

Vasa Lutheran Church

Our Spirit Waits with Love

Pastor Maureen Hagen Accompanist – Nick Kees

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

ANNOUNCING THE DAY

Who are you awaiting beloved?

We are waiting for the Messiah, the embodiment of Love.

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

**When God appears, we will no longer be lonely or alone,
we will know we are loved.**

We wait in the midst of love.

Three Advent candles are lit.

HYMN RESPONSE:

LOST IN THE NIGHT

ELW 243

We will sing verse 3.

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.**

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.**

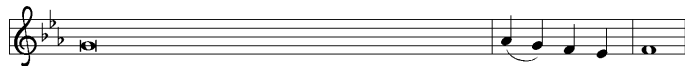
KYRIE:



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



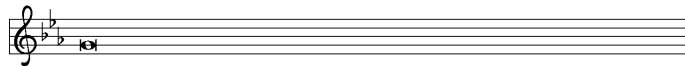
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



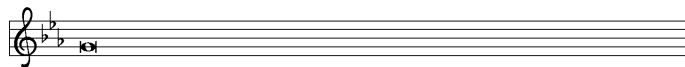
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY: God of the prophets, **you sent John into the world to proclaim the coming of your son. Give us ears to hear the proclamations of your promises and eyes to see your presence in this world. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE TEXTS Luke 1:5-25 5 In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. 7 But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. 8 Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, 9 he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. 10 Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. 11 Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. 12 When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. 13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. 14 You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, 15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. 16 He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." 18 Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." 19 The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. 20 But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur." 21 Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. 22 When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. 23 When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. 24 After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 25 "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

Luke 1:57-80 57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. 58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. 59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. 60 But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." 61 They said to her, "None of your

**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.**"

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.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE OF GOD

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us share this peace with the people around us.

GENEROSITY MOMENT:

SENDING HYMN: LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

ELW 631

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.



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

Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: Roger Guttromson

Reader: Mark Hagen

Hospitality: Kent Volz

**Worship Assistants Next Week
(December 17)**

Usher: Marv Fredrickson

Reader: Christmas Program

Hospitality: Program Luncheon

Comm. Asst: Confirmation Students

**MUSIC FOR SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 10, 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

PEOPLE, LOOK EAST!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965
Music: French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

ON JORDAN'S BANK

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite
Music: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius,
1571-1621

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

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

Parish Pulse:

Nov. 26/29

Participating in Worship: 53

+10 live-streams

Total Offerings:

\$2,620.57

Parish Pulse:

Dec. 3/6

Participating in Worship: 67

+12 live-streams

Total Offerings:

\$2,085.00



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!



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