

Vasa Lutheran Church

Rich Man and Lazarus

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist-Anne Anderson

Sunday, March 30, 2025

OPENING WORDS

P: O Lord, let my soul rise up to meet you

C: as the day rises to meet the sun.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

P: Come let us sing to the Lord:

C: let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.**

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

Transform our lives

and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

HYMN RESPONSE

GATHER US IN

ELW 532

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Divine Word, **You sent Moses to speak law to the people and bring order to chaos. You sent prophets to speak repentance and bring hope to the hopeless. You sent your son, Jesus to become your living Word. Open our ears to hear your word, and our hearts to reflect the light of your truth to others. For the sake of the Incarnate Word, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 41:1-3

L: Happy are those who consider the poor;

C: the LORD delivers them in the day of trouble.

L: The LORD protects them and keeps them alive;

C: they are called happy in the land.

You do not give them up to the will of their enemies.

L: The LORD sustains them on their sickbed;

C: in their illness you heal all their infirmities.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 16:19 - 31 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house-- for I have five brothers-- that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'" Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

SUNG RESPONSE



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

CHANGE MY HEART, O GOD

ELW 801

We will sing this hymn through twice.

SERMON

HYMN

CHANGE MY HEART, O GOD

ELW 801

We will sing this hymn through twice.

PROFESSION OF FAITH (This profession of faith was written by Paul and Annette Godtland, friends of Pastor Maureen and Mark Hagen. We have permission to use their work.)

We believe in one God, maker of all that is, seen and unseen. God loves and sees good in all creation, including all people. Yet we sometimes separate ourselves from God—we sin.

We believe God became man as Jesus to bridge those separations and so forgive our sins. Jesus fully experienced and understood human life, and showed people a different way—love God and all people wholeheartedly, forgive sins, and invite all to follow God.

Jesus was killed by people intent on power over others, but he rose from the dead and ascended to heaven, proving the transcendent power and everlasting nature of God's love.

We believe that God's Holy Spirit is always with each person, reaching out to help us live out God's kingdom on earth. We strive to discern what the Holy Spirit is guiding us to do now, while knowing that we are continually called to deeply love—God, our neighbors, and ourselves. Our neighbors include everyone we may interact with, whether or not they believe all that we believe.

We humbly acknowledge that no one can fully understand God or God's creation. Together we seek to learn more about both, yet we also realize others will understand God and creation differently. Even so, each person is

**unique and loved by God. All are invited to everlasting communion with God.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Each petition will end with the words: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

THE 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.**

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

SENDING HYMN:

GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY

ELW 705

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. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: Thanks be to God.

MUSIC FOR MARCH 30, 2025
GATHER US IN

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CHANGE MY HEART, O GOD

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**GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF
GLORY**

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969
Music: John Hughes, 1873-1932

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Usher: Tim Carlson
Reader: Barry Skog
Hospitality: Lora Gruber

Worship Assistants Next Week
APRIL 6

Usher: Ben Norman
Reader: B-J Norman
Hospitality: Kent Volz
Comm Asst: B-J Norman

Parish Pulse:
March 19 & 23
Participating in Worship: 55
+ 13 Live Streams
Total Offerings:
March 23: \$600.00



Jay Mikaelsen, Scott Sorenson, Anne Rathman, Lorrie Samuelson, Dale Anderson, Lynda Rosener Sack, Carolyn Lindstrom, Merle Pearson, Yvonne Belin, Terri Fredin, and Terri Mandelkow.



The Quilting Crew is collecting old blue jeans for future Quilts-For-Grads projects. The donation box is located in the Lutheran Center entryway, to the left of the office entrance, by the Kid's activity bags. Please bring in any (clean) jeans that are no longer useful to you—for whatever reason! The Quilting Crew thanks you!



COMING UP AT VASA

- 4/2 9:30AM Ages and Stages Women's Bible Study
- 4/2 6:30 Lenten Worship +Holden Evening Prayer
- 4/3 **Easter Garden Flower Orders due by NOON**
- 4/7 **TEAM MEETINGS**
 - 4:00PM Property Team**
 - 5:00PM Finance Team**
- 4/9 5:30 Vasa Family Fun Night
- 6:30 Lenten Worship + Holden Evening Prayer
- 4/14 **TEAM MEETING**
 - 5:15PM Parish Life**
 - 6:00PM Church Council**
- 4/16 9:00AM—7:00PM American Red Cross Blood Drive
- 4/17 7:00PM Maundy Thursday + First Communion
- 4/18 7:00PM Good Friday Worship Service
- 4/19 Rummage Sale Set Up (volunteers will be needed—
Times to be determined soon)
- 4/20 9:00AM EASTER WORSHIP IN THE
SANCTUARY!
- 4/21-23 Rummage Sale Set Up (volunteers needed)
- 4/24-25 VASA RUMMAGE SALE
- 4/28 Endowment Team Meeting (time TBD?)