

Vasa Lutheran Church

Jesus' Birth Announced

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist-Anne Anderson

Sunday, December 22, 2024

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

In the darkest times we cannot see to make our way...
our eyes adjust, but still everything is shadowed and grey.

We reach out, desperate

**for comfort
for balance
for the familiar
for hope**

In the darkest times,
even a faltering light can be just enough:
the flame flickers, twinkles, dances—and it is dazzling!
For in its light, we see light: God in our midst.

~Candles are lit~

However impossible it seems,
God's promise will be fulfilled —
and blessed is the one who sees the truth of God's kingdom in our midst.

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and
might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly
we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Come, O come, Emmanuel, God with us, and we will rejoice.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

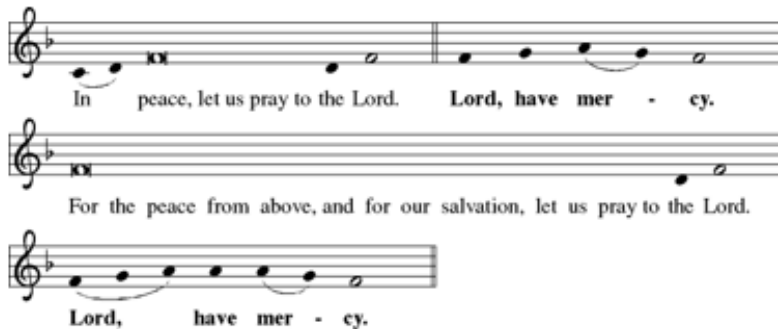
God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through † Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: MY SOUL PROCLAIMS YOUR GREATNESS ELW 251

GREETING: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.**

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.



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: Father God, **There is no miracle as grand as birth. As we prepare for the coming of your son, Jesus, create in us new life. Transform us so that we may reflect the light of your son, and become beacons of goodness, kindness, compassion, generosity, honesty, patience, and peace, for the sake of the one whose name brings deliverance and life to all the world, Jesus Christ, infant king. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS PSALM 113

L: Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.

**C: Blessed be the name of the LORD
from this time on and forevermore.**

L: From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the LORD is to be praised.

**C: The LORD is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens.**

L: Who is like the LORD our God,
who is seated on high,

C: who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

L: He raises the poor from the dust,
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

**C: to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.**

L: He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.

C: Praise the LORD!

GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:26-45 [46-56]



Luke 1:26-56 26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49 for the Mighty One has

done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. 52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

56 And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

L: Word of God, word of life,

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING ELW 272

SERMON

HYMN FOR ALL THE FAITHFUL WOMEN ELW 419

We will sing verses 1, 2, 6, and the last verse.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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, **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Give us the courage to follow in the foot steps of Christ,
who taught us to pray, saying...

**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.**

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 HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

ELW 270

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
‡ bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Paul Mikaelson, Jay
Mikaelson, Scott Sorenson,
Max Tilderquist, Anne
Rathman, Lorrie Samuelson,
Dale Anderson, Lynda
Rosener Sack, Arleen Stahnke,
Connie Gillis, Carolyn
Lindstrom, Merle Pearson,
Amber Nelson, Yvonne Belin,
Sarah Jacobson Parker, and
Chris Finne.

Parish Pulse:
December 15
Participating in Worship: 133
(No Live Stream)
Total Offerings:
\$4,660.00

**Worship Assistants
Christmas Eve**

2:00PM

Usher: Marv Fredrickson

Reader: Mo Hauck

Hospitality: Mo Hauck

Comm. Assts: Kerry, Allie, & Josie Finne
Alivia & Avery Schaffer

5:00PM

Usher: Bruce Tilderquist

Reader: Mike Bauch

Comm. Assts: Tim, Melanie, Megan &
Tanner Carlson



Please join us at either 2:00PM or 5:00PM on Christmas Eve for Worship. The 2:00PM service will be live-streamed, and the 5:00PM service will be a candlelight service. There will be coffee, treats and fellowship between the two services.

MUSIC FOR DECEMBER 22, 2024

MY SOUL PROCLAIMS YOUR GREATNESS

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LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4

Music: Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

FOR ALL THE FAITHFUL WOMEN

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HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831-1915

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