

# Vasa Lutheran Church

## *Jeremiah's Letter to the Exiles*

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist: Anne Anderson

**Sunday, November 28, 2021**

**The First Sunday of Advent**

### **ANNOUNCING THE DAY: Lighting the First Advent Candle**

Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise that you have plans for us; plans for our welfare and not for harm, to give us a future with hope. Help us to call upon you, to pray to you, trusting that you have heard us. Help us to search for you trusting that you will allow us to find you.

As we light the first candle on this wreath, give us hope, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.

O people of hope, come,  
let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.

### **ADVENT SONG**

Candles glowing, promise showing the great hope that calms our fear.  
Darkness scatters, worry shatters, Christ will always draw us near.  
Calms our sighing, hears our crying, helps our trying, love undying –  
Christ will always draw us near! Christ will always draw us near!

*Sung to the tune of Infant Holy, Infant Lowly  
Lyrics by Rev. Elana Keppel Levy, 2021*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who alone does wonders,  
who lifts up the lowly,  
who fills the hungry with good things.  
Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God for whom we wait,  
**in the presence of one another,  
we confess our sin before you.  
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.  
We falter in our call to tend your creation.  
We find our sense of self in material wealth.  
We fear those different from ourselves.**

**We forget that we are your children  
and turn away from your love.  
Forgive us, Blessed One,  
and assure us again of your saving grace.  
Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!  
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
✠ your sins are forgiven.  
You are children of the Most High,  
inheritors of the eternal promise,  
and recipients of divine mercy.  
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN                      PRAISE MY SOUL, THE GOD OF HEAVEN                      ELW 864**

**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.**

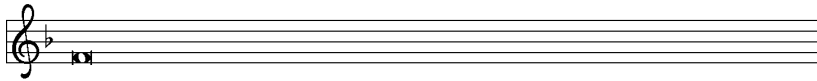
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord,            have mer - cy.**

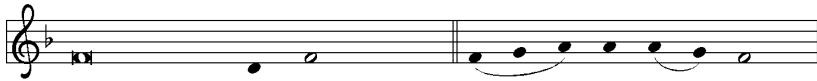
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the    Lord.

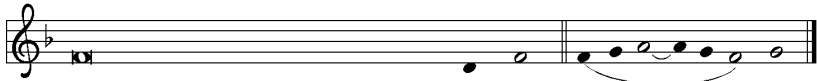
**Lord,            have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



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

## HYMN OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** God of hope, **How often have we found ourselves in exile, separated from your presence! Restore us, and let us find you when we seek you. Amen.**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14**

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. 4 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. 7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. 8 For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, 9 for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the LORD. 10 For thus says the LORD: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. 11 For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. 12 Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. 13 When you search for me, you will find me; if you

seek me with all your heart, 14 I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

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

**HYMN**   **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**   **ELW 733**

**SERMON**

**HYMN**   **LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS**   **ELW 765**

**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.**

**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.

**GENEROSITY MOMENT**

**SENDING HYMN: GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING ELW 543**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

The God of hope  
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that we may abound in hope  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



Scott Sorenson, Linda Thompson, Max Tilderquist, Eileen Anderson, Irene Carpenter, Paul Mikaelsen, Jay Mikaelsen, Grace Nelson, Violet Nelson, Sonia Peterson, Don Eckhoff (Pastor Maureen’s father) and David Hagen (Mark Hagen’s father)

Parish Pulse:

**November 21, 2021**

Participating in Worship: 50  
(No WEW on 11/24/2021)  
Total Offerings: \$1,605.00

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

***Usher:** Jason Stahnke  
**Reader:** Marcia Featherstone*

***Assisting Next Week:***

*Usher: Rick Samuelson  
Reader: Volunteer Needed*

children's  
program



The Children’s Christmas program will be on **December 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am**, during worship. See the December Voice for practice times.



Remember that we are fluffing the tree, hanging garland, wreaths and lights after church today!



Poinsettia order forms can be found at the back of the church. They are due next Sunday (sorry for the short notice.) You can also call the office and leave a message with your order. Emily will phone the order in on December 6. Poinsettias will be delivered in time for worship on December 19. **PLEASE NOTE: Make checks payable to Vasa Lutheran Church and put Poinsettia in the memo line.**

**Animals at the Nativity Scene – a Bible Study for Advent – MEETS TODAY AFTER CHURCH.** This will be our first session. Place TBD – depending on the Christmas Tree Fluffing and decorating.



“Animals at the Manger” is a 3 session study of the animals commonly placed around the nativity scene (sheep, cattle, donkeys) and dives into scripture passages from throughout the Bible. To prepare our hearts and minds for Christ’s birth, this study invites us to look, listen, and learn from the animals of God’s creation. We will meet in the Lutheran Center Fellowship room at about 10:30 on Dec. 5 and 12.



The December Community Dinner is right around the corner, coming up on Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. **It’s Winner Winner Chicken Dinner! Reservations are due Wenesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>by NOON.** Meals will be ready for Pick up at 5:30 on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Call or email the church office, or fill out a Meal Reservation Form at church or the Lutheran Center.

**PS. IF YOU SIGNED UP TO DONATE FOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY DINNER, PLASE GET YOUR DONATIONS TO THE LUTHERAN CENTER ASAP!!**

We, the Vasa Congregation,  
Called by God, commit to:  
Worshipping together,  
Growing in Faith,  
Serving Others,  
Welcoming and Loving All.



Vasa Lutheran Church

[office@vasalutheran.org](mailto:office@vasalutheran.org)

651.258.4327

