

***Reader:*** Marilyn Hanson



**Poinsettia orders are due today!** The order forms can be found at the back of the church. Emily will phone the order in tomorrow, December 6. Poinsettias will be delivered in time for worship on December 19. **PLEASE NOTE: Make checks payable to Vasa**

**Lutheran Church and put Poinsettia in the memo line.**



Community dinner Drive through opens at 5:30 this Wednesday, Dec. 8. **WE NEED THE DONATED FOOD ITEMS DROPPED OFF AT THE LUTHERAN CENTER ASAP!!** If the Lutheran center is closed, please contact Sue Hedeem to make other drop off arrangements.



**Advent Bible Study:** We begin an Advent Bible study on Sunday, Dec. 5th at about 10:15 in the Fellowship Room of the Lutheran Center. This three part study entitled *Animals at the Manger* will bring us a deeper understanding of the biblical culture concerning sheep, cattle, and donkeys in Israel. **Bring a nativity set to show the group!**



## **GOODHUE COUNTY CHRISTMAS TREE PROJECT**

This year's Christmas tree is at the back of the sanctuary and will be ready for ornaments to be selected on December 5 and 12. Please bring the unwrapped gifts, with the ornament from our tree attached, to the Lutheran Center or the church by the end of worship on **Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**.



Join Balthazar, Melchior, and Gaspar - along with their faithful camel, Hezekiah - on a whimsical holiday quest to find the infant king. *The Wandering Wisemen* is a daily post on Facebook consisting of a picture and one sentence comment. It will continue through the season of Advent and Christmas. I find it light-hearted and fun.  
~Pastor Maureen



**Ball Bin for the Gym:** We have a new storage unit for balls in the Lutheran Center. It will usually be found in the gym. But if not there, then look for it in the furnace room.

