

**Vasa Lutheran Church**  
*God's Care for the Widow*  
*All Saints Sunday*

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist-Tom Erickson

**Sunday, November 1, 2020**

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCING THE DAY:**

All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. Under usual circumstances we gather at the Lord's table and kneel at the railing. When we do so we gather in an oval, the gaps filled by the faithful cloud of witnesses that surround us beyond these walls. It's as if they stand in support of us as we continue to bear witness to the promises of God.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved.

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One,

**we confess that we are not awake for you.**

**We are not faithful in using your gifts.**

**We forget the least of our siblings.**

**We do not see your beautiful image in one another.**

**We are infected by sin**

**that divides your beloved community.**

**Open our hearts to your coming,**

**open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,**

**open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

Beloved, we are God's children,

and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through † Jesus you are forgiven,

by Jesus you are welcome,

in Jesus you are called to rejoice!

Let us live in the promises prepared for us  
from the foundation of the world.

**Amen.**

**GREETING:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** God of compassion, **through your power, Elijah provided bread and oil for the widow and her household. By faith in you, the widow provided food and water for Elijah. Give us hearts to love one another, so that in providing and in receiving, we too, might experience your unimaginable power, through the one who has provided life itself, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE READING

L: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**C: I will praise the Lord as long as I live**

L: Do not trust in princes, there is no help

**C: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,**

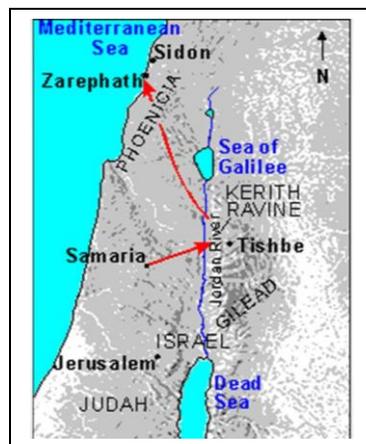
L: Happy are those whose hope is in the Lord their God

**C: God executes justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry**

L: The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the widow

**C: The Lord will reign forever, Praise the Lord!**

**1 Kings 17:1-16** Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word." 2 The word of the LORD came to him, saying, 3 "Go from here and turn eastward, and hide yourself by the Wadi Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. 4 You shall drink from the wadi, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." 5 So he went and did according to the word of the LORD; he went and lived by the Wadi Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. 6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the wadi. 7 But after a while the wadi dried up, because there was no rain in the land. 8 Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 9 "Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you." 10 So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink." 11 As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." 12



But she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die."  
13 Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. 14 For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth." 15 She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. 16 The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

## **MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART**

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE      THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY      ELW 588**

## **MEDITATION**

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE                      HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION                      ELW 796**

## **PROFESSION OF 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.*

## **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:

***Kathy Jacobson, Jim Freeberg, John Rehder  
Deb Ruby, Lowell Peterson, and Deb Nelson***

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, **hear our prayer.**

### **GENEROSITY MOMENT**

Offering plates will not be passed, but are sitting near the doors as you leave.

**CONSECRATION OF COMMUNION ELEMENTS:** We will remain in the pews for communion today. Each of you should have picked up a communion portion prior to worship. After the words of institution you will be invited to open your portion and serve yourself.

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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**

Give us the courage to follow in the foot steps of Christ,  
who taught us to pray, saying...

**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.**

### **MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

**ELW**

### **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.

Let us pray (*in unison*) Lord Jesus,  
**in this simple meal you have set a banquet.  
Sustain us on the journey,  
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,  
and give us glad and generous hearts  
as we meet you on the way.  
Amen.**

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE LORD, DISMISS US WITH YOUR BLESSING ELW 545**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

May the God of all creation,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved,  
who strengthens us for service,  
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!  
The blessing of God,  
Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit,  
be with you today and always.

**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**



Scott Sorenson, Linda Thompson, Max Tilderquist, Jessie Otto, Ben Norman, Jerry McRae, Eileen Anderson, Mary Nelson, Kathi Pearson (Rosann’s daughter-in-law), Marilyn Hanson.

**Assisting with Worship today:**  
**Reader and Communion Set Up:**  
Cynthia Gianoli

Parish Pulse:  
**October 25, 2020**  
Participating in Worship: 38  
+ 33 at Jaxson Safe baptism  
+7 *WEW October 28*  
Total Offerings: \$1350.00

**DATES TO REMEMBER...**

<b>November 2</b>	<b>9:30 Property Team Meeting</b> <b>1:00 Finance Team Meeting</b> <b>6:30 Parish Life Team Meeting</b> <b>Museum Board</b>
<b>November 4</b>	<b>*NOON – <u>Reservation Deadline</u> for November Community Dinner</b>
<b>November 11</b>	<b>5:30-6:30 Community Dinner (Pick-Up--<u>PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CARS!!</u>)</b>
<b>November 24</b>	<b>1:00-7:00 American Red Cross Blood Drive</b>



In honor of our Veterans, there will be a changing of the flag ceremony on Sunday, November 8, 2020. The ceremony will begin immediately after worship.



### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Vasa website [www.vasalutheran.org](http://www.vasalutheran.org).



Vasa Mission  
We, the Vasa  
congregation,  
called by God, commit to:  
Worshipping together,  
Growing in Faith  
Serving others, and  
Welcoming and Loving all!