

Vasa Lutheran Church

8th Sunday After Pentecost

Pastor Tim Seitz

Accompanist-Anne Anderson

Sunday, July, 19th 2026

ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

L: Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

Amen.

Verse 1

Open now thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty
waits for God who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place,
filled with solace, light, and grace!

Verse 2

Gracious God, I come before thee;
come thou also unto me;
where we find thee and adore thee,
there a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, oh, enter thou,
let it be thy temple now!

Verse 3

Here thy praise is gladly chanted,
here thy seed is duly sown;
let my soul, where it is planted,
bring forth precious sheaves alone,
so that all I hear may be
fruitful unto life in me.

Verse 4

Thou my faith increase and quicken,
let me keep thy gift divine;
howsoe'er temptations thicken,
may thy word still o'er me shine
as my guiding star through life,
as my comfort in all strife.

Verse 5

Speak, O God, and I will hear thee,
let thy will be done indeed;
may I undisturbed draw near thee
while thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
here is balm for all our woes.

GREETING: 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Change My Heart, O God



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953

Music: CHANGE MY HEART, Eddie Espinosa

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PRAYER OF THE DAY: Beloved and sovereign God, **through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

PSALM 119:129-136

129 Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

**130 When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

131 I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.

**132 Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**

133 Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

**134 Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**

135 Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach | me your statutes.

**136 My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

31 [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; 32 it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

33 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; 48 when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50 and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

51 "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." 52 And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Verse 1

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Verse 2

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Verse 3

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Verse 4

Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

SERMON**Verse 1**

We walk by faith and not by sight;
with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:
"My peace be with you here."

Verse 2

We may not touch your hands and side,
nor follow where you trod;
but in your promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"

Verse 3

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near
and seek where you are found:

Verse 4

For you, O resurrected Lord,
are found in means divine:
beneath the water and the word,
beneath the bread and wine.

Verse 5

And when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.

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: God of Grace. Please respond with: **hear our prayer.**

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.

GENEROSITY MOMENT

LORD'S PRAYER

Give us the courage to follow in the footsteps 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.**

Verse 1

God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Verse 2

Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days,

ANNOUNCEMENTS**BLESSING**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

Verse 3

Cure your children's warring
madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Verse 4

Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

Parish Pulse:

July 19

Participating in Worship: 43

+ 49 Live Streams

Total Offerings:

July 19

\$795



Wendy Anderson, Jay
Mikaelsen, Scott
Sorenson, Lorrie
Samuelson, Lynda
Rosener, Terri Fredin,
Connor Michalicek
(Rosann Pearson's
grandson), Jake
Jacobson, Rachel Harper
(Barry Skog's Niece)

Worship Assistants Today

July 26

Musician: Anne Anderson

Usher: Bryan Diercks

Lector: Kathy Tilderquist

Hospitality: Lora Gruber

Worship Assistants Next Week

August 2

Musician: Anne Anderson

Usher: Rick Samuelson

Lector: Mo Hauck

Hospitality: Mo Hauck

Communion Asst: *Volunteer Needed*

MUSIC FOR JULY 19, 2026

OPEN NOW THY GATES OF BEAUTY

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Music: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680

CHANGE MY HEART, O GOD

Text and music © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing (ASCAP), admin. Music Services

BE THOU MY VISION

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

Music: Irish traditional

WE WALK BY FAITH

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GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969

Music: John Hughes, 1873-1932

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