

Vasa Lutheran Church
Thanksgiving Worship
A Service of Word and Song

Pastor Maureen Hagen Accompanist – Anne Anderson

Sunday, November 21, 2021

1) PROCLAMATION OF THE DAY:

L: In the first year of the presidency of George Washington in 1789, a Day of National Thanksgiving was set aside for the last Thursday of November. Since that time, Americans have celebrated this day in remembrance of all the blessings which God has poured down upon this nation and her citizens.

In the presidential proclamation for Thanksgiving Day in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln had this to say:

"It is the duty of nations as well as of citizens to owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord....

"We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

"It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens."



2) CALL TO WORSHIP:

L. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C. God's steadfast love endures forever.

L. Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name.

C. Make known God's deeds among the peoples!

L. God blesses us with gifts of love:

C. With food and clothing, home and family.

L. God blesses us with daily work:

C. And all we need from day to day.

L. God protects us in time of danger:

C. And guards us from every evil.

L. God calls us into relationship with him:

**C. And forms us into one holy people,
the Church of Jesus Christ in this place.**

L. Therefore shall we offer thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

C. O Lord our God, we will give thanks to you forever.

GATHERING HYMN:

WE GATHER TOGETHER

1. We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing;
Sing praises to His Name; He forgets not His own.
2. Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord, were at our side, all glory be Thine!
3. We all do extol Thee, Thou Leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still our Defender will be;
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy Name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

Tune: Kremser

3) SCRIPTURE FROM JOEL 2:21-27 Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done great things! 22 Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield. 23 O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. 24 The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. 25 I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. 26 You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. 27 You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

4) A THANKSGIVING POEM

For the hay and the corn and the wheat that is reaped,
For the labor well done, and the barns that are heaped,
For the sun and the dew and the sweet honeycomb,
For the rose and the song and the harvest brought home-

Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving!

For the trade and the skill and the wealth in our land,
For the cunning and strength of the workingman's hand,
For the good that our artists and poets have taught,
For the friendship that hope and affection have brought-

Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving!

For the homes that with purest affection are blest,
For the season of plenty and well-deserved rest,
For our country extending from sea unto sea;
The land that is known as the "Land of the Free"

Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving!

HYMN:

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

ELW 689

5) WORDS OF THANKSGIVING FROM PSALM 126

L: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

**C: Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;**

L: then it was said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."

C: The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

L: Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

C: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

**Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.**

6) A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We return thanks to our mother, the earth, which sustains us.

We return thanks to the rivers and streams, which supply us with water.

We return thanks to all herbs, which furnish medicines for the cure of our diseases.

We return thanks to the moon and stars,
which have given to us their light when the sun was gone.

We return thanks to the sun, that has looked upon the earth with a beneficent eye.

Lastly, we return thanks to the Great Spirit, in Whom is embodied all goodness,
and Who directs all things for the good of Her children. Amen

An Iroquois prayer

CHILDREN'S OFFERING OF MUSIC

7) SCRIPTURE: LUKE 17:11-19 On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, 13 they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" 14 When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. 15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. 16 He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. 17 Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? 18 Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" 19 Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

MEDITATION

8) A THANKSGIVING PRAYER

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.

For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird, and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

by Ralph Waldo Emerson

HYMN

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

ELW 840

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Lord in your mercy...

Hear our Prayer

GENEROSITY MOMENT

CONSECRATION OF COMMUNION ELEMENTS: *After the consecration of the communion elements you will be invited to come forward for communion by intinction. If you prefer, you may use a communion portion and remain in your seats.*

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.

L. Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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. 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 Lord of life, **in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSINGS FOR THANKSGIVING:

L. May the Lord of all creation shower his blessings and favor upon you.

C. Amen

L. May the Lord of the harvest grace your Thanksgiving table with his presence and fill your loved ones with peace.

C. Amen

L. May the Lord of salvation guide you all your days until you come into the joys of his eternal kingdom.

C. Amen

L. And may almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C. Amen

THE DOXOLOGY *(We will sing it!)*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise him, all creatures here below.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Go in peace and in all things give thanks to God!

Thanks be to God!



Scott Sorenson, Linda Thompson, Max Tilderquist, Eileen Anderson, Irene Carpenter, Paul Mikaelsen, Jay Mikaelsen, Grace Nelson, Violet Nelson, Sonia Peterson, Don Eckhoff (Pastor Maureen's father) and David Hagen (Mark Hagen's father)

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Usher: Vasa Youth

Reader: Vasa Youth

Communion Asst: Vasa Youth

Assisting Next Week:

Usher: Jason Stahnke

Reader: Marcia Featherstone

Parish Pulse:

November 17, 2021

Participating in Worship: 41

(+11 at WEW 11/17/2021)

Total Offerings: \$2,205.18

What's Happening



DATE CHANGE! The tree-fluffing party will be NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28th, following the worship service. In addition to fluffing the tree, the sanctuary will be decorated for the holidays, with the addition of garland, wreaths and lights.



Fuel Fund: As winter approaches, Vasa Congregation does everything possible to minimize heating costs in all of our buildings. While Vasa's finances are in solid shape, the finance team wants to encourage you to consider an additional gift to the church directed toward the fuel fund.



The December Community Dinner is right around the corner, coming up on Wednesday, December 8th. **It's Winner Winner Chicken Dinner!** **Reservations are due Wednesday, December 1st by NOON.** Meals will be ready for Pick up at 5:30 on the 8th. Call or email the church office, or fill out a Meal Reservation Form at church or the Lutheran Center.

Animals at the Nativity Scene – a Bible Study for Advent

Do you have a nativity scene that you are willing to bring for our enjoyment? Only for one week and only at the Lutheran Center....we won't put them on display at the church.

"Animals at the Manger" is a 3 session study of the animals commonly placed around the nativity scene (sheep, cattle, donkeys) and dives into scripture passages from throughout the Bible. To prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's birth, this study invites

us to look, listen, and learn from the animals of God's creation. We will meet in the Lutheran Center Fellowship room at about 10:30 on Dec. 5 and 12. We will have to negotiate our plan for November 28th because of setting up the Christmas tree.



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



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