

Vasa Lutheran Church

“God Needed Another Angel”

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist: Anne Anderson

July 30, 2023

ANNOUNCING THE DAY: Today’s Bumper Sticker is: “God needed another angel. The folly of this saying is that we don’t know how to speak to people in grief and loss. As a result we offer supposed words of comfort, saying God made our loved one die because God needs company in heaven. In today’s worship we will emphasize God’s vision for a new heaven and a new earth, giving us comfort that we will not endure suffering or mourning or even crying there.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who greets us in this and every season,
whose word never fails,
whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned.
We have hurt our community.
We have squandered your blessings.
We have hoarded your bounty.
In the name of Jesus,
forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,

**we confess that we have sinned.
We have failed to be honest.
We have lacked the courage to speak.
We have spoken falsely.
In the name of Jesus,
forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.
God offers boundless grace when we fail.
Claim the gift of God’s mercy:
you are freed and forgiven
in the name of † Jesus Christ.

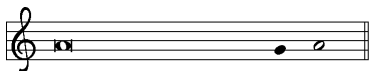
Amen.

We will sing verse 1,2, and 5.

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.**

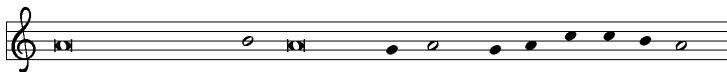
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



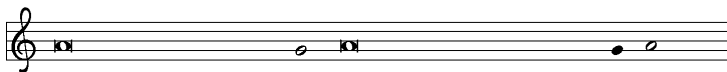
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



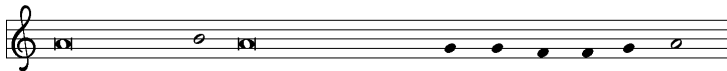
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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: O Lord, **support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

1 Corinthians 15:51-58 Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54 When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." 55 "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Revelation 21:1-6 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; 4 he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." 5 And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6 Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN **MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE** **ELW 759**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY **PRECIOUS LORD TAKE MY HAND** **ELW 773**

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. Please respond with: **hear our prayer.**

GENEROSITY MOMENT

HOLY COMMUNION

L: Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

L: The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars;
beneath the sea;
within each cell;
with every breath.

C: We praise you, O God.

L: Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water;
by night and day;
across the wilderness;
out of exile;
into the future.

C: We bless you, O God.

L: We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life;
near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner;
among the poor;
with us now.

C: We thank you, O God.

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.

L: Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

L: We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God,
through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen.

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.**

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

We will receive communion by kneeling at the railing. 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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER: We thank you, generous God, **for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

JERUSALEM, MY HAPPY HOME

ELW 628

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

L: The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed

✠ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **C: Amen.**

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God.



**Eileen Anderson,
Irene Carpenter, Deloris
Clemens, Paul Mikaelson,
Scott Sorenson, Max
Tilderquist, Ivan Nelson,
and Dale Safe.**

Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: Bruce Tilderquist

Reader: Barry Skog

Hospitality:

Comm. Asst: Tim Carlson

Worship Assistants Next Week (August 6, 2023)

Usher: Roger Guttromson

Reader: Roger Guttromson

Hospitality: Lora Gruber

PARISH PULSE:

July 16 & 24, 2023

Participating in Worship:

86

+15 live-streams

Total Offerings:

\$5,807.20

The August Bible Study dates for *WOMEN OF ALL AGES AND STAGES* will be August 2nd, from 9:30-11:00AM, at the home of Marilyn Hanson AND August 16th, same time, at the Lutheran Center. All are welcome! Questions? Call Mo Hauck at 651-331-8593!

Music for Sunday, July 30, 2023

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
Music: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887
Music: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Text and music © 1938, 1966 Unichappell Music Inc., admin. Alfred Publishing
Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993
Music: George N. Allen, 1812-1877, adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey

Jerusalem My Happy Home

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

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PARKING LOT SHRED EVENT

**PARKING LOT SHRED EVENT | THURSDAY, AUGUST 3 |
2-5PM | THRIVENT, 1001 MAIN ST, RED WING, MN**

Please join us a parking lot shred event! One best practice to protecting yourself from identity theft is shredding papers that contain personally identifiable information. We have coordinated this shred event to assist you in safely destroying your sensitive papers. Please bring confidential documents you would like to shred as well as a donation for Disability Support International and get your generosity multiplied! For every \$10 donated at our location from 2-5pm on 8/3, our Thrivent Member Network will donate an additional \$5, up to a maximum of \$750.

A grilled lunch and watermelon will be provided in honor of National Watermelon Day.

No registration necessary. No products will be sold. Feel free to share this event with others – all are welcome.