

Vasa Lutheran Church

The Walk to Emmaus

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Organist-Austin Ferguson

Special music by Emily Peterson

Sunday, April 26, 2020 The Covid-19 year

OPENING WORDS

We tried so hard this week. To get enough sleep, to listen to you, to put our fear aside and show up for those we love. Sometimes we got it right, sometimes we almost did, and sometimes, at least inside, we didn't use our filters very well. Yet you never, for a moment, left us alone. Help us once again, patient God, to breathe deep and receive the Holy Spirit you sent to be with us. Give us strength to exhale all that is not of you. So that every breath we take will be a prayer and reminder of your presence.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning you created us in your image
and planted us in a well-watered garden.
When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

Friends far and near, there is good news this day! Christ who listened and taught as he walked on the road to Emmaus with some disciples; Christ who healed and loved especially those he wasn't supposed to; that's who waits with open arms to forgive us and welcome us into relationship. My friends, in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Amen.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

GREETING: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY: O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19

I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.
Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.
Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, save my life!"
What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,
I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.
Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.
O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant,
the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds.
I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD.
I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,
in the courts of the house of the LORD,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

Luke 24:13-35

SPECIAL MUSIC from Emily Peterson, accompanied by Austin Ferguson

SERMON

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

PROFESSION OF FAITH

*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.**

We watched the news, and hunkered down, we bought provisions, but not too many. We sewed masks and stayed home. We thought we followed the rules, so we were safe. Then a case was confirmed in our neighborhood, a friend hospitalized with something unrelated, and still he lays alone in the hospital, his family sitting by their lifeline, the telephone, waiting to hear updates and diagnosis. We wait in fear.

Our friends on the front lines are exhausted and some of us are, too. Some of us sit idle, feeling guilty we cannot muster our strength and DO something to help.

We forget that we are doing something. We forget the power we possess, that we wield when we keep a safe distance and slow this wretched disease, when we find ways to share joy and Light with another, a stranger or a friend, down the street or far away.

We so often forget the power in prayer and connection.

Remind us again, patient and loving God, that your ways are not what we expect, but they are good. We pray for those in all countries battling this disease. Open the supply lines, that all would have what they need to be safe. We pray for the devastating events in Nova Scotia, bring healing to our siblings in Christ that mourn there.

We pray for empathy, that those in power in big and small ways, would act with compassion and regard for the well being of all of your children, and that we would have the courage to speak up for those voices that go unheard. Give us the courage to follow in the foot steps of Christ, who taught us to pray, saying...

**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.**

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

BLESSING

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead
raise you to new life,
fill you with hope,
and turn your mourning into dancing.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Christ is risen, just as he said.
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



Kerry Sorenson, Scott Sorenson, Linda Thompson, Max Tilderquist,
David Broin, Jessie Otto.



American Red Cross

VASA LUTHERAN DOES IT'S PART DURING THE PANDEMIC!

**We've had 47 people sign up for the blood drive on
April 30, so all slots are filled. Thanks to all who are
making this a success! The need is greater than
ever.**

**(If you are still interested in donating, contact Kathy
Tilderquist (612-554-1256) and she will add you to a
waiting list.)**

Parish Pulse

April 19

Participating in Spirit: ALL

Total Offerings: \$1,600.00

STAYING CONNECTED

As a way to stay connected during these uncertain times, we'd like to hear how you are coping with the Coronavirus crisis to include in the May issue of the Vasa Voice. Do certain prayers or poems provide comfort and strength? Are you reading more? Playing more board games? Video chatting with friends and family? Gardening? Finding new ways to exercise? etc? It doesn't need to be long, and of course, there is no pressure!

If you have anything to share, please get it to the Lutheran Center (via email or snail mail) by next Monday or Tuesday (by noon) and Emily will include it in the newsletter.

In the meantime, we hope you are staying safe and well.

