

Vasa Lutheran Church

All Saints Sunday

Elijah at Mount Carmel

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist: Anne Anderson

November 5, 2023

ANNOUNCING THE DAY Since its earliest centuries, the church has set aside a day to remember the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us in the faith, stretching across the centuries and around the globe. However hard it might seem to follow the way of Jesus in our own time and place, this is a day to remember that we may be crazy, but we are not alone.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us,
✠ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility,
confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,

you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.

We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.

We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.

For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.

For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us.

For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.

Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;

in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.

God's compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

In ✠ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN:

YE WATCHERS AND YE HOLY ONES

ELW 424

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: We will sing **ELW #157**

Kyrie

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of two staves each. The top staff of each system is for the Leader, and the bottom staff is for the Assembly. The lyrics are: "In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. For the reign of God, and for mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord. For your Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy."

Leader
In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have
 Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.
 mer - cy. **A - men.**

Text: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, adapt. Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen
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HYMN OF PRAISE: We will sing **ELW #167**

Now the Feast and Celebration

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



Refrain
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



Refrain
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



Refrain
God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY: God of Elijah, **with great fire you made your presence known to the worshipers of Baal. Help us to resist the temptation to place our trust and faith in anything other than you. Receive our worship and strengthen our faith. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS: 1 Kings 18:17-39 When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you troubler of Israel?" 18 He answered, "I have not troubled Israel; but you have, and your father's house, because you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and followed the Baals. 19 Now therefore have all Israel assemble for me at Mount Carmel, with the four hundred fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." 20 So Ahab sent to all the Israelites, and assembled the prophets at Mount Carmel. 21 Elijah then came near to all the people, and said, "How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." The people did not answer him a word. 22 Then Elijah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets number four hundred fifty. 23 Let two bulls be given to us; let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it; I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. 24 Then you call on the name of your god and I will call on the name of the LORD; the god who answers by fire is indeed God." All the people answered, "Well spoken!" 25 Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many; then call on the name of your god, but put no fire to it." 26 So they took the bull that was given them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, crying, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice, and no answer. They limped about the altar that they had made. 27 At noon Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud! Surely he is a god; either he is meditating, or he has wandered away, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened." 28 Then they cried aloud and, as was their custom, they cut themselves with swords and lances until the blood gushed out over them. 29 As midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice, no answer, and no response. 30 Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come closer to me"; and all the people came closer to him. First he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down; 31 Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD came, saying, "Israel shall be your name"; 32 with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD. Then he made a trench around the altar, large enough to contain two measures of seed. 33 Next he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. He said, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood." 34 Then he said, "Do it a second time"; and they did it a second time. Again he said, "Do it a third time"; and they did it a third time, 35 so that the water ran all around the altar, and filled the trench also with water. 36 At the time of the offering of the oblation, the prophet Elijah came near and said, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let

it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your bidding. 37 Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back." 38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and even licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The LORD indeed is God; the LORD indeed is God."

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

HOLY GOD, WE PRAISE YOUR NAME

ELW 414

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

GIVE THANKS FOR SAINTS

ELW 428

REMEMBRANCE OF THE SAINTS

Even as we remember the dead today, we look to the heavenly banquet to come.
Even as we taste the broken bread, we proclaim the risen Christ.
Even as we mourn the dead, we rejoice in the living.
We live wearing our baptismal robes and our burial shrouds.

We confess that sometimes our shroud of mourning wraps around us so tight that we cannot escape our grief. We confess that as we mourn the deaths of those we love, with throats sore from our wailing and our tears, we cannot speak the words of Martha to proclaim, "Yes, Lord, I believe" (John 11:27).

We confess that we do not have strength to proclaim it, and we lean on the voices around us who recite, "We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come."

We confess that we are tired, hungry, worn out by the weight of the death and sin that surrounds us.

We confess that we sometimes forget what that heavenly banquet tastes like.

You do not have to end your weeping, but know that God desires to wipe away every tear.

You do not have to have the strength to say the names of your dead today, but know that the Lord knows and cares for all souls. You do not have to have the taste of heaven on your lips today, but you are invited to eat the bread of heaven.

O God, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come; We give you thanks for all your faithful people, who have followed the light of your word throughout the centuries into our time and place. Today we remember:



All Saints

Ralph Clemens
Bob Crouse
Jessie Otto
Greg Drewianka
Duane Thompson
Vivian Strusz
Dan Hedeem
Judy Hunecke

As we remember these people, strengthen us to follow Christ through this world until we are carried into the harvest of eternal life, where suffering and death will be no more. Hear our prayer in the name of the good and gracious shepherd, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE REMEMBRANCE CANDLES

Worshippers are invited to come forward and light a candle in memory of loved ones.

P: O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION: Each petition will end with the words: Lord, in your mercy. Please respond with: **hear our prayer.**

GENEROSITY MOMENT

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
the promise to Israel,
the rescue from Egypt,
the gift of the promised land,

the words of the prophets;
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

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.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

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

We will receive communion by kneeling at the railing. All are welcome at the Lord's table. You don't need to be a member of Vasa, nor do you need to be a Lutheran to receive the body and blood of Christ today. Gluten free portions and non-alcoholic wine are available for those who have dietary restrictions. Children are welcome to come forward and will receive a blessing.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER: Blessed be your name, O God, **for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

ELW 422

We will sing verses 1-3, and 6-7.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

L: The God of glory,
✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names,
and the Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C: Thanks be to God.



Eileen Anderson, Irene
Carpenter, Paul Mikaelson, Jay
Mikaelson, Scott Sorenson,
Max Tilderquist, Anne
Rathman, Wendy Anderson,
and Wally Gardiner.

Parish Pulse:
October 29, 2023
Participating in Worship: 48
+18 live-streams
Total Offerings:
\$10,595.00



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.

Music for Sunday, November 5th, 2023

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

Text: J. Athelstan Riley, 1858–1945
Music: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1623
Kyrie

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Now The Feast and Celebration

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Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900
Music: Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, 1774

Give Thanks for Saints

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For All The Saints

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897
Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: Duane Hanson
Reader: Barry Skog
Comm. Asst: Roger Gutromson
Hospitality: Lora Gruber

Worship Assistants Next Week (November 12, 2023)

Usher: Marv Fredrickson
Reader: Katie Featherstone
Hospitality: Audrey Rosener
Comm. Asst: Barry Skog

The Lutheran Center was THE PLACE TO BE last Saturday morning! The Vasa Museum Swedish Pancake Breakfast was a huge success with 142 meals served and \$2,000 raised! Congratulations!

DON'T FORGET!

- **Vasa Family Night – November 8th**
- **Feed My Starving Children – Nov 11.** Sign up online for a shift if you can! Look for Cannon Falls Mobile Pack.
- **Christ Episcopal Church Red Wing – November 11** 9am-2pm Bake Sale/Bazaar
- **Women's Bible Study – November 15, 9:30-11, LC**
- **Confirmation – Nov. 12** 9AM worship. Vasa will confirm five 9th graders.

Vasa Family Night



Wednesday, November 8th

5:30-7:00pm

Vasa Lutheran Center

Light Meal - Pizza

Hay Ride & Crafts

Short Devotional

All Are Welcomed



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