

Vasa Lutheran Church

The Light Shines in the Darkness

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist: Anne Anderson

Sunday, December 29, 2019

PRELUDE MUSIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS WITH GATHERING OF THE CAROL SUGGESTIONS

ANNOUNCING THE DAY

OPENING CAROL

DIALOGUE

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness,
on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**In the Word was life,
and the life was the light of all people.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent from heaven above, be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY Almighty God, **you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING

CAROL

SECOND READING

CAROL

THIRD READING

CAROL

FOURTH READING

CAROL

FIFTH READING

CAROL

SIXTH READING

CAROL

MEDITATION

HYMN OF THE DAY and CONFESSION OF FAITH

to the tune of "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"

**I believe in God the Father, the Almighty God above,
Maker of the earth and heaven which were formed in God's great love.
And in Jesus, loving Jesus, God's own Son, who makes us new.
This, the creed of generations, is the faith for our church, too.**

**Jesus, by God's Holy Spirit, was so wondrously conceived,
Born unto the Virgin Mary, who your promises believed.
Jesus suffering under Pilate, on a cross was crucified.
Soldiers mocked him, friends denied him; he hung there until he died.**

**So it was, our Lord was buried, in a borrowed tomb he lay.
To the dead he then descended, where was joy on earth that day?
There is more to God's great story: In three days he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and he sits at God's right hand.**

**I believe what God has promised: Christ will come as he has said.
He will judge the nations' peoples, both the living and the dead.
I believe God's Holy Spirit makes the church one family.
We're surrounded by God's people, saints who in our Lord believe.**

**I believe that God forgives us for the times we turn away,
And that God will raise our bodies on that resurrection day.
We rejoice we'll live forever, singing praise to God's great name.
This, the creed of generations, is the faith that we proclaim.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

L: Let us share the peace with one another.

COLLECTION OF OUR GIFTS FOR GOD WITH A GENEROSITY MOMENT

OFFERTORY PRAYER: Generous God, **you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION: Each petition will end with the words: Lord, in your mercy. Please respond with: **hear our prayer.**

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION WILL CLOSE WITH THIS RESPONSE

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of peace.

You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary.

You share our humanity.

Have mercy on the sick, the dying,

and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God.

You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament
that we may bear your light to all the world.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING CAROL:

CANTICLE OF THE TURNING

ELW 723

The Mood of Christmas
by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

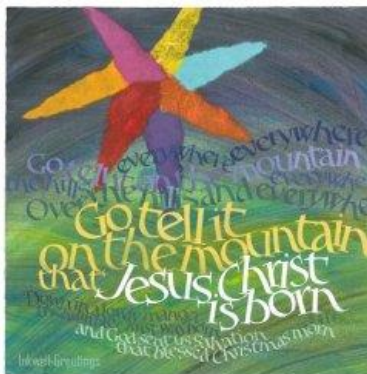
BLESSING

Grace from God's own heart,
peace from the ✚ Child in the manger,
and strength from the Spirit of life
be blessings for you today and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Christ is born!
Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.

POSTLUDE MUSIC





Prayer Concerns: David Broin, Scott and Kerry Sorenson (sons of Sharyn), Brenda Bradley and her family, Linda Thompson, Deb Ruby (Ed Gruber's daughter), Jim Josephson.

This Week at Vasa

(Church office hours: Tues, Wednesday, Thursday 9-1)

Sunday, December 29

9:00 am Service of Lessons and
Carols (No Sunday School)

Tuesday, December 31

9:00 am Tuesday AM Coffee

Wednesday, January 1

New Year's Day
No Wednesday Evening Events

Sunday, January 5

9:00 am Service of
Holy Communion

9:00 am Sunday School

5:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study
and potluck. (Childcare
provided!)

**NOTE: Pastor Maureen will be away from the office
December 30 – January 4**

Free Community Dinner



January's Community Dinner at Vasa is just around the corner—on January 8! There are plenty of opportunities to help, including meal preparation, set up, clean up, delivering meals to the homebound, and/or donating food items. The donation list and work schedule are on the table at the back of church on Sundays, and at the Lutheran Center during the week.

If you're interested in helping, please contact Sue Hedeem or Jeannette Anderson.



- **January 5 5-6:30 pm** Young Adult Bible Study
- **January 8 5:30pm** Community Dinner
- **January 15 6:15pm** Wed Evening

Worship resumes