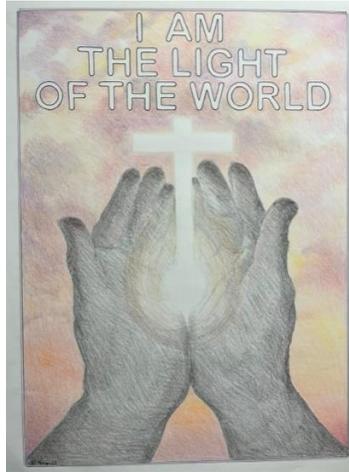


# Vasa Lutheran Church

*Jesus said, "I am the Light of the World."*

**March 2, 2022**

**Ash Wednesday**



**OPENING LITURGY FOR HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER** .....(page 2)

## **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.*

## EVENING HYMN

## JOYOUS LIGHT OF HEAVENLY GLORY

page 3

*(To be sung during the imposition of ashes.)*

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. **Amen**

**EVENING THANKSGIVING** found on page 4

**PSALMODY SONG** found on pages 4 through 7

## SCRIPTURE READING:

John 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

L: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN RESPONSE:

## CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

**ELW 714**

*We will sing verses 1 and 2*

## **MEDITATION**

**THE ANNUNCIATION and THE MAGNIFICAT** from pages 8 and 9

### **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

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.**

***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**

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION:** *After the words of institution you will be invited to partake in the body and blood of Christ at your seats. God is present with us wherever we are in the world, whether in our homes or here in this sacred place.*

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER** Blessed Jesus, **in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need. Amen.**

**FINAL BLESSING** from page 12

**DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

**OFFERING:** You may leave your offering envelope in the plates placed at the back of the center aisle.