

Vasa Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Organist-Austin Ferguson

Sunday, December 22, 2019

PRELUDE MUSIC

Improvisation on *Silent Night*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCING THE DAY and LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Who are you awaiting in such stillness?

We are being still, to know God.

The time is surely coming, when Christ will be with us.

When God appears, war will be but a memory, the lion will lie down with the lamb, and everyone will be made whole, so we wait for Shalom.

Sing: **O Come O Come Emmanuel**

**O Come, Thou King of nations bring
An end to all our suffering
Bid every pain and sorrow cease
And reign now as our Prince of Peace**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come again with us to dwell**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the parent who rouses us from slumber,
the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain,
the deliverer who sets us free. **Amen.**

Let us come before the living God in confession.

Silence is kept for reflection.



As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,
we open our hearts to you, O God.
Search us and know us.
Reveal all that we keep inside.
To you, O God, we confess our sins,
known and unknown.
Forgive us, renew us,
and lead us in your ways of justice and peace.
Make us reflections of the radiant love
of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Beloved children of the Most High,
 you are gathered before the righteous judge who has mercy on all.
 Splash exuberantly in the waters of baptism,
 where sin is washed away in the river of life.
 Dwell peacefully in the loving arms
 of the one who nurtures all creation.
 Go forth boldly in the assurance that your sins are forgiven
 in the name of the one who is coming and is already here,
 † Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN:

HARK THE GLAD SOUND!

ELW 239

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



1, 3	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
2	Chris - te e - le - i - son.	Chris - te e - le - i - son.
1, 3	Lord, have mer - cy.	Lord, have mer - cy.
2	Christ, have mer - cy.	Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son.	Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mer - cy.	Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy.	Christ, have mer - cy.

Music: Dinah Reindorf, b. c. 1927
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- 1 My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord;
I sing my Savior's praise!
You looked upon my lowliness,
and I am full of grace.
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age
this blessing shall proclaim—
great wonders you have done for me,
and holy is your name.**
- 2 To all who live in holy fear
your mercy ever flows.
With mighty arm you dash the proud,
their scheming hearts expose.
The ruthless you have cast aside,
the lowly throned in stead;
the hungry filled with all good things,
the rich sent off unfed.**
- 3 To Israel, your servant blest,
your help is ever sure;
the promise to our parents made
their children will secure.
Sing glory to the Holy One,
give honor to the Word,
and praise the pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all adored.**

To the tune of *Kingsfold*

PRAYER OF THE DAY: God of the prophets, **you sent John into the world to proclaim the coming of your son. Give us ears to hear the proclamations of your promises and eyes to see your presence in this world. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 113 (*Read responsively*)

L: Praise the LORD!

**C: Praise, O servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.**

L: Blessed be the name of the LORD
from this time on and forevermore.

**C: From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the LORD is to be praised.**

L: The LORD is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens.

**C: Who is like the LORD our God,
who is seated on high,**

who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

L: He raises the poor from the dust,
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

**C: to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.**

L: He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.

C: Praise the LORD!

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 1:5-13 [14-25] 57-80

At the conclusion of the lesson the reader will say, "The gospel of the Lord."
Please respond with, "**Thanks be to you, Oh Lord.**"

HYMN: BLESSED BE THE GOD OF ISRAEL ELW 250

We will sing verses 1-3.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: ON JORDAN'S BANKS THE BAPTIST'S CRY ELW 249

CONFESSION 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.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let's share the peace with one another.

COLLECTION OF THE OFFERING INCLUDING A GENEROSITY MOMENT

OFFERTORY PRAYER: Giver of every good thing, **we set before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it, and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast you prepare for all who hunger. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

After each petition the pastor will say, "Lord, in your mercy,"
Please respond with, "**hear our prayer.**"

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.**

SENDING HYMN:

CANTICLE OF THE TURNING

ELW 723

BLESSING

May God, who gathers us in love,
lead you in pathways of righteousness and justice.
May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves,
lead you in pathways of forgiveness and freedom.
May God, who fills us with good things,
lead you in pathways of equity and abundance.
The blessing of the holy Trinity, † one God,
be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

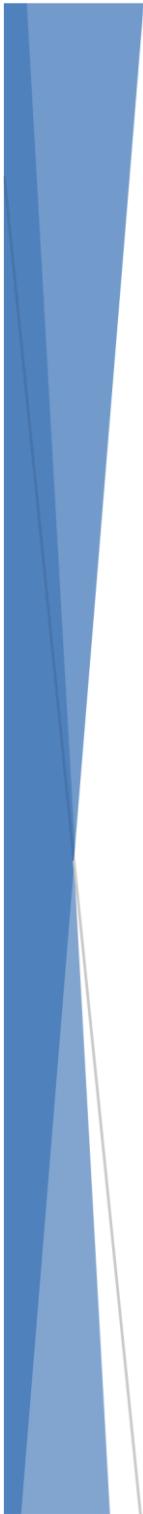
Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Noël Suisse - Claude d'Acquin



Prayer Concerns: David Broin, Scott and Kerry Sorenson (sons of Sharyn), Brenda Bradley and her family, Linda Thompson, Deb Ruby (Ed Gruber's daughter), Eileen Anderson, Paul Deutsch, Jim Josephson, John Gardiner



The Grace and Patience to Wait

In our secret yearnings
we wait for your coming,
and in our grinding despair
we doubt that you will.
And in this privileged place
we are surrounded by witnesses who yearn
more than do we
and by those who despair more deeply than
do we.
Look upon your church and its pastors
in this season of hope
which runs so quickly to fatigue
and this season of yearning
which becomes so easily quarrelsome.
Give us the grace and the impatience
to wait for your coming to the bottom of our
toes,
to the edge of our finger tips.
We do not want our several worlds to end.
Come in your power
and come in your weakness
in any case and make all things new.
Amen.

Walter Brueggemann
Awed To Heaven, Rooted in Earth:
Prayers of Walter Brueggemann

This Week at Vasa

(Church office hours: Mon, Tues & Friday 9-1 this week only)

Sunday, December 22

9:00 am Service of The Word
10:30 am Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal

Monday, December 23

Tuesday, December 24

9:00 am Tuesday AM Coffee
2:00 pm Christmas Eve Service (with Choir)
5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service (with candlelight)

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day – No Services
(office closed)

Sunday, December 29

10:30 am Service of Holy Communion with Lessons and Carols

Parish Pulse- December 8

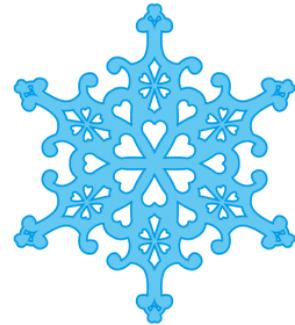
Participating at worship 60

Offerings: \$3,709.08

December 15 & 18

Participating at worship 161

Offerings: \$3,241.00



Serving in Today's Service:

Ushers: Rick Samuelson, Duane Hanson, Bruce Tilderquist, Rodney Nelson

Reader: Duane Martenson



- **Christmas Eve Services:** 2PM (with Choir) and 5 PM (with candlelight)
- **January 5** 5-6:30 pm Young Couple's Bible Study
- **January 8** 5:30pm Community Dinner
- **January 15** 6:15pm Wed Eve Worship resumes



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Vasa website 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!