

Vasa Lutheran Church

Jesus' Birth Announced

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist-Anne Anderson

Sunday, December 20, 2020

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

In the darkest times we cannot see to make our way...
our eyes adjust, but still everything is shadowed and grey.

We reach out, desperate
for comfort
for balance
for the familiar
for hope

In the darkest times,
even a faltering light can be just enough:
the flame flickers, twinkles, dances—and it is dazzling!
For in its light, we see light: God in our midst.

~Candles are lit~

However impossible it seems,
God's promise will be fulfilled —
and blessed is the one who sees the truth of God's kingdom in our midst.

Stir up your power, **Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Come, O come, Emmanuel, God with us, and we will rejoice.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.
Amen.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God,
**we confess that we are held captive by sin.
In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.
We have not welcomed the stranger;
we have not loved our neighbor;
we have not been Christ to one another.
Restore us, O God.
Wake us up and turn us from our sin.
Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news:
by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—
free from all that holds you back
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.
May you be strengthened in God's love,
✠ comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE:

WHAT CHILD IS THIS

ELW 296

GREETING: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Father God, **There is no miracle as grand as birth. As we prepare for the coming of your son, Jesus, create in us new life. Transform us so that we may reflect the light of your son, and become beacons of goodness, kindness, compassion, generosity, honesty, patience, and peace, for the sake of the one whose name brings deliverance and life to all the world, Jesus Christ, infant king. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS PSALM 113

L: Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.

**C: Blessed be the name of the LORD
from this time on and forevermore.**

L: From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the LORD is to be praised.

**C: The LORD is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens.**

L: Who is like the LORD our God,
who is seated on high,

C: who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

L: He raises the poor from the dust,
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

**C: to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.**

L: He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.

C: Praise the LORD!

GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:26-45 [46-56]

MUSICAL INTERLUDE: MY SOUL PROCLAIMS YOUR GREATNESS ELW 251

MEDITATION

MUSICAL INTERLUDE FOR ALL THE FAITHFUL WOMEN ELW 419

Verses 1, 4, 6, and Last

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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 THE CONGREGATION

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

GENEROSITY MOMENT

CONSECRATION OF COMMUNION ELEMENTS: After the words of institution you will be invited to open your portion and serve yourself.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

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.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Give us the courage to follow in the foot steps of Christ,
who taught us to pray, saying...

**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.

Let us pray (*in unison*) Gracious and abundant God,
you have done great things for us, and we rejoice.
In this bread and cup you give us life forever.
In your boundless mercy, strengthen us
and open our hearts to the world's needs,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING ELW 270

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
‡ now and forever.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



Scott Sorenson, Linda Thompson, Max Tilderquist, Jessie Otto, Jerry McRae, Eileen Anderson, Sherri Broin, Jeannette Larson, Merle Pearson, Ezekiel (Zeke) Pearson, Paul Mikaelson.

Parish Pulse:
December 13, 2020
Participating in Worship: All, in spirit!
Total Offerings: \$2,660.00.



A big thank you to everyone who helped buy gifts for the Giving Tree. Jim Hedeem reported that we have never gotten the gifts back to the Lutheran Center in such a timely manner. Thank you for your prompt and generous response.



Help is needed to disassemble the Christmas tree on Saturday, January 2nd. It's a simpler task than putting it up, but your help will be appreciated.

In addition, the ornaments are in need of some tender loving care. If any of you are looking for a winter project call the church office.



Pastor Maureen will take time off between Sunday, December 27th and Sunday, January 3rd. The worship service for January 3rd will be one that the synod office has prepared especially so that pastors can take a Sunday off. You will receive the link via email.



The Parish Life team has assembled Christmas goodie bags for all of the children in the parish this past week and is in the process of distributing them.



The Endowment Team met this past week and disbursed money to the museum and to both the Red Wing and Cannon Falls food shelves. They also awarded the annual scholarship money to four recipients:

- Jeremy Soine
- Vanessa Parrott
- Hailie Lindblom
- Dylan Anderson



