

# Vasa Lutheran Church

*Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, Lost Son*

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist-Anne Anderson

**Sunday, March 23, 2025**

## **OPENING WORDS**

P: O Lord, let my soul rise up to meet you

**C: as the day rises to meet the sun.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**

P: Come let us sing to the Lord:

**C: let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One,

**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
but our lives do not always reflect you  
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion  
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality  
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,  
even though you have set us free again and again.**

**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.**

**Transform our lives**

**and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide  
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

**HYMN RESPONSE**

**LORD JESUS, THINK ON ME**

**ELW 599**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** Rejoicing Father, **You celebrate when one of your lost children is found because no one is worthless to you. We stand humbled and in awe that you would count us among your most prized possessions. Give us eyes to see the priceless value of every living soul, for the sake of the one who became human for the sake of our souls, Jesus Christ our seeker. Amen.**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

#### **Psalm 119:167-176**

L: My soul keeps your decrees;

**C: I love them exceedingly.**

L: I keep your precepts and decrees,

**C: for all my ways are before you.**

L: Let my cry come before you, O LORD;

**C: give me understanding according to your word.**

L: Let my supplication come before you;

**C: deliver me according to your promise.**

L: My lips will pour forth praise,

**C: because you teach me your statutes.**

L: My tongue will sing of your promise,

**C: for all your commandments are right.**

L: Let your hand be ready to help me,

**C: for I have chosen your precepts.**

L: I long for your salvation, O LORD,

**C: and your law is my delight.**

L: Let me live that I may praise you,

**C: and let your ordinances help me.**

L: I have gone astray like a lost sheep;

**C: seek out your servant,  
for I do not forget your commandments.**

**GOSPEL READING: Luke 15:1-32** Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. "

Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I

have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

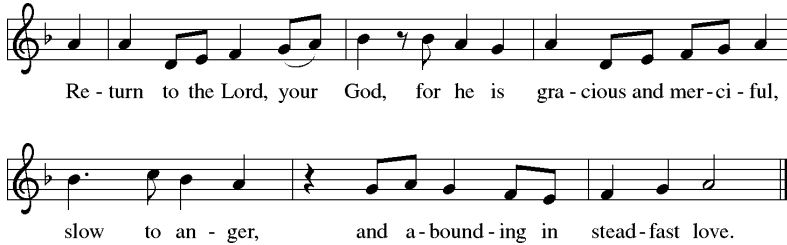
Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe-- the best one-- and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## SUNG RESPONSE



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,  
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**HYMN JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA**

**ELW 592**

## SERMON

**HYMN I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES**

**ELW 619**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH** (This profession of faith was written by Paul and Annette Godtland, friends of Pastor Maureen and Mark Hagen. We have permission to use their work.)

**We believe in one God, maker of all that is, seen and unseen. God loves and sees good in all creation, including all people. Yet we sometimes separate ourselves from God—we sin.**

**We believe God became man as Jesus to bridge those separations and so forgive our sins. Jesus fully experienced and understood human life, and showed people a different way—love God and all people wholeheartedly, forgive sins, and invite all to follow God.**

**Jesus was killed by people intent on power over others, but he rose from the dead and ascended to heaven, proving the transcendent power and everlasting nature of God's love.**

**We believe that God's Holy Spirit is always with each person, reaching out to help us live out God's kingdom on earth. We strive to discern what the Holy Spirit is guiding us to do now, while knowing that we are continually called to deeply love—God, our neighbors, and ourselves. Our neighbors include everyone we may interact with, whether or not they believe all that we believe.**

**We humbly acknowledge that no one can fully understand God or God's creation. Together we seek to learn more about both, yet we also realize others will understand God and creation differently. Even so, each person is unique and loved by God. All are invited to everlasting communion with God. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

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

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **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**

**SENDING HYMN: LORD, SPEAK TO US, THAT WE MAY SPEAK ELW 676**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **BLESSING**

P: May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you:

**C: Wherever he may send you;**

P: May he guide you through the wilderness:

**C: Protect you through the storm;**

P: May he bring you home rejoicing:

**C: At the wonders he has shown you;**

P: May he bring you home rejoicing:

**C: Once again into our doors. Amen.**

#### **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



Jay Mikaelson, Scott Sorenson, Max Tilderquist, Anne Rathman, Lorrie Samuelson, Dale Anderson, Lynda Rosener Sack, Carolyn Lindstrom, Duane Lindstrom, Merle Pearson, Yvonne Belin, Terri Fredin, and Terri Mandelkow.

### **Worship Assistants Today:**

**Usher:** Randy Klein  
**Reader:** Melanie Carlson  
**Hospitality:** Audrey Rosener

### **Worship Assistants Next Week (March 23)**

**Usher:** Tim Carlson  
**Reader:** Barry Skog  
**Hospitality:** Lora Gruber

Parish Pulse:

**March 12 & 16**

**Participating in Worship:**

+ 12 Live Streams

Total Offerings:

March 9: \$815.00

### **MUSIC FOR March 23, 2025**

#### **LORD JESUS, THINK ON ME**

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, 375-430; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808-1896, alt.

Music: W. Daman, The Psalmes of David, 1579, alt.

#### **JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA**

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871

Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

#### **I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES**

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-1799, alt.

Music: attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

#### **LORD, SPEAK TO US, THAT WE MAY SPEAK**

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt.

Music: Robert Schumann, 1810-1856

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**CCLI #22330766 & 22330759**

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### **COMING UP AT VASA**

- 3/23 10:15 First Communion  
Instruction begins – LC,  
classroom #3
- 3/26 9:30 Quilts for Grads,  
Fellowship Room
- 3/26 6:30 Lenten Worship  
+Holden Evening Prayer



L E N T





We, the Vasa Congregation,

Called by God, commit to:

Worshipping together,

Growing in faith.

Serving others, and

Welcoming and loving all!