

Vasa Lutheran Church

God Speaks to Elijah

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist: Tom Erickson

Sunday, November 7, 2021

ANNOUNCING THE DAY Since its earliest centuries, the church has set aside a day to remember the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us in the faith, stretching across the centuries and around the globe. However hard it might seem to follow the way of Jesus in our own time and place, this is a day to remember that we may be crazy, but we are not alone.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Have mercy on us, O God.

**We confess that we have sinned against you
and against our neighbor.**

**We have built walls instead of tables
and have turned away the stranger.**

**We have sought glory for ourselves
and have treasured that which does not satisfy.**

**Help us to love as you love, to welcome those you send,
and to treasure mercy and justice.**

**Turn us from our ways to your ways,
and free us to serve those in need. Amen.**

God, who makes all things new, forgives your sins for † Jesus' sake
and remembers them no more. Lift up your heads and your hearts.
Yours is the kingdom of God. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

ELW 422

We will sing verses 1 and 2 and 5 through 7.

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: *The music is found on pages 138-39 in the **front** of the ELW.*

HYMN OF PRAISE *"This is the Feast" is found on pages 140-41 in the **front** of the ELW.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Powerful God, **Although you can make your presence known in a mighty wind, or an earthquake, or a fire, you often speak to us in the sound of sheer silence. Help us to hear. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING: I Kings 19:1-18

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." 3 Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there. 4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." 5 Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." 6 He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. 7 The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." 8 He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. 9 At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 10 He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." 11 He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 14 He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." 15 Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. 16 Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. 17 Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. 18 Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

L: Word of God, word of life,

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN:

ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME

ELW 623

SERMON

HYMN

SPIRIT OF GENTLENESS

ELW 396

REMEMBRANCE OF THE SAINTS

Even as we remember the dead today, we look to the heavenly banquet to come.
Even as we taste the broken bread, we proclaim the risen Christ.
Even as we mourn the dead, we rejoice in the living.
We live wearing our baptismal robes and our burial shrouds.

We confess that sometimes our shroud of mourning wraps around us so tight that we cannot escape our grief. We confess that as we mourn the deaths of those we love, with throats sore from our wailing and our tears, we cannot speak the words of Martha to proclaim, "Yes, Lord, I believe" (John 11:27).

We confess that we do not have strength to proclaim it, and we lean on the voices around us who recite, "We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come."

We confess that we are tired, hungry, worn out by the weight of the death and sin that surrounds us.

We confess that we sometimes forget what that heavenly banquet tastes like.

You do not have to end your weeping, but know that God desires to wipe away every tear.

You do not have to have the strength to say the names of your dead today, but know that the Lord knows and cares for all souls. You do not have to have the taste of heaven on your lips today, but you are invited to eat the bread of heaven.

O God, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come; We give you thanks for all your faithful people, who have followed the light of your word throughout the centuries into our time and place. Today we remember:

Mary Nelson, Gloria Skog, and Pauline Carlson

As we remember these people, strengthen us to follow Christ through this world until we are carried into the harvest of eternal life, where suffering and death will be no more. Hear our prayer in the name of the good and gracious shepherd, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE REMEMBRANCE CANDLES

Worshippers are invited to come forward and light a candle in memory of loved ones.



P: O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION: Each petition will end with the words: Hear us, O God. Please respond with: **your mercy is great.**

GENEROSITY MOMENT: *Your financial support of Vasa's ministry is always appreciated. Offering plates are sitting at the back of the sanctuary.*

CONSECRATION OF COMMUNION ELEMENTS: *After the consecration of the communion elements you will be invited to open your communion portion as we remain in our seats.*

Under usual circumstances we gather at the Lord's table and kneel at the railing. When we do so we gather in an oval, the gaps filled by the faithful cloud of witnesses that surround us beyond these walls. It's as if they stand in support of us as we continue to bear witness to the promises of God.

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.**

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

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 Blessed Jesus, **at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: FOR ALL YOUR SAINTS, O LORD ELW 427

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God, the beginning and the end,
who has written your name in the book of life,
✠ bless and keep you in grace and peace
from this time forth and forevermore.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Led on by the saints before us,
go in peace to serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



Scott Sorenson, Linda Thompson, Max Tilderquist, Eileen Anderson, Irene Carpenter, Paul Mikaelson, Jay Mikaelson, Grace Nelson, Violet Nelson, and the family of Pauline Carlson.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

*Usher: **Stuart Samuelson***
*Reader: **Volunteer Needed***
*Communion Asst: **Rick Samuelson***

Assisting Next Week:

*Usher: **Kevin Hanson***
*Reader: **Marilyn Hanson***

Parish Pulse:

October 31, 2021
Participating in Worship: 34
(+ 11 at WEW 11/03/2021)
Total Offerings: \$1,250.00

What's Happening

- November Community Dinner – November 10, Drive Through open 5:30-6:30
- Christ Episcopal Church (Red Wing) Bake Sale and Bazaar – Saturday Nov. 13th 9:00am-2:00pm
(See back bulletin board for more details)
- Vasa's next American Red Cross Blood Drive will be on November 18th (1:00-7:00) & 19th (9:00 – 2:00). **Call 1-800 733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org to reserve your spot.**



CALLING ALL TREE FLUFFERS! The Vasa Christmas tree must be fluffed before it can be decorated. This year, fluffers will gather on Friday, November 26th at 10:00AM. Thanks for your help!

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



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