

Vasa Lutheran Church

The Parables of Jesus in Mark's Gospel

Pastor Maureen Hagen Accompanist – Nick Kees

Sunday, January 14, 2024

ANNOUNCING THE DAY: Psalm 126

L: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,

C: we were like those who dream.

L: Then our mouth was filled with laughter,

C: and our tongue with shouts of joy;

L: then it was said among the nations,

C: "The LORD has done great things for them."

L: The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

**C: Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.**

L: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

**C: Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,

we pour out our hearts before you.

We have known you but have not always loved you.

We have wounded one another

and sinned against you.

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.**

Remember your covenant.

Renew your creation.

Restore us,

that we might proclaim your good news to all.

Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.
God has spoken: The time of grace is now.
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
By the authority of † Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.
Amen.

HYMN

DEAREST JESUS, AT YOUR WORD

ELW 520

GREETING: 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 above, and for our salvation, 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 worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY: God of the Word, **in the parable of the sower you showed us how your word can take root and grow within us. Nurture the seeds of your word in our hearts and help us to grow in faith and love. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 4:1-34 Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. 2 He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: 3 "Listen! A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. 6 And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. 8 Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold." 9 And he said, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

10 When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. 11 And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; 12 in order that they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven."

13 And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? 14 The sower sows the word. 15 These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. 16 And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. 17 But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. 18 And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, 19 but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. 20 And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold."

21 He said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand? 22 For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. 23 Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" 24 And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. 25 For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away."

26 He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, 27 and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. 28 The earth produces of itself, first the stalk,

then the head, then the full grain in the head. 29 But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

30 He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? 31 It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; 32 yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

33 With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; 34 he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

HYMN **NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISES** **ELW 379**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY **ON WHAT HAS NOW BEEN SOWN** **ELW 550**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these people*, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as a new member into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

Address and Questions

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism
among God's people in this place?

Those being welcomed respond.

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God,
do you promise to support and pray for Diane in her life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Welcome

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

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

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.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

L: Let us share the peace with one another.

GENEROSITY MOMENT

HYMN

SENT FORTH BY GOD'S BLESSING

ELW 547

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING and DISMISSAL

L: God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✠ bless you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

L: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C: Thanks be to God.

Parish Pulse:

Dec. 31

Participating in Worship: 178

+15 live-streams

Total Offerings:

\$9,125.00

Irene Carpenter is now in Hospice Care. The family is inviting anyone who wishes to send her a card.

Please send them to:

Irene Carpenter
28955 County 7 Blvd
Welch, MN 55089



Irene Carpenter, Paul Mikaelson,
Jay Mikaelson, Scott Sorenson,
Max Tilderquist, Anne Rathman,
Wendy Anderson, Geri Lindholm,
Kevin Eckblad, Bob Sammelson
and Norlene Josephson.

Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: Roger Guttromson

Reader: Katie Lindahl

Hospitality: Marcia Featherstone

Worship Assistants Next Week (January 21)

Usher: Marv Fredrickson

Reader: Melanie Carlson

Comm. Asst: Barry Skog

Hospitality: Mo Hauck

MUSIC FOR JAN 14, 2024

Dearest Jesus At Your Word

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684, sts. 1–3; Gesangbuch, Berlin, 1707, st. 4;
tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt. Music: Johann R. Ahle, 1625–
1673

Now The Green Blade Rises

Text from Oxford Book of Carols, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights
reserved.

On What Has Now Been Sown

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Music: John Darwall, 1731–1789

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

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WOMEN OF ALL AGES AND STAGES

Bible study meets this Wednesday, from 9:30-
11:00AM at the Lutheran Center—Fellowship
Room. All are welcome!

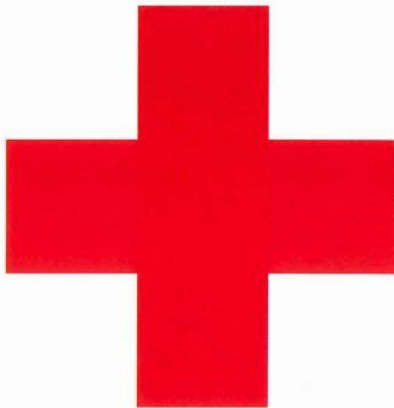


Good Earth Village: It's time for Vasa families to sign up for Bible Camp. There are significant discounts in tuition costs if families/children/youth sign up before January 14th as *Super Early Birds*. Discounts of 10% apply from January 15 through March 3. Tell your kids and grandkids about this opportunity. Flyers with more information will be available at Family Fun Night.

Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive
Vasa Lutheran Center

15235 Norelius Rd

Thursday, January 18, 2024

1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Friday, January 19, 2024

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: vasa lutheran to schedule an appointment.



Scan to be directed to
RedCrossBlood.org



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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171 | Code ID: 1098195 - Item ID: 732985 - Qty: 1 of 15 - 33364 - 4817 - 22819

Annual Reports are due to Emily by Thursday, January 18th (Thanks to those who have already submitted theirs.) The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 25th following 9:00 worship. Both worship and the annual meeting will be held in the LC gym that morning.



Volunteer help needed: Vasa will need one or two people for the Property team, one or two people for the Parish Life team, and one or two people to assist in what are sometimes called "altar guild" duties. If the Spirit is moving you to become more deeply involved at Vasa please contact Pastor Maureen.



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