

Vasa Lutheran Church

The Shepherds Visit

Pastor Maureen Hagen

9:00 Service Anne Anderson, pianist

Sunday, December 25, 2022

Christmas Day

PRELUDE

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

L: O come, let us worship and bow down,

C: let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

L: For he is our God,

**C: and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.**

L: O that today you would listen to his voice!

**C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace,
Goodwill to all.**

SUNG RESPONSE

Candles glowing, promise showing Jesus born a baby small.

Hosts rejoicing, shepherds voicing – praising Christ the Lord of all.

God is with us, shout hosanna, raise a chorus, singing ever:

Praising Christ the Lord of all! Praising Christ the Lord of all!

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,
the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,
**you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.
We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.
We nurture conflict and build barriers.
We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.
Have mercy on us.
Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.
Renew us with your grace
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.
Amen.**

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.

Amen.

HYMN

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

ELW 283

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE: HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING ELW 270

PRAYER OF THE DAY: *(In unison)*

God of proclamation, **you sent shepherds to Mary to proclaim the good news that her child is God's son. Send us into the world to proclaim the good news of your love to all who will hear. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

GOSPEL READING LUKE 2:8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

L: Word of God, word of life,

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN 'T WAS IN THE MOON OF WINTERTIME ELW 284

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS ELW 288

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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be served as we kneel around the railing. Gluten free wafers and non-alcoholic wine are available for those with dietary restrictions. Pre-packaged elements are available for those who prefer that option.

CONSECRATION OF COMMUNION ELEMENTS:

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars; beneath the sea;
within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water; by night and day;
across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal;
among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

**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.

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.

PRAYER God our redeemer, **you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING ELW 270

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

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

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

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

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

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

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

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you,
✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.



**Scott Sorenson, Max Tilderquist, Irene Carpenter,
Jessie Otto, Paul Mikaelson, and Eileen Anderson.**



In Loving Memory of:

- **Harold and Rose Peterson**

Given by Chuck Peterson

- **Myron & Arlene Samuelson, Vernon & Luella
and Vern Mandelkow**

Mandelkow,

Given by Brian and Andrea Mandelkow

- **Norvin & Gloria Skog; Magnus & Asta Peterson
*Given by Barry Skog***

- **Ray & Irma Swanson, Ray and Lucille Peterson,
Ray and Edith Berg**

Given by Carolyn Smith

- **Swan Olson & Family**

Given by Lucy Fountain and Family

- **Art & Mildred Baringer**

Given by Jerry & Betty Rietman

- **Derek MacNamara & Gayle Lindstrom**

Given by Courtney Hovel

In Honor of:

- **Our Family**

Given by John and Maureen Hauck

In Memory of Loved Ones:

- ***Greg & Faye Drewianka***
- ***Bruce & Kathy Tilderquist***
- ***Jim and Sue Hedeem***
- ***John & Ellie Gardiner***

**Thank you to Beth Matthees at *Blooms on Broadway* in
Goodhue, for the poinsettia flowers. Thank you to the
volunteers who helped decorate the church.**



American Red Cross

The next Vasa Lutheran Church Blood Drive is scheduled for Thursday January 19th from 1:00pm – 7:00pm, and Friday, January 20th from 9:00am – 2:00pm. You can schedule an appointment by calling 1-800-733-2767, or by visiting RedCrossBlood.org. Enter Vasa Lutheran to schedule your appointment.

Free Community Dinner



The January Community dinner will be on January 11th. The menu features scalloped potatoes with ham, peas & carrots, Violets in the Snow Salad, a roll, and mini cheese cake! Take-out orders will be available at 5:00pm, and in-person dining will begin at 5:30. Reservations are due by NOON on January 4. You can make a reservation online (www.vasalutheran.org), by email (office@vasalutheran.org) or by phone (651-258-4327). Be sure to include your name and a phone number in case we need to reach you!

