

Vasa Lutheran Church

Our Spirit Waits for Peace

Pastor Maureen Hagen Accompanist – Anne Anderson

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

ANNOUNCING THE DAY

Who are you awaiting in such stillness?

We are being still, to know God.

The time is surely coming, when Christ will be with us.

When God appears, war will be but a memory, the lion will lie down with the lamb, and everyone will be made whole, so we wait for Shalom.

Two Advent candles are lit.

HYMN RESPONSE:

LOST IN THE NIGHT

ELW 243

We will sing verse 2.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.

We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness

that make us reluctant to work against oppression.

We are complicit in systems of exploitation.

We choose comfort over courage.

We are careless with creation's bounty.

Look upon us with mercy.

Turn our hearts again to you.

Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

Hear these words of assurance:

God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness.

In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

HARK A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING

ELW 246

GREETING

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.**

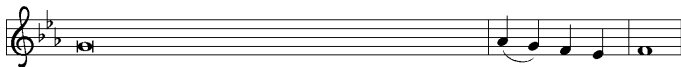
KYRIE:



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



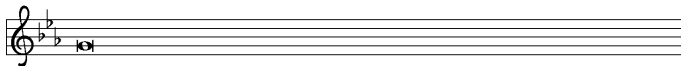
Lord, have mer - cy.



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 de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

HYMN RESPONSE:**LOST IN THE NIGHT****ELW 243***We will sing verses 1 and 2.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Holy Lord, **a voice has been heard in the wilderness preparing the way for your son to arrive in this world. Prepare our hearts to receive your son and help us to prepare for his coming. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE TEXTS Isaiah 40:1-11 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." 6 A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. 9 Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" 10 See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN**O GOD OF LOVE, O KING OF PEACE****ELW 749****SERMON****HYMN OF THE DAY:****WE COME TO THE HUNGRY FEAST****ELW 479**

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 INTERCESSION

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

GENEROSITY MOMENT

HOLY COMMUNION

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

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

We will receive communion by kneeling at the railing. 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 today. 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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER: Generous God, **in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN:

WHEN PEACE LIKE A RIVER

ELW 785

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

L: The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit † remain upon you
now and forever.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.



The Offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary, and by the East Door. They are there to receive your offering as you enter for worship.

Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: Randy Klein
Reader: Jim Hedeem
Hospitality: Lora Gruber
Comm. Asst:

Worship Assistants Next Week (December 10)

Usher: Roger Guttromson
Reader: Mark Hagen
Hospitality: Kent Volz



Eileen Anderson, Irene Carpenter, Paul Mikaelson, Jay Mikaelson, Scott Sorenson, Max Tilderquist, Anne Rathman, Wendy Anderson, Geri Lindholm, and Roger Guttromson.

FOOD SHELF DONATION UPDATE!

Vasa members donated \$1245 to go to the two local food shelves. A generous donor is matching these donations so that the total amount is \$2490 going to help feed hungry people in the area.

you
make a
DIFFERENCE
2020



Children's Christmas Program rehearsals will continue on Sunday mornings, December 10 and December 17 – at 9:00am in the Lutheran Center.

The Children's Program will be on Sunday, December 17 at 10:30 in the Lutheran Center (children will gather at 9:00.) Following the program will be a potluck luncheon. Vasa will provide ham and scalloped potatoes and rolls. Families are encouraged to bring a side dish or salad. Sweets are also welcome!

**MUSIC FOR SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 3, 2023**

LOST IN THE NIGHT

Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House, admin.
Augsburg Fortress
Text: Nordic hymn; tr. Olav Lee, 1859-1943, alt.
Music: Finnish folk tune

**HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS
SOUNDING!**

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878
Music: William H. Monk, 1823-1889

O GOD OF LOVE, O KING OF PEACE

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877
Music: J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543

WE COME TO THE HUNGRY FEAST

Text and music © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin.
Augsburg Fortress

WHEN PEACE LIKE A RIVER

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888
Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876

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Poinsettia orders are due no later than Tuesday at noon. If you haven't submitted one, now's your chance! Order forms are at the back of the sanctuary. You can also call the church office.



Women of All Ages and Stages Bible Study meets Wednesday, December 6 at 9:30 at the Lutheran Center!

WEDNESDAY EVENING FAITH FORMATION WILL CONTINUE THROUGH DECEMBER 20TH. CLASS TIME RUNS FROM 5:30-6:30.



Vasa Family Night

Wednesday, December 13th

5:30–7:00pm

Vasa Lutheran Center

Hot Dogs & Hot Cocoa

Singing at Gazebo

Short Devotional

All Are Welcomed

Dress Warm!