

Vasa Lutheran Church

Being Like Jesus: Inclusive

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist: Nick Kees

Sunday, August 10, 2025

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We are called to live a life worthy of the gift of the grace of God.

We should be humble and gentle.

We should be patient, bearing everyone in love.

There is One Body and One Spirit.

We share

One Lord

One Faith

One Baptism

One God and Creator of all

We are all children of God.

We are called to live a life worthy of the gift of the grace of God.

(from Ephesians 4:1-6)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

It is in our confession that we realize and acknowledge our desire for God and our trust in God's mercy. It is in admitting the difficult and messy truth of our lives and of the world that we take our first step toward wholeness and healing. So let us join in our confession, first in silent prayer.

A moment of silence.

God of Grace,

We have been unkind.

In our anxiety and fear, we have turned against one another.

We distrust and devalue one another.

We have reduced those we once loved to little more than that which "side" they are on.

We have learned to see each other as enemies instead of neighbors and friends.

Forgive us, God, and teach us what it means to repent.

In the midst of anger and accusations,

Teach us to listen and seek to understand.

In the midst of division and deception,

Teach us to be kind and true.

May we not avoid our differences in the name of "keeping the peace,"
**But by the help of your Spirit,
help us to love one another through our differences,
Calling forth a true peace, your peace,
That heals, restores, and reconciles us all to one another,
Destroying walls and building bridges
as living instruments of your love to all the world.
For the sake of Jesus, our brother and friend. Amen**

ABSOLUTION: Beloveds, hear this good news. God's love is uniting and reconciling all of creation and you are included in that love. Hear now that you have already been forgiven. And in that forgiveness, you are freed to love and serve others as you have first been loved.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

OPEN NOW THE GATES OF BEAUTY

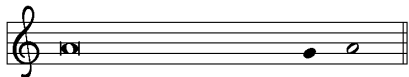
ELW 533

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.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



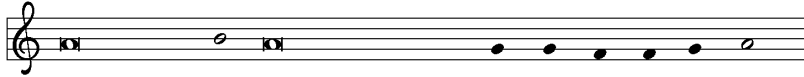
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Almighty God, **your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. You are constantly reforming, transforming and changing your church, while always remaining our center. Help us rejoice in you and share your lovingkindness with all people through the work of the Holy Spirit and in unity with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

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Acts 10:1 - 48 In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Cohort, as it was called. 2 He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God. 3 One afternoon at about three o'clock he had a vision in which he clearly saw an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius." 4 He stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" He answered, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. 5 Now send men to Joppa for a certain Simon who is called Peter; 6 he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside." 7 When the angel who spoke to him had left, he called two of his slaves and a devout soldier from the ranks of those who served him, 8 and after telling them everything, he sent them to Joppa. 9 About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. 10 He became hungry and wanted something to eat; and while it was being prepared, he fell into a trance. 11 He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. 12 In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. 13 Then he heard a voice saying, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." 14 But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean." 15 The voice said to him again, a second time, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." 16 This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven.

17 Now while Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of the vision that he had seen, suddenly the men sent by Cornelius appeared. They were asking for Simon's house and were standing by the gate. 18 They called out to ask whether Simon, who was called Peter, was staying there. 19 While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Look, three men are searching for you. 20 Now get up, go down, and go with them without hesitation; for I have sent them." 21 So Peter went down to the men and said, "I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for your coming?" 22 They answered, "Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say." 23 So Peter invited them in and gave them lodging.

The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the believers from Joppa accompanied him. 24 The following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. 25 On Peter's arrival Cornelius met him, and falling at his feet, worshiped him. 26 But

Peter made him get up, saying, "Stand up; I am only a mortal." 27 And as he talked with him, he went in and found that many had assembled; 28 and he said to them, "You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or to visit a Gentile; but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. 29 So when I was sent for, I came without objection. Now may I ask why you sent for me?"

30 Cornelius replied, "Four days ago at this very hour, at three o'clock, I was praying in my house when suddenly a man in dazzling clothes stood before me. 31 He said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. 32 Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon, who is called Peter; he is staying in the home of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.' 33 Therefore I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. So now all of us are here in the presence of God to listen to all that the Lord has commanded you to say."

34 Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ-- he is Lord of all. 37 That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39 We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; 40 but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41 not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

44 While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, 46 for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 47 "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" 48 So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

L: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

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HYMN

BE THOU MY VISION

ELW 793

We will sing verses 1,2,5, and the last.

SERMON

CONFESSION OF FAITH *using the words of the Apostles' Creed*

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

**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.**

**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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

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

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.**

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL:

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.



Jay Mikaelson, Scott Sorenson, Lorrie Samuelson, Dale Anderson,
Lynda Rosener Sack, Merle Pearson, Terri Fredin, Terri Mandelkow,
Jake Jacobson, Max Tilderquist, Connor Mikolichek (Rosann Pearson's
grandson), and Roger Guttromson.

Parish Pulse:

July 30 & August 3

Participating in Worship: **33**

+ 15 Live Streams

Total Offerings:

August 3: \$11,300.00

Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: Marv Fredrickson

Reader: Jeannette Anderson

Hospitality: Kent Volz

Worship Assistants Next Week

August 17

Usher: volunteer needed

Reader: Barry Skog

Hospitality: Mo Hauck

Comm. Asst: Sue Samuelson



MUSIC FOR AUGUST 3, 2025
HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, LORD GOD
ALMIGHTY

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt

Music: John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

WHAT A FELLOWSHIP, WHAT A JOY
DIVINE

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839-1929

Music: Anthony J. Showalter, 1858-1924

LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

Text: African American spiritual

Music: African American spiritual

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

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Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress Text:

Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt.

Music: Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version

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Vasa has a need for a volunteer to do a deep clean of the bride's room and the back stairs at the church (the stairs that lead to the bride's room). This area didn't receive the same deep cleaning that the Sanctuary did when we returned to the church in April. It is in desperate need of attention! Let Pastor Maureen know if you might be able to help out!



Ladies, the cake pan that goes with this lid. Check the side of the pan, it has my name on it.

Job Opening: Emily Peterson, our office administrator, has signaled her intent to resign from her position. If you know of someone who has strong computer skills, including word processing and spreadsheets, please encourage them to contact Pastor Maureen.