

Vasa Lutheran Church

The Tale of Three Trees: Part One

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist-Anne Anderson

Sunday, August 23, 2020

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP Luke 2:1-5

L: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus

C: that all the world should be registered.

L: This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

C: All went to their own towns to be registered.

L: Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem,

C: because he was descended from the house and family of David.

L: He went to be registered with Mary,

C: to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,
as the pastor begins with these words.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,

Love from the beginning,

Word made flesh,

Breath of heaven.

Amen.

Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another,
trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

we confess that we are not perfect.

We have said and done things we regret.

**We have tried to earn your redeeming grace,
while denying it to others.**

**We have resisted your call
to be your voice in the world.**

Forgive us, loving God.

**Give us your righteousness,
the strength to put aside our failures,
and the courage to try again. Amen.**

Dear people of God, hear the good news:
Christ the Savior is born!
You are loved and forgiven
in the name of † Jesus, who has come among us.
You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved,
because God's love is given to you
as the most precious gift of all.
Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.
Amen.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE YOUR LITTLE ONES, DEAR LORD ELW 286

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: Shine into our hearts **the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 96:1-3, 10-13

L: O sing to the LORD a new song;

C: sing to the LORD, all the earth.

L: Sing to the LORD, bless his name;

C: tell of his salvation from day to day.

L: Declare his glory among the nations,

C: his marvelous works among all the peoples.

L: Say among the nations, "The LORD is king!"

C: The world is firmly established;

L: it shall never be moved.

C: He will judge the peoples with equity."

L: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

C: let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

L: let the field exult, and everything in it.

C: Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD;

L: for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth.

**C: He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.**

Luke 2:6-20 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for

see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

The Tale of Three Trees—a traditional folktale—retold by Angela Elwell Hunt

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY

ELW 276

MEDITATION



MUSICAL INTERLUDE

AWAY IN A MANGER

ELW 278

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.**

GENEROSITY MOMENT

Offering plates will not be passed, but are sitting near the doors as you leave.

CONSECRATION OF COMMUNION ELEMENTS: We will remain in the pews for communion today. Each of you should have picked up a communion portion prior to worship. After the words of institution you will be invited to open your portion and serve yourself.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

LOVE HAS COME

ELW 292

BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ be with you now and forever. Amen.

Let us pray (*in unison*)

**Emmanuel, God with us,
you grace us with life and breath
and give us bread for the journey.
Send us out in service to this world that you love,
telling the amazing news of your coming
to be Savior and Lord of all. Amen.**

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

ELW 269

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Grace from God's own heart,
peace from the ✝ Child in the manger,
and strength from the Spirit of life
be blessings for you today and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.



Scott Sorenson, Linda Thompson, Max Tilderquist, David Broin, Jessie Otto, Einar Norman (Ben Norman's father), Family of Linda Buck as they grieve the death of Linda's sister, Mike Schwendeman (friend of the Norman's)

Assisting with Worship today:

Reader and Communion Set Up:
Sandy Wallschlager

Parish Pulse:

August 16, 2020

*Participating in Worship: 21 + 6 (WEW
August 19)*

Total Offerings: \$1,830.69

Fuel Fund: For those of you who like to have a specific item to donate toward, you might consider the fuel fund. We are already halfway to our goal of \$4,000.00 to cover the cost of the annual pre-pay fill. Thanks to all who have donated so far!



Returns Covid-19 Style!

Mark your calendars for September 9 for the next Vasa Lutheran Free Community Dinner! This dinner will be

Pick-Up or Delivery ONLY and meals

must be reserved in

advance. Reservation forms are at the church and in the Lutheran Center. They are due by Sept. 4. Sign-up sheets to help prepare or donate food are also located at church and in the Lutheran Center.

MENU: Chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, refrigerator pickles, rolls and cheese cake.



Help needed: Grant Writer

Everyone at Vasa acknowledges the historic value of the gazebo. The challenge is that it is deteriorating to the point that it is becoming unsafe. If Vasa is going to restore the gazebo we will need financial help. One way to begin is to search for grant money.

We need someone who is willing to take on the grant writing project. We know that there are funds available for the restoration of historic structures but we need the help of someone who knows how to write grants. If you know someone who is willing to help us, please contact the church office.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Vasa website www.vasalutheran.org.



Vasa Mission
We, the Vasa
congregation,
called by God, commit to:
Worshipping together,
Growing in Faith
Serving others, and
Welcoming and Loving all!