

Vasa Lutheran Church

Being Like Jesus: Generous

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist: Anne Anderson

Sunday, August 3, 2025

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We are called to live a life worthy of the gift of the grace of God.

We should be humble and gentle.

We should be patient, bearing everyone in love.

There is One Body and One Spirit.

We share

One Lord

One Faith

One Baptism

One God and Creator of all

We are all children of God.

We are called to live a life worthy of the gift of the grace of God.

(from Ephesians 4:1-6)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

It is in our confession that we realize and acknowledge our desire for God and our trust in God's mercy. It is in admitting the difficult and messy truth of our lives and of the world that we take our first step toward wholeness and healing. So let us join in our confession, first in silent prayer.

A moment of silence.

God of Grace,

We have been unkind.

In our anxiety and fear, we have turned against one another.

We distrust and devalue one another.

We have reduced those we once loved to little more than that which "side" they are on.

We have learned to see each other as enemies instead of neighbors and friends.

Forgive us, God, and teach us what it means to repent.

In the midst of anger and accusations,

Teach us to listen and seek to understand.

In the midst of division and deception,

Teach us to be kind and true.

May we not avoid our differences in the name of "keeping the peace,"

But by the help of your Spirit,

help us to love one another through our differences,

**Calling forth a true peace, your peace,
That heals, restores, and reconciles us all to one another,
Destroying walls and building bridges
as living instruments of your love to all the world.
For the sake of Jesus, our brother and friend. Amen**

ABSOLUTION: Beloveds, hear this good news. God's love is uniting and reconciling all of creation and you are included in that love. Hear now that you have already been forgiven. And in that forgiveness, you are freed to love and serve others as you have first been loved.

Amen.

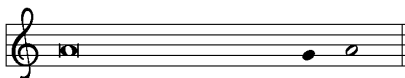
GATHERING HYMN HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, LORD GOD ALMIGHTY ELW 413

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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



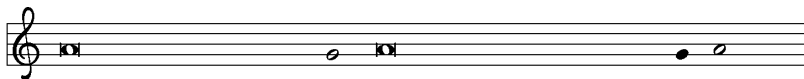
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



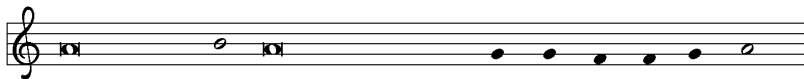
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.

A - men.



HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Almighty God, **your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, so all may come to know Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Proverbs 11:24-27 Some give freely, yet grow all the richer; others withhold what is due, and only suffer want. A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water. The people curse those who hold back grain, but a blessing is on the head of those who sell it. Whoever diligently seeks good seeks favor, but evil comes to the one who searches for it.

2 Corinthians 9:10-15 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Acts 2:41 - 47 So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN **WHAT A FELLOWSHIP, WHAT A JOY DIVINE** **ELW 774**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY **LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER** **ELW 471**

CONFESSION OF FAITH *using the words of the Apostles' Creed*

**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.**

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

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.

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.**

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION: *Communion will be received as we kneel at the railing. All are welcome at the Lord's Table. You don't need to be a member of Vasa Lutheran, nor do you need to be a Lutheran. We believe that Jesus is the host of the meal and that Jesus invites all to participate. Gluten free wafers and alcohol free wine are available for those who have dietary restrictions.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: Mothering God, **you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING ELW 689

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL:

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.



Jay Mikaelson, Scott Sorenson, Lorrie Samuelson, Dale Anderson, Lynda Rosener Sack, Merle Pearson, Terri Fredin, Terri Mandelkow, Jake Jacobson, Max Tilderquist, Connor Mikolichuk (Rosann Pearson's grandson), and Roger Guttromson.

Parish Pulse:

July 23 & 27

Participating in Worship: **48**

+ 14 Live Streams

Total Offerings:

July **27**: \$2,655.00

Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: Duane Hanson

Reader: Geri Lindholm

Hospitality: Marilyn Hanson

Comm. Asst: Barry Skog

Worship Assistants Next Week

August 10

Usher: Marv Fredrickson

Reader: Jeannette Anderson

Hospitality: Kent Volz

MUSIC FOR AUGUST 3, 2025

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, LORD GOD

ALMIGHTY

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt

Music: John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

WHAT A FELLOWSHIP, WHAT A JOY

DIVINE

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839-1929

Music: Anthony J. Showalter, 1858-1924

LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

Text: African American spiritual

Music: African American spiritual

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

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Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress Text:

Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt.

Music: Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version

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August 4

**4:00pm Property
Team**

**5:00pm Finance
Team**

**THE VASA MUSEUM
BOARD**

**WILL MEET MONDAY,
AUGUST 4, 2025 AT 6:30
AT THE VASA HOUSE.**



VASA FAMILY NIGHT

Wednesday, September 10th

5:30-7:00 pm

Fruit of the Spirit: LOVE



Join us at the Lutheran Center for:
Sandwiches & goodies
Fun Activities
Short Devotion

"MY COMMAND IS THIS: LOVE EACH OTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU." JOHN 15:12