

Vasa Lutheran Church

The Helpful Samaritan

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist-Nick Kees

Sunday, March 9, 2025

INVITATION to LENT

L: In Old Testament days, ashes were often used as a mark of repentance. We read of individuals or groups of people putting on sackcloth and using ashes as a sign of personal repentance. The sign of the ashes was to portray the inward sorrow or repentance that a person felt for their sinfulness. In sorrow and repentance they came before God seeking his mercy and asking his forgiveness.

L: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

C: God's mercy endures forever.

L: We come from many families to worship God as one family of God.

C: Remembering our covenant, we come in faithfulness.

L: We come to mark the beginning of the season of Lent.

C: We come to remember through ashes and prayer.

L: We come to break bread together.

C: We come to receive the cup in Christ's name.

L: Come then, let us renew ourselves as we worship together.

C: Let us worship God!

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

L: For all the times we fail to do what we know is right,

C: We are sorry, Lord.

L: For all the times we do what we know is wrong,

C: We are sorry, Lord.

L: For all the times we fail to love each other,

C: We are sorry, Lord.

L: For all the times we fail to love you,

C: We are sorry, Lord.

Forgive us, and give us clean hearts.

IMPOSITION of ASHES

Those who desire to receive ashes on their foreheads may come forward. If you wish to receive the ashes on your hand please hold it out when you approach. After the imposition, you may return to your seat.

L: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C: That we may show forth your glory in the world.

L: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

C: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

L: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

L: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

HYMN RESPONSE

O GOD OF MERCY, GOD OF LIGHT

ELW 714

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Compassionate God, **How easily you love those who look unlovable to us! How readily you welcome undesirables into your home! How slow we are to follow your example. Turn our hearts toward all who are considered outcast, shunned, and unclean so that we may love our neighbor without pity or apathy, for the sake of the one who became flesh to cleanse the world of sin and death forever, Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Micah 6:1-8 Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD." "With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Psalm 15

L: O LORD, who may abide in your tent?

Who may dwell on your holy hill?

**C: Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,
and speak the truth from their heart;**

L: who do not slander with their tongue,
and do no evil to their friends,
nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;

**C: in whose eyes the wicked are despised,
but who honor those who fear the LORD;
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**

L: who do not lend money at interest,
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

C: Those who do these things shall never be moved.

Ephesians 4:25 - 5:2 So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 10:25-42 Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.'

Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

SUNG RESPONSE



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US

ELW 789

SERMON

HYMN

SPIRIT OF GOD DESCEND UPON MY HEART

ELW 800

PROFESSION OF FAITH (This profession of faith was written by Paul and Annette Godtland, friends of Pastor Maureen and Mark Hagen. We have permission to use their work.)

We believe in one God, maker of all that is, seen and unseen. God loves and sees good in all creation, including all people. Yet we sometimes separate ourselves from God—we sin.

We believe God became man as Jesus to bridge those separations and so forgive our sins. Jesus fully experienced and understood human life, and showed people a different way—love God and all people wholeheartedly, forgive sins, and invite all to follow God.

Jesus was killed by people intent on power over others, but he rose from the dead and ascended to heaven, proving the transcendent power and everlasting nature of God's love.

We believe that God's Holy Spirit is always with each person, reaching out to help us live out God's kingdom on earth. We strive to discern what the Holy Spirit is guiding us to do now, while knowing that we are continually called to deeply love—God, our neighbors, and ourselves. Our neighbors include everyone we may interact with, whether or not they believe all that we believe.

We humbly acknowledge that no one can fully understand God or God's creation. Together we seek to learn more about both, yet we also realize others will understand God and creation differently. Even so, each person is unique and loved by God. All are invited to everlasting communion with God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

L: Let us share God's peace with one another.

GENEROSITY MOMENT

SENDING HYMN: SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE ELW 310

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you:

C: Wherever he may send you;

P: May he guide you through the wilderness:

C: Protect you through the storm;

P: May he bring you home rejoicing:

C: At the wonders he has shown you;

P: May he bring you home rejoicing:

C: Once again into our doors. Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: Thanks be to God.



Jay Mikaelson, Scott Sorenson, Max Tilderquist, Anne Rathman, Lorrie Samuelson, Dale Anderson, Lynda Rosener Sack, Carolyn Lindstrom, Merle Pearson, Yvonne Belin, Sarah Jacobson Parker, Terri Fredin, and Terri Mandelkow.

Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: Duane Hanson

Reader: Sasha Diercks

Hospitality: Marilyn Hanson

Worship Assistants Next Week (March 16)

Usher: Rick Samuelson

Reader: Mo Hauck

Hospitality: Mo Hauck

Comm Asst: Geri Lindholm

Parish Pulse:

February 26th and March 2nd

Participating in Worship: 57

+ 12 Live Streams

Total Offerings:

February 23: \$1,640.00

VASA FAMILY NIGHT

Wednesday, March 12th
Vasa Lutheran Center
5:30-7:00PM

Tator Tot Hotdish
Fun Activites
Lenten Service

All are welcome!

We Care for our earth



MUSIC FOR March 9, 2025

O GOD OF MERCY, GOD OF LIGHT

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847

Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

SPIRIT OF GOD DESCEND UPON MY HEART

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860

Music: Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897

SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885, alt.

Music: Jakob Hintze, 1622-1702; arr. Johann
Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

Reprinted/Streamed with Permission under

ONE LICENSE #A-740635

CCLI #22330766 & 22330759

All rights reserved

THIS WEEK AT VASA

March 10 – 5:00PM Parish Life

6:00PM Church Council

March 12 – 5:30PM Vasa Family

Night + Lenten Worship / Holden

Evening Prayer



We, the Vasa Congregation,
Called by God, commit to:
Worshipping together,
Growing in faith.
Serving others, and
Welcoming and loving all!