

Vasa Lutheran Church

Paul's Sermon at Athens

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist: Anne Anderson

Sunday, May 15, 2022

We will celebrate Holy Communion during worship today. 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 at our worship service.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: In the waters of baptism,
we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ,
and we are a new creation.

**C: For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God,
who was, who is, and who is to come.**

L: We thank you, God, for your river of life,
flowing freely from your throne:
through the earth, through the city, through every living thing.

**C: You open the gate of righteousness
and we pass safely through.**

L: In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters.
You nourish us and enclose us in safety.
You call us forth and send us out.

**C: In lush and barren places, you are with us.
You have become our salvation.
Now breathe upon this water
and awaken your church once more.**

L: Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.
Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.

**C: To you, our Beginning and our End,
our Shepherd and Lamb,
be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving,
now and forever. Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE

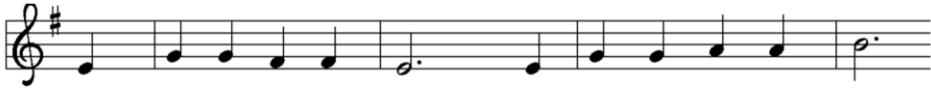
ELW 834

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



- 1 Have mer-cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol- emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer-cy on us, Christ, and wash a- way our sin.
- 3 Have mer-cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de- part.



We come to hear your liv- ing word; it saves us from de- spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be- gin.
Re- new us with your sav- ing pow'r; cre- ate in us new hearts!

HYMN OF PRAISE



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for- ev- er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho- ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a- lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre- a- tion, Fa- ther of sur- pass- ing worth:
Son of God and gra- cious Sav- ior, you have come from heav'n a- bove;
Ho- ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex- alt you, we a- dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je- sus Christ, with God the Spir- it, in the Fa- ther's splen- dor bright.



Saints and an- gels bow be- fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re- store, for- give us; in your prom- ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in- her- it, glo- ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY: God of the unknown, **Your mysteries are astounding. Give us knowledge where you see fit, and let us sit comfortably with that which we can never understand. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 17:16-31 While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. 17 So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. 18 Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) 19 So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? 20 It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means." 21 Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new. 22 Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. 26 From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27 so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him-- though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28 For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' 29 Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. 30 While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." 32 When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, "We will hear you again about this." 33 At that point Paul left them. 34 But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

YE WATCHERS AND YE HOLY ONES

ELW 424

SERMON

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:

CONSECRATION OF COMMUNION ELEMENTS:

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

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

Communion will be by intinction. 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. Pre-packaged portions are available for those who prefer to remain in their seats.

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.

PRAYER We give you thanks, **generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: ALL PEOPLE THAT ON EARTH DO DWELL ELW 883

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God, the Author of life,
Christ, the living Cornerstone,
and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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**Scott Sorenson, Max Tilderquist, Irene Carpenter, Zeke Pearson,
Dan Evanson, and Paul and Jay Mikaelson (in Bolivia).**

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Parish Pulse:
May 8 & 12, 2022
Participating in Worship: 68
+ 8 concurrent live-streams
Total Offerings: \$1,743.00

Worship Assistants today:
Intergenerational volunteers
Assisting Next Sunday:
Usher: Randy Klein
Reader: Kevin Eckblad



Senior Recognition Sunday is May 22, 2022. Join us as we celebrate Vasa's graduating seniors and their accomplishments!

Paul and Jay Mikaelson returned to Bolivia on Wednesday, May 4th, to wrap up their personal commitments to Radio Caranavi and to gather their personal possessions from their home. We will hold them in prayer for safe travel and success in their endeavors until they return to Minnesota in early September.



Good Earth Village has extended the registration deadline for summer camp. Good Earth Village Bible Camp is located 5 miles east of Spring Valley, MN. The camp will be hosting in person sleep over camps this summer for the first time since the Covid shut-down. For more information go to <https://goodearthvillage.org/summer>. The camp actively updates program registration status. Vasa Lutheran will subsidize up to 75% of a Tier 1 registration fee. Call Pastor Maureen for those details.



We are often reluctant to dispose of old Bibles. Many were given with good intent, but now just gather dust in the attic. In addition, we often acquire our parent's or grandparent's Bible and, as a result, have even more than we need.

There *is* an appropriate way to dispose of old Bibles, which is by burying them, perhaps in a cemetery, and with an appropriate pastoral acknowledgement. The intent is to allow the paper to return to the earth while dignifying the process. Over the next few months, we will collect old Bibles at the Vasa Lutheran Center. At some point in late October or early November, we will dispose of them in a respectful manner



There will be a brief ceremony following worship next Sunday, May 22, to replace the flag at the church.



We, the Vasa Congregation,
Called by God, commit to:
Worshipping together,
Growing in Faith,
Serving Others,
Welcoming and Loving All.

Vasa Lutheran Church
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