

Vasa Lutheran Church

Being Like Jesus: Forgiving

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist: Anne Anderson

Sunday, August 31, 2025

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We are called to live a life worthy of the gift of the grace of God.

We should be humble and gentle.

We should be patient, bearing everyone in love.

There is One Body and One Spirit.

We share

One Lord

One Faith

One Baptism

One God and Creator of all

We are all children of God.

We are called to live a life worthy of the gift of the grace of God.

(from Ephesians 4:1-6)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

It is in our confession that we realize and acknowledge our desire for God and our trust in God's mercy. It is in admitting the difficult and messy truth of our lives and of the world that we take our first step toward wholeness and healing. So let us join in our confession, first in silent prayer.

A moment of silence.

God of Grace,

We have been unkind.

In our anxiety and fear, we have turned against one another.

We distrust and devalue one another.

We have reduced those we once loved to little more than that which "side" they are on.

We have learned to see each other as enemies instead of neighbors and friends.

Forgive us, God, and teach us what it means to repent.

In the midst of anger and accusations,

Teach us to listen and seek to understand.

In the midst of division and deception,

Teach us to be kind and true.

May we not avoid our differences in the name of "keeping the peace,"

But by the help of your Spirit,

help us to love one another through our differences,

**Calling forth a true peace, your peace,
That heals, restores, and reconciles us all to one another,
Destroying walls and building bridges
as living instruments of your love to all the world.
For the sake of Jesus, our brother and friend. Amen**

ABSOLUTION: Beloveds, hear this good news. God's love is uniting and reconciling all of creation and you are included in that love. Hear now that you have already been forgiven. And in that forgiveness, you are freed to love and serve others as you have first been loved.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

LET THE WHOLE CREATION CRY

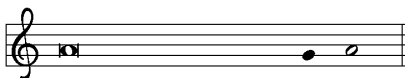
ELW 876

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.



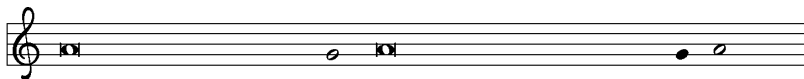
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



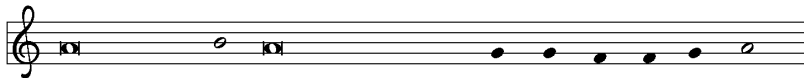
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious 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: Almighty God, **in signs and wonders your Son revealed the greatness of your saving love. Renew us with your grace, and sustain us by your power, that we may stand in the glory of your name through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Isaiah 43:18-25 Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise. Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob; but you have been weary of me, O Israel! You have not brought me your sheep for burnt offerings, or honored me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with offerings, or wearied you with frankincense. You have not bought me sweet cane with money, or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices. But you have burdened me with your sins; you have wearied me with your iniquities. I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

Mark 2:1-12 When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"-- he said to the paralytic-- "I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN

COME TO ME, ALL PILGRIMS THIRSTY

ELW 777

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, **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**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,
but guided us into the path of love and light.

In every age you sent prophets
to make known your loving will for all humanity.
The cry of the poor has become your own cry;
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant
to preach good news to the afflicted,
to break bread with the outcast and despised,

and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 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.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we await the day when Jesus shall return
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen
Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.
Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen
Amen.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.
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.

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 received by intinction. All are welcome at the Lord's Table. You don't need to be a member of Vasa Lutheran, nor do you need to be a Lutheran. We believe that Jesus is the host of the meal and that Jesus invites all to participate. Gluten free wafers and alcohol free wine are available for those who have dietary restrictions.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: Mothering God, **you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: BLESS NOW, O GOD, THE JOURNEY

ELW 326

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL:

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

Parish Pulse:

August 24

Participating in Worship: **40**

+ 34 Live Streams

Total Offerings:

August 17 : \$1,205.00



Jay Mikaelson, Scott
Sorenson, Lorrie
Samuelson, Dale
Anderson, Lynda Rosener
Sack, Merle Pearson, Rita
Pearson, Terri Fredin,
Terri Mandelkow, Jake
Jacobson, Max Tilderquist,
Connor Mikolichuk
(Rosann Pearson's
grandson), and Roger
Guttromson.

Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: Duane Hanson

Reader: Barry Skog

Hospitality: Marilyn Hanson

Worship Assistants Next Week

Sept 7

Usher: Volunteer Needed

Reader: Mark Hagen

Hospitality: Volunteer Needed

Communion Asst: Barry Skog