



Vasa Lutheran Church

Being Like Jesus: Compassionate

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist: Anne Anderson

Sunday, August 17, 2025

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We are called to live a life worthy of the gift of the grace of God.

We should be humble and gentle.

We should be patient, bearing everyone in love.

There is One Body and One Spirit.

We share

One Lord

One Faith

One Baptism

One God and Creator of all

We are all children of God.

We are called to live a life worthy of the gift of the grace of God.

(from Ephesians 4:1-6)

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

It is in our confession that we realize and acknowledge our desire for God and our trust in God's mercy. It is in admitting the difficult and messy truth of our lives and of the world that we take our first step toward wholeness and healing. So let us join in our confession, first in silent prayer.

A moment of silence.

God of Grace,

We have been unkind.

In our anxiety and fear, we have turned against one another.

We distrust and devalue one another.

We have reduced those we once loved to little more than that which "side" they are on.

We have learned to see each other as enemies instead of neighbors and friends.

Forgive us, God, and teach us what it means to repent.

In the midst of anger and accusations,

Teach us to listen and seek to understand.

In the midst of division and deception,

Teach us to be kind and true.

May we not avoid our differences in the name of "keeping the peace,"

But by the help of your Spirit,

help us to love one another through our differences,

Calling forth a true peace, your peace,

That heals, restores, and reconciles us all to one another,

Destroying walls and building bridges

as living instruments of your love to all the world.

For the sake of Jesus, our brother and friend. Amen

ABSOLUTION: Beloveds, hear this good news. God's love is uniting and reconciling all of creation and you are included in that love. Hear now that you have already been forgiven. And in that forgiveness, you are freed to love and serve others as you have first been loved.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

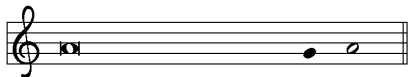
ELW 879

GREETING

L: 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.



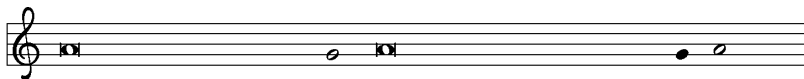
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



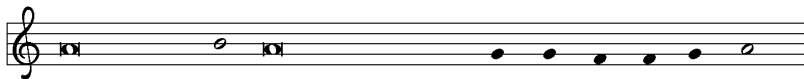
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



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

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Almighty God, **your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, so all may come to know Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Colossians 1:1-14 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Luke 10:25-37 Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come

back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

L: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN **OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN** **ELW 295**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY **JESU, JESU, FILL US WITH YOUR LOVE** **ELW 708**

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, **hear our prayer.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

L: Let us share God's peace with one another.

GENEROSITY MOMENT

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.

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: *Communion will be received by intinction. All are welcome at the Lord's Table. You don't need to be a member of Vasa Lutheran, nor do you need to be a Lutheran. We believe that Jesus is the host of the meal and that Jesus invites all to participate. Gluten free wafers and alcohol free wine are available for those who have dietary restrictions.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: Mothering God, **you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: JESUS CALLS US O'ER THE TUMULT ELW 696
We will sing verses 1 and 3-5.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL:

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.
Amen.

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

MUSIC FOR AUGUST 17, 2025

FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917,
alt.

Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

Arr. © CPH Publishing (SESAC)

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens

Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite

Music: Plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

JESU, JESU, FILL US WITH YOUR LOVE

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JESUS CALLS US O'ER THE TUMULT

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-
1895

Music: William H. Jude, 1851-1922

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Parish Pulse:

August 6 & August 10

Participating in Worship: **45**

+ 15 Live Streams

Total Offerings:

August 10: \$345.00

Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: volunteer needed

Reader: Barry Skog

Hospitality: Mo Hauck

Comm. Asst: Sue Samuelson

Worship Assistants Next Week

August 24

Usher: Rick Samuelson

Reader: B-J Norman

Hospitality: B-J Norman



Jay Mikaelson, Scott Sorenson,
Lorrie Samuelson, Dale Anderson,
Lynda Rosener Sack, Merle Pearson,
Terri Fredin, Terri Mandelkow, Jake
Jacobson, Max Tilderquist, Connor
Mikolichuk (Rosann Pearson's
grandson), and Roger Guttromson.



Vasa has a need for a volunteer to do a deep clean of the bride's room and the back stairs at the church (the stairs that lead to the bride's room). This area didn't receive the same deep cleaning that the Sanctuary did when we returned to the church in April. It is in desperate need of attention! Let Pastor Maureen know if you might be able to help out!

REMINDERS:

Parish Life meets
tomorrow (8/18) at
5:00pm.

Church Council meets
tomorrow (8/18) at
6:00pm.

Job Opening: Emily Peterson, our office administrator, has signaled her intent to resign from her position. If you know of someone who has strong computer skills, including word processing and spreadsheets, please encourage them to contact Pastor Maureen.