

Vasa Lutheran Church
Pentecost Sunday and
Pastor Maureen's Leave-taking

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist-Anne Anderson

Sunday, May 24, 2026

ANNOUNCING THE DAY OF PENTECOST

There is a candle near the altar
That glows without rest.
Its flame dances in the hurricane,
safe and silent while we sleep.

Or is it? Safe and silent that is?
This light is bold enough,
With or without us, to start a fire
Where there was only dust and fear.

It flickers now, casting a glow
In the dim stillness of what we build,
The places we hide and wait for certain
Signs of what will still be.

Perhaps this fire is waiting On a wind so we can see Like our ancestors
A burning bush, a pillar of fire, A burnt offering ablaze With life that speaks.

Breathe deeply, church.
You are the wind You are waiting for,
And the time has come To kindle and flare
Like tongues dancing, Like wax that drips without reserve,
Melting and molding for the luminous.

GATHERING HYMN

GATHER US IN

ELW 532

GREETING: Grace to you and peace from our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
May the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Oh God, **you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life by filling us with your Spirit that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

PSALM 1 (*Read responsively*)

L: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;

**C: but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate day and night.**

L: They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.

**C: The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

L: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

**C: for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

EPISTLE READING: 1 John 4:7 - 21 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. 15 God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 16 So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. 21 The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

HYMN

BE THOU MY VISION

ELW 793

GOSPEL READING: John 15:1-17

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. 3 You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 4

Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. 6 Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

L: Word of God, word of life,

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING

ELW 880

SERMON

HYMN

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

ELW 671

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. Please respond with: **hear our prayer.**

HYMN:

I'M GOING ON A JOURNEY

ELW 446

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

I declare to you that your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

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 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.

SUNG VERSION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER (*See insert*)

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

We will receive communion kneeling at the railing. 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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

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.

LITANY OF CLOSURE AT THE COMPLETION OF A MINISTRY

Congregation representative: Pastor Maureen we called you to be our pastor in August of 2016: to proclaim God's Word, to baptize new members into the church of Jesus Christ, to announce God's forgiveness to us, and to preside at our celebrations of the Lord's Supper. With the gospel, you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you have been important to our life together in the Church of Jesus Christ and in our service to this community.

Congregation: We release you from Vasa Congregation to share God's gifts as an ordained pastor in whatever tasks God has in mind for you in your retirement.

Pastor: I give thanks for the life we shared in Christ. I have found our time together rewarding and memories of what we have shared will always remain precious and meaningful. I return to you symbols representing my role and responsibilities as an ordained minister in your midst.

I have endeavored to proclaim the word of God faithfully among you. Here is the Bible that expresses this (*the Bible is presented to a lay leader*).

I have baptized people in the name of the Triune God, using water as a symbol of cleansing and rebirth. Here is water that symbolized God's gift of belonging in Christ (*a vessel of water is given to a lay leader*).

I have celebrated Holy Communion with you. Here is bread and wine, the means by which we are strengthened in our faith and are transformed into the Body of Christ (*bread and wine are given to a lay leader*).

Congregational Leader: Prayer, both individual and corporate, is the means by which our relationship with God and with one another grows, deepens and strengthens. We will continue to pray for you.

Congregation: Eternal God, we thank you for Pastor Maureen and her husband Mark and for our life together in this congregation and community. As they have been a blessing to us, so now send them forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Congregational Leader: We send you forth with a "going away" blessing.

**Congregation: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace now and forever.
Amen.**

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN

LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

ELW 660

Parish Pulse:

May 17

Participating in Worship: 55

+ 76 Live Streams

Total Offerings:

May 17

\$1,405



Worship Assistants Today

May 24

Usher: Marvin Fredrickson

Lector: Stuart Samuelson

Hospitality: Mo Hauck

Communion Asst.: Sue Samuelson

Worship Assistants Next Week

May 31

Usher: Bruce Tilderquist

Lector: Kathy Tilderquist

Hospitality: Lora Gruber



Wendy Anderson, Jay
Mikaelsen, Scott
Sorenson, Lorrie
Samuelson, Lynda
Rosener, Terri Fredin,
Connor Michalicek
(Rosann Pearson's
grandson), Jake
Jacobson, Rachel Harper
(Barry Skog's Niece)

MUSIC FOR MAY 24, 2026

GATHER US IN

Text and music © 1982 GIA Publications Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

BE THOU MY VISION

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931
Music: Irish traditional

O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING

Text © 1982, 1987 by Jubilate Hymns (admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

Text and music © 1987 Make Way Music (admin. by Music Services in the Western Hemisphere) All Rights Reserved. ASCAP

I'M GOING ON A JOURNEY

Text and music © 1994 Amity Music. Used by permission.

LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Reprinted/Streamed with Permission under

ONE LICENSE #A-740635

CCLI #22330766 & 22330759

All rights reserved