

Vasa Lutheran Church
The Birth of Our Savior

Pastor Maureen Hagen
2:00 Service Anne Anderson, pianist
5:00 Service Anne Anderson, pianist

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve

PRELUDE

BLESSING OF THE NATIVITY SCENE

L: O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence, and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever. **Amen**

L: Tonight old dreams die and new dreams come to life.
The promise is fulfilled.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

L: Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

L: The candles tell the story. Dawn invades midnight.
The Light of the world has come.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

L: This light is a light for all, warming us from within, radiating love, lighting our lives with the presence of God in human flesh, within us and among us now and always.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

SUNG RESPONSE

Candles glowing, promise showing Jesus born a baby small.
Hosts rejoicing, shepherds voicing – praising Christ the Lord of all.
God is with us, shout hosanna, raise a chorus, singing ever:
Praising Christ the Lord of all! Praising Christ the Lord of all!

Sung to the tune of Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Lyrics by Rev. Elana Keppel Levy, 2021

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.**

We nurture conflict and build barriers.

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.**

Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust.

Renew us with your grace

and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.

Amen.

HYMN

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

ELW 283

PRAYER OF THE DAY: *(In unison)*

Almighty God, **you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING LUKE 2:1-5

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

ELW 279

SECOND READING: LUKE 2:8-14 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

HYMN:

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

ELW 289

THIRD READING: LUKE 2:15-16 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

HYMN: I AM SO GLAD EACH CHRISTMAS EVE ELW 271

FOURTH READING LUKE 2: 17-20 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY ELW 269

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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be served by kneeling around the railing. Gluten free wafers and non-alcoholic wine are available for those who have dietary restrictions. Pre-packaged elements are available for those who prefer that option.

CONSECRATION OF COMMUNION ELEMENTS:

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars; beneath the sea;
within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water; by night and day;
across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **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.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION: AWAY IN A MANGER ELW 277

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.

PRAYER God our redeemer, **you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION: John 1:1-14

You are invited to light a candle during the reading of the gospel lesson.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

HYMN:

SILENT NIGHT

HYMN 281



CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C: The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness,
on them light has shined.

**C: We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

P: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C: In the Word was life,
and the life was the light of all people.**

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you,
✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Irene Carpenter, Paul
Mikaelsen, Jay Mikaelsen, Scott
Sorenson, Max Tilderquist,
Anne Rathman, Wendy
Anderson, and Geri Lindholm

Worship Assistants Today:

2:00PM

Usher: Ben Norman

Reader Mo Hauck

Communion Asst: B-J Norman

Hospitality:

5:00PM

Usher: Roger Guttromson

Reader: Mel Carlson

Communion Asst: Barry Skog

**Worship Assistants Next Week (December
31st)**

Usher: Bruce Tilderquist

Reader: Kathy Tilderquist

Hospitality:



In Loving Memory of:

- Those we have lost
Given by Katie Lindahl
- Myron & Arlene Samuelson, Vernon & Luella Mandelkow, and Vern Mandelkow Jr.
Given by Brian and Andrea Mandelkow & Girls
- Norvin & Gloria Skog; Magnus & Asta Peterson
Given by Barry Skog
- Ralph Clemens, Jessie Otto
Given by Donna Bignell
- Bill and Vivian Strusz
Given by Randy and Gail Klein
- Paul and Marilyn Carlson
Given by Tim and Melanie Carlson & Family
- Our brother, Dan Hedeem and sister Karla Ihrke
Given by Jim and Sue Hedeem

In Honor of:

- Phyllis Hauck
Given by John and Maureen Hauck

In Memory of Loved Ones, given by:

- *Carolyn Lindstrom*
- *Bruce & Kathy Tilderquist*
- *Rita Pearson*
- *John & Ellie Gardiner*
- *Jim and Lora Gruber*
- *Steve and Dawn Lindstrom*

Thank you to Beth Matthees at *Blooms on Broadway* in Goodhue, for the poinsettia flowers. Thank you to the volunteers who helped decorate the church.



The Offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary, and by the East Door. They are there to receive your offering as you enter for worship.



VASA FAMILY NIGHT
January 10th, 5:30PM

**AMERICAN RED CROSS
BLOOD DRIVE AT VASA**
January 18th 1:00-7:00pm
January 19th 9:00-1:00pm



Five Wishes Advance Care Planning booklets are available in the Gathering Space or at the Lutheran Center. Feel free to take one as you consider how you want to manage your future comfort and care.

Parish Pulse:

Dec. 10

Participating in Worship: 48

+14 live-streams

Total Offerings:

\$762.54

Dec. 17

Participating in Worship: 147

No live-stream

Total Offerings:

\$15,805

MUSIC FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2

Music: attr. John Francis Wade

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Text: French carol; tr. H.F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864

Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

I AM SO GLAD EACH CHRISTMAS EVE

English text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House,

admin. Augsburg Fortress

Text

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895

Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876

AWAY IN A MANGER

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: James R. Murray, 1841-1905

SILENT NIGHT

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

**Reprinted/Streamed with Permission under
ONE LICENSE #A-740635**

All rights reserved