

Vasa Lutheran Church

Affirmation of Faith

Pastor Maureen Hagen Accompanist – Nick Kees

Sunday, November 12, 2023

ANNOUNCING THE DAY

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Blessed be God, the one who forms us,
‡ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility,
confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,

you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.

We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.

We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.

For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.

For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us.

For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.

Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;

in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.

God's compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

In ‡ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

GATHER US IN

ELW 532

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.**

KYRIE: We will sing ELW #157

Kyrie

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

The musical score is written for two parts: Leader and Assembly. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a top staff for the Leader and a bottom staff for the Assembly. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have For the reign of God, and for mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. peace through-out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord. For your Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy."

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

mer - cy.

A - men.

Text: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, adapt. Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen

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HYMN OF PRAISE: We will sing **ELW #167**

Now the Feast and Celebration



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



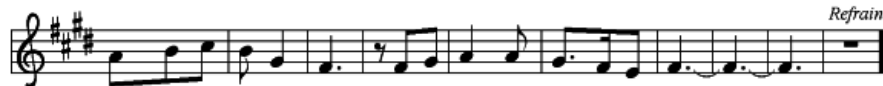
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Almighty God, **your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE TEXT:

Psalm 61:1-8

L: Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer.

C: From the end of the earth I call to you, when my heart is faint.

L: Lead me to the rock that is higher than I;

C: for you are my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.

L: Let me abide in your tent forever, find refuge under the shelter of your wings.

C: For you, O God, have heard my vows;

you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.

L: So I will always sing praises to your name,

C: as I pay my vows day after day.

Ephesians 2:1-9 You were dead through the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. 3 All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us 5 even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- 9 not the result of works, so that no one may boast.*

Matthew 6:25-34 "If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don't fuss about what's on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God. And you count far more to him than birds.

27-29 "Has anyone by fussing in front of the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? All this time and money wasted on fashion—do you think it makes that much difference? Instead of looking at the fashions, walk out into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They never primp or shop, but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them.

30-33 "If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his

best for you? What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

34 "Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.*

L: Word of God, word of life,

C: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON: The Runaway Bunny by Margaret Wise Brown

HYMN

AMAZING GRACE

ELW 779

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY:

BE THOU MY VISION

ELW 793

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for Miley, Malena, Miranda, Lucy and Jack, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism on this day.

P: Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for **this brother and these sisters** in Christ, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism.

You have called them to yourself,
Enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit,
and nourished them in the community of faith.

Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism,
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.

We ask this in the name of Christ.

C: Amen.

*This translation is from a paraphrase of the Bible called *The Message* that was created by Rev. Eugene Peterson

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P: At your baptism, your parents and sponsors spoke for you and confessed that for a time, they would maintain faithfulness for you. On this day you are speaking for yourself. Therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Confirmands: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Confirmands: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Confirmands: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**All: 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.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**All: 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.**

AFFIRMATION

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Confirmands: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: People of God, do you promise to support these our siblings in Christ and pray for them in their life in Christ?

All: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

At this time, the confirmands, their parents, baptismal sponsors, and family will gather around the communion rail. Confirmands may kneel and their family will gather behind and around them.

P: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Stir up in *name* the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY: CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER ELW 781

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
the promise to Israel,
the rescue from Egypt,
the gift of the promised land,
the words of the prophets;
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.
Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.

Amen.

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 *We will receive communion by kneeling around the altar railing. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available for those who have dietary restrictions. Children are welcome to join you and will receive a blessing.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION Blessed be your name, O God, **for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: GO MY CHILDREN WITH MY BLESSING ELW 543

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFIRMATION BLESSING AROUND THE FONT:

Romans 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Remember that you are a child of God, and that God is always with you!

BLESSING

L: The God of glory,
✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names,
and the Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C: Thanks be to God.



We rejoice with the five young people who affirmed their faith today:

Miley Clemens Baptized 02-08-2009
Daughter of Shane and Cary Clemens

Jack Stehr Baptized 05-10-2009
Son of Jenna Montey

Malena Mandelkow Baptized 02-01-2009
Daughter of Brian and Andrea Mandelkow

Lucy Sense Baptized 1-31-2010
Daughter of Montana and Amanda Sense

Miranda Mandelkow Baptized 02-01-2009
Daughter of Brian and Andrea Mandelkow



The Offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary, and by the East Door. They are there to receive your offering as you enter for worship.

Parish Pulse:
November 5, 2023
Participating in Worship: 83
+16 live-streams
Total Offerings:
\$1,949.00

Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: Marv Fredrickson
Reader: Katie Featherstone
Comm. Asst: Katie Featherstone
Hospitality: Audrey Rosener

Worship Assistants Next Week (November 19, 2023)

Usher: Rick Samuelson
Reader: Sasha Diercks
Hospitality: Sue Ness
Comm. Asst: Katie Featherstone

Music for Sunday, November 12th, 2023

Gather Us In

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Kyrie

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Now The Feast and Celebration

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Amazing Grace

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921, alt.

Be Thou My Vision

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

Music: Irish traditional

Children of the Heavenly Father

Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Go My Children With My Blessing

Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

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Vasa will commemorate Veteran's Day on Sunday, November 19th immediately following the worship service. We will gather at the flag pole by the church sanctuary for a brief ceremony and changing of the flag.



**We, the Vasa Congregation,
Called by God, commit to:
Worshipping together,
Growing in Faith,
Serving others, and
Welcoming and loving all!**