

Vasa Lutheran Church

Jesus and Pilate

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist-Anne Anderson

Sunday, March 15, 2026



Illustration by Rien Poortvliet, published in "He Was One of Us" Doubleday Publishing Co. 1978

CONFESSION AND WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.

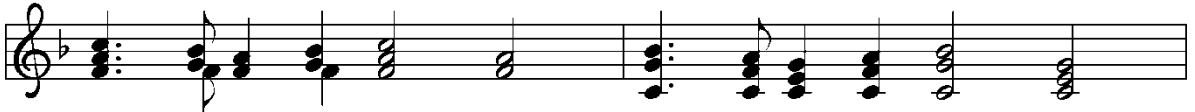
Amen.

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

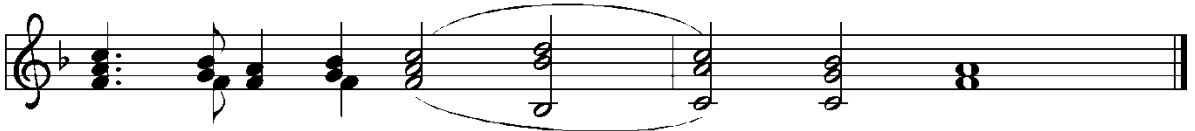
And also with you.

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: God of truth, **Too often we bend truth to fit our needs. Show us how to recognize and follow your truth, shown to us by the love and life of your son, Jesus. Amen.**

GOSPEL READING: John 18:28-40

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. 29 So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" 30 They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." 31 Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." 32 (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

33 Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" 34 Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your

own, or did others tell you about me?" 35 Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" 36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." 37 Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." 38 Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. 39 But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" 40 They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

L: Word of God, word of life,

C: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

CHANGE MY HEART, O GOD

ELW 801

SERMON

HYMN

JESUS KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS

ELW 335

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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Each petition will end with the words: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

HOLY COMMUNION

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.

Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth,

burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,

with the earth and all its creatures,

with sun and moon and stars,

we praise you, O God,

blessed and holy Trinity,

now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Give us the courage to follow in the footsteps 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.**

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

We will receive communion by intinction. 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.

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.**

God of our salvation, **we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

JESUS SHALL REIGN

ELW 434

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you:

C: Wherever he may send you;

P: May he guide you through the wilderness:

C: Protect you through the storm;

P: May he bring you home rejoicing:

C: At the wonders he has shown you;

P: May he bring you home rejoicing:

C: Once again into our doors. Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.

Parish Pulse:
March 8
Participating in Worship: 53
+ **36** Live Streams

Total Offerings:
March 8th
\$1,575.0

Worship Assistants Today
March 15
Usher: Rick Samuelson
Lector: B-J Norman
Hospitality: B-J Norman
Communion Asst.: *Volunteer Needed*

Worship Assistants Next Week
March 22
Usher: Rick Samuelson
Lector: B-J Norman
Hospitality: B-J Norman



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

Easter Play Rehearsal Dates

March 22

Easter Play

March 29 (Palm Sunday)

Bach's Birthday Bash 2026
Saturday March 21st

Locations differ throughout
the day for more information
visit TCAGO.ORG if
interested

Support our Organist Nick
Kees if you're available.



Easter Flower Forms are
available! Please make
sure if you want flowers to
get your order forms in by
March 18th!

MUSIC FOR MARCH 15, 2026

GIVE TO OUR GOD IMMORTAL PRAISE!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
Music: attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

CHANGE MY HEART, O GOD

Text and music © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing (ASCAP), admin.
Music Services

JESUS KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915
Music: William H. Doane, 1832-1915

JESUS SHALL REIGN

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.
Music: attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

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