

# Vasa Lutheran Church

*He is Risen! He is risen, indeed!*

Dahmon Romness

Accompanist: Anne Anderson

**Sunday, April 18, 2021**

## **ANNOUNCING THE DAY**

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

L: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,  
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water will be poured into the font as we give thanks.*

We thank you, risen Christ,  
for these waters where you make us new,  
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us  
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,  
like rains to our thirsting earth,  
like streams that revive our souls,  
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

**Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.**

**Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.**

**Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.**

**Make us one, risen Christ.**

**Cleanse our hearts.**

**Shower us with life.**

To you be given all praise,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN**

**ELW 363**

## **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:

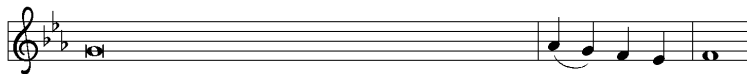
led by Sid and Marcia Featherstone



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



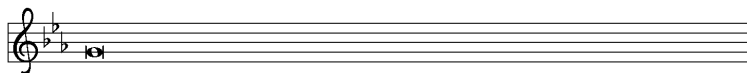
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



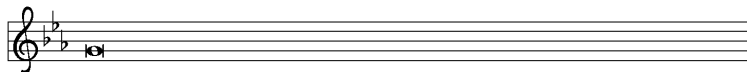
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men, a - men.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** Holy Giver and Receiver of life, **your martyr Stephen, shined with the light of your Holy Spirit. when his opponents took his life, he offered up his spirit to you, and prayed mercy for theirs. Make Stephen an example of faith and courage for all your followers, for the sake of the one who brought light and life to this world, Jesus Christ. Amen**

**Acts 6:1 through 7:2a and 7:44-60** Read by Duane Martinson

Acts 6:1 - 7:2 Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. 2 And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3 Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, 4 while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." 5 What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. 6 They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. 8 Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. 9 Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. 10 But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. 11 Then they secretly instigated some men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." 12 They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. 13 They set up false witnesses who said, "This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; 14 for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us." 15 And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel. Then the high priest asked him, "Are these things so?" 2 And Stephen replied:

Acts 7:44-60 44 "Our ancestors had the tent of testimony in the wilderness, as God directed when he spoke to Moses, ordering him to make it according to the pattern he had seen. 45 Our ancestors in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our ancestors. And it was there until the time of David, 46 who found favor with God and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the house of Jacob. 47 But it was Solomon who built a house for him. 48 Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with human hands; as the prophet says, 49 'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest?

50 Did not my hand make all these things?' 51 "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. 52 Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. 53 You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it." 54 When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. 55 But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" 57 But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. 58 Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

L: Word of God, word of life,

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN:**

**ELW 512**

**SERMON**

**HYMN**

**ELW 605**

**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.**

**GENEROSITY MOMENT**

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

**SENDING HYMN:**

**ELW 417**

**BLESSING**

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom  
to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life,  
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.  
Amen.

**DISMISSAL**

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

L: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**



Scott Sorenson, Linda Thompson, Max Tilderquist, Eileen Anderson,  
Paul Mikaelson, Gloria Skog, Merle Pearson.

Parish Pulse:

**April 11, 2021**

Participating in Worship: All – In Spirit  
(41 in-person)

Total Offerings: \$2,170.00.00



**We served 300 meals on Wednesday, and had everything cleaned up and put away by 6:40! The earliest ever!** Many thanks to the following people and businesses for their generous donations to make the Vasa Community dinners possible. This month we recognize **Kent and Deb Mills** for donating the ground beef; **Cannon River Catering** for the Tater Tot Hot Dish and Cole Slaw; and the **Vasa community and church members** who donated the rolls! **THANK YOU!**

**The May 2021 Community dinner is on May 12.** This will be the last one of the year and the menu will be Pulled Pork Sandwiches, chips, Baked Beans and a cookie. **Meal reservation deadline is Wednesday, May 5 at NOON!!**

## Food Shelf



**Also at the MAY Community Dinner—we will be taking items for the Red Wing and Cannon Falls Food Shelves. Drop them off when you pick up your meals! Or—give them to your delivery driver!**



The Vasa Rummage & Bake Sale is next Thursday, April 22 (10-7) and Friday, April 23 (8-4). Bag lunches will be available! **AND!!** — There will be 12 other sales in the neighborhood!

*faith*  
**family**  
friends

*Wednesday Evening Worship +Everyday Bible Conversation* resumes this Wednesday, April 21 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Room at the Lutheran Center. Per our usual custom, we will also celebrate Holy Communion. It will be good to be together again.



“Undies Sunday” is coming up on Mother’s Day, May 9! We will be collecting new packages of women’s underwear, children’s underwear and

socks, and toilet paper that day to take to the women’s shelter in Red Wing.



- **Church Council** meets Monday, 4/19 at 6pm
- **Wednesday Evening Worship** resumes 4/21 at 7pm
- **Vasa Rummage Sale drop-offs** Mon-Tues 12-7pm (**Bake Sale** items Wed 12-7)
- **Vasa Rummage Sale** Thurs 10-6 and Fri 8-2



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