

Vasa Lutheran Church

Parable of the Tenants [Taxes to Caesar]

Pastor Maureen Hagen Accompanist – Anne Anderson

Sunday, March 3, 2024

ANNOUNCING THE DAY: Psalm 86:8-13

L: There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,

C: nor are there any works like yours.

L: All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you, O Lord,

C: and shall glorify your name.

L: For you are great and do wondrous things;

C: you alone are God.

L: Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth;

C: give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

L: I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,

C: and I will glorify your name forever.

L: For great is your steadfast love toward me;

C: you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,

who writes the law on our hearts,

who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.**

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

**For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace:

Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us,

breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs,

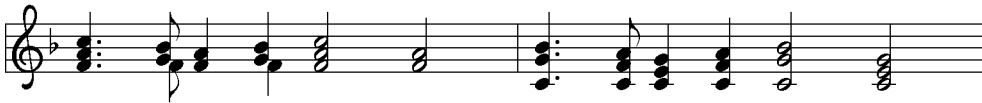
and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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

Lord, Have Mercy



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

Music: Russian Orthodox traditional

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Son of God, **you spoke words to Jerusalem’s leaders that were hard to hear. Give us ears to receive your word of life so that we can follow you faithfully. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 12:1-12 [13-17] Then he began to speak to them in parables. "A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the wine press, and built a watchtower; then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. 2 When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard. 3 But they seized him, and beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. 4 And again he sent another slave to them; this one they beat over the head and insulted. 5 Then he sent another, and that one they killed. And so it was with many others; some they beat, and others they killed. 6 He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 7 But those tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' 8 So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. 9 What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. 10 Have you not read this scripture: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the

cornerstone; 11 this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?" 12 When they realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowd. So they left him and went away.

13 Then they sent to him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. 14 And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality, but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not? 15 Should we pay them, or should we not?" But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it." 16 And they brought one. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." 17 Jesus said to them, "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." And they were utterly amazed at him.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN **THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY** **ELW 588**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY **HOW GREAT THOU ART** **ELW 856**

CONFESSION OF FAITH using the words of 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.**

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: *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.*

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, 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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER Generous God, **at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.**

HYMN

CANTICLE OF THE TURNING

ELW 723

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING and DISMISSAL

L: Beloved,
we are God's own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and † give you peace.

Amen.

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.



Paul Mikaelson, Jay Mikaelson, Scott Sorenson, Max Tilderquist, Anne Rathman, Wendy Anderson, Geri Lindholm, and Dale Anderson.



Parish Pulse:

Feb. 14 & 18

Participating in Worship: 100

+18 live-streams

Total Offerings:

\$5,680.00

Wednesday Lenten Worship

continues at the church sanctuary at 7:00. This week our Lenten monologue will feature Thomas and will be read by **Mike Bauch**. We are singing the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy and serving communion.

Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: volunteer needed

Reader: Sid Featherstone

Hospitality: Sue Ness

Comm. Asst.: Mike Bauch

Worship Assistants Next Week (March 10)

Usher: Marv Fredrickson

Reader: Barry Skog

Hospitality: Audrey Rosener

MUSIC FOR MAR. 3, 2024

AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE

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THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY

Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.

Music: North American, 19th cent.

HOW GREAT THOU ART

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CANTICLE OF THE TURNING

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LOCAL FOOD SHELVES TO
RECEIVE LENTEN OFFERINGS



Lenten Offerings:

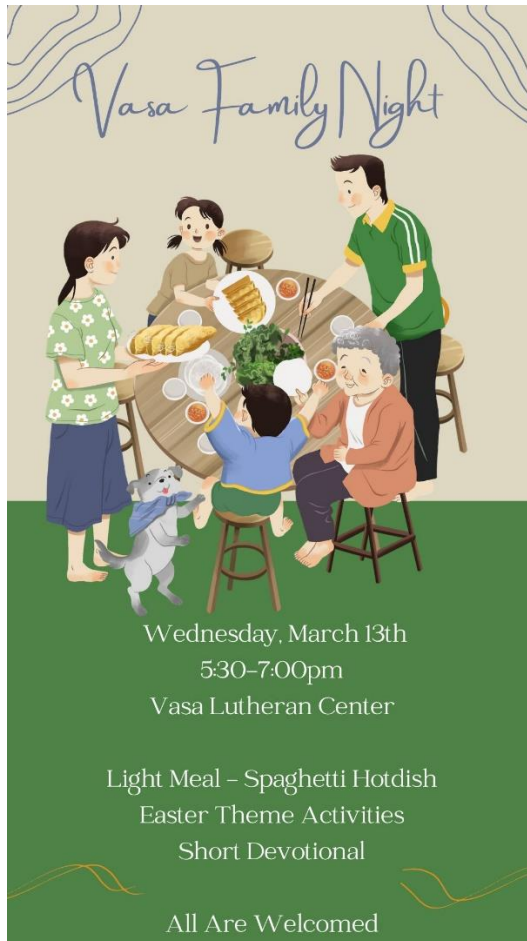
March is a "food shelf" month. Vasa will gather Lenten offerings and send them to the Red Wing and Cannon Falls food shelves at the end of March. Here is how you can participate:

- Write a check to Vasa and put the words "food shelf" in the memo line
- Place money in one of the Lenten offering envelopes in your box and get it to the church/church office. All loose monetary offerings will go to the food shelves.



FILL THE TRUCK!

The Vasa Rummage Sale is coming up at the end of April (25-26) and once again we will be coordinating with the Epilepsy Foundation to pick up all remaining donated clothing, shoes, belts, purses, sheets, and towels. In exchange, Vasa will receive a donation from the Epilepsy foundation which will be applied toward our fundraising total. Please bring these items to the Lutheran Center, but please don't mix other household items in with your donation. Those can be donated separately—details to follow!



Mid-Week Lenten Worship with Holden
Evening Prayer and Holy Communion will
begin at 7:00PM
in the church sanctuary, immediately
following Family Night activities.