

Vasa Lutheran Church
Parables of the Kingdom

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist: Nick Kees

Sunday, February 12, 2023

ANNOUNCING THE DAY Psalm 84:1-7

L: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

C: My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD;

L: my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

**C: Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,**

L: where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.

**C: Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise.**

L: Happy are those whose strength is in you,

C: in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

L: As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs;

C: the early rain also covers it with pools.

L: They go from strength to strength;

C: the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who makes all things new,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal,
we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,
and cannot free ourselves.

We have not practiced your righteousness.

Our hearts have turned away from you.

For the sake of the world you so love,
forgive us,

that we may be reconciled to one another
for the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass
and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new.
We are forgiven in the name of † Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

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 above, and for our salvation, 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, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Lord of stories, **Jesus taught us through stories and the wisdom of the shared word. Teach us through your stories, that we may learn, grow, and love. For the sake of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 13:24-43 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. 27 And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' 28 He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' 29 But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. 30 Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

31 He put before them 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."

34 Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. 35 This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world."

36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." 37 He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; 38 the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40 Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, 42 and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

L: Word of God, word of life,

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

COME, YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME

ELW 693

SERMON

HYMN:

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

ELW 485

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.**

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.**

GENEROSITY MOMENT:

SENDING HYMN:

YOU ARE THE SEED

WOV 753

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice
and breaks the oppressor's rod
✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
today and always.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace.
Follow the way of Jesus.
C: Thanks be to God.



**Eileen Anderson, Irene Carpenter, Deloris Clemens, Paul Mikaelson,
Sara Jacobson Parker, Scott Sorenson, Max Tilderquist, Connie Gillis,
Einar Norman, and Rita Pearson**

Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: Barry Skog
Reader: Sid Featherstone
Hospitality: Sue Hedeon

Worship Assistants Next Week (2/12)

Usher: Marv Fredrickson
Reader: Mo Huack
Comm. Asst: Andrew Featherstone
Hospitality: Marcia Featherstone

PARISH PULSE: February 5

Participating in Worship:36
+ 12 live-streams
Total Offerings: \$1,375.00

Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you are a Thrivent member, you may have Thrivent Choice dollars to designate to a charity. Vasa would gladly take these dollars. You can choose where to send your dollars online at Thrivent.com or set up your donation by phone, at 1-800-847-4836. Check this month's Voice for detailed instructions.



Spartan Nash is discontinuing the "Direct Your Dollars" program effective March 1, 2023. As a result there is no longer a need to collect Family Fare Grocery store receipts. The good news is that we just achieved the \$150,000.00 goal for receipts and so are eligible for \$1000 in rewards. (If you still have receipts, you can give them to Kathy Tilderquist and she will direct them to the Cannon Falls Senior Center.)

MUSIC FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023

Almighty God your Word is Cast

Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, alt.

Music: J. Day, Psalter, 1562

Come Ye Thankful People Come

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.

Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

I am the Bread of Life

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You are the Seed

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THIS WEEK AT VASA...

Tuesday, Feb 14:

- **9:30am Coffee & Conversation**

Wednesday, Feb. 15:

- **5:30 -6:30 Faith Formation (including 7th/8th Confirmation 5:45-6:45)**
- **6:45 Wednesday Evening Worship**



February 22—Ash Wednesday

We mark the beginning of Lent with a worship service in the sanctuary at 7:00pm. The service will include the imposition of ashes as a sign of our repentance from sin, the singing of Holden Evening Prayer, and communion at the railing.

February 26—Annual Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, Feb. 26th in the gym of the Lutheran Center. We will meet at 9:00 for worship with the meeting convening at about 9:45.

March 4—Museum Fund-Raiser Soup Lunch

11-1, Reservations due by
March 1, Noon

April 20-21—Annual Church Rummage Sale



If you are interested in making a contribution to Earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria, Lutheran Disaster Response is a safe organization through which you can make such contributions. <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/Our-Impact/Middle-East-Crisis>.



We, the Vasa Congregation,

Called by God, commit to:

Worshipping together,

Growing in Faith,

Serving Others, and

Welcoming and loving all!