

Vasa Lutheran Church
The Birth of Our Savior

Pastor Maureen Hagen
Accompanist—Anne Anderson

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

Christmas Eve

BLESSING OF THE NATIVITY SCENE

L: O God, bless us who gather around this stable. As we celebrate Christ's birth into the world, may we receive the Christ child into our hearts with gratitude and song. **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

Kindle Advent candles.
Jesus lives today.
Christ who shaped the cosmos
Joins those born of clay.
Oh, that we might hold him:
Our Emmanuel!
He is with us always:
All shall be well!

Sung to the tune: Cranham, the same tune used for "In the Bleak Midwinter."
Lyrics by Rev. Elana Keppel Levy, 2024

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,

**we yearn for your presence to transform
our grief, pain, and despair.**

**We confess that we have not always prepared
room in our hearts for your love;
we have not always recognized
your presence among us;
we have not always embraced your message of peace.**

**We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,
oppression, and fear.**

**We confess our failure to make room
for those seeking refuge;
our participation in violent systems
that harm your innocent ones;
our reluctance to embody your good news.**

**Be born in us today
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.
Amen.**

God's grace upon grace flows over you.

✝ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

Amen.

HYMN GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE ELW 288

PRAYER OF THE DAY: *(In unison)*

Holy Father, **We celebrate with you the birth of your son, and together we sing,
"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace, goodwill among
people!" 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:

AWAY IN A MANGER

ELW 277

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: LOVE HAS COME

ELW 292

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.**
Collection of an Offering to support God's mission in the world.

Offering Song: JOY TO THE WORLD

ELW 267

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY 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.

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: YOUR LITTLE ONES DEAR LORD

ELW 286

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. 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.

Silent Night, Holy Night!

Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

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

The triune God, glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,
✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Glory to God in the highest!

C: And peace to God's people on earth!

L: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

Parish Pulse:

Dec. 21

Participating in Worship: **131**

+ **15** Live Streams

Total Offerings:

December 21 \$ 6,874.76

Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: 2PM : Bruce Tilderquist

5PM : Rick Samuelson

Lector: 2PM : Barry Skog

5PM : Mo Hauck

Communion Asst.: 2PM : Barry Skog

5PM : Mo Hauck

Worship Assistants Next Week

December 28

Usher: Duane Hanson

Lector: Sasha Diercks

Hospitality: Audrey Rosener



Wendy Anderson, Jay
Mikaelsen, Scott
Sorenson, Lorrie
Samuelson, Lynda
Rosener Sack, Terri
Fredin, Terri
Mandelkow, Jake
Jacobson, Connor
Michalicek (Rosann
Pearson's grandson),
and Roger Guttromson.



American Red Cross

The next Vasa Lutheran Church Blood Drive is scheduled for **TUESDAY, January 20, 2026**
from 1:00 –7:00pm. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A ONE-DAY DRIVE ONLY!



In Loving Memory of:

- Dale Anderson
Given by Jeannette Anderson
- Merlin Bakken and Donna Gardiner
Given by John and Ellie Gardiner
- Paul and Marilyn Carlson
Given by Tim and Melanie Carlson & Family
- Carolyn Gardiner
Given by Wally, Michele, and Dave
- Jim Hedeem
Given by Sue & Family
- Carolyn Lindstrom
Given by Duane Lindstrom
- Derek McNamara
Given by Cashton, Caleb, and Wade
- Bill and Vivian Strusz
Given by Randy and Gail Klein
- Paul Weckerling
Given by Vicki Weckerling
- Norvin & Gloria Skog
Given by Barry Skog

In Honor of:

- The Beauty of the Church
Given by Duane & Marilyn Hanson
- Magnus & Asta Peterson
Given by Barry Skog

In Memory of Loved Ones, given by:

- *Bruce & Kathy Tilderquist*
- *Steve & Dawn Lindstrom*
- *Bonnie McNamara*
- *Ben & B-J Norman*
- *Vicki Weckerling*

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.

Heating the Church Sanctuary and Lutheran Center each winter is a significant expense. Vasa Congregation will gratefully receive any donations given to help cover these costs. Simply put the words "fuel fund" in the memo line of your check.

MUSIC FOR DECEMBER 24, 2025

GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866

Music: German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795-1856

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

AWAY IN A MANGER

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: James R. Murray, 1841-1905

LOVE HAS COME

Text © 1996 Living the Natural Way, admin. Music Services, Brentwood, TN

Joy to the World

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

YOUR LITTLE ONES DEAR LORD

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845-1925, alt.

Music: Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747-1800

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT!

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

Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

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