

Vasa Lutheran Church

God Provides Light

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist: Anne Anderson

Sunday, September 12, 2021

PRAYER AS WE REMEMBER SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Powerful God, our refuge and our strength, we turn to you for peace and security as we recall the 9/11 attack. We thank you for the bravery and the sacrifice of all those who ran toward the terror instead of away. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort and strengthen the family and friends of those who died. Give healing and patience to the survivors of the attacks who are living with continued physical or psychological pain. May those who survived feel gratitude, not guilt. May we learn to depend on the security you offer. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your peace as we remember. May our suffering from these attacks awaken in us an awareness of the pain and fear that so many around the world live with each day. May we know how to pray for those who struggle against oppression and injustice. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide the choices of our world leaders. Give them wisdom and discernment as they work to resolve the effects that continue even now, 20 years later. Help them to bring about policies that alleviate terror of all sorts—from genocide to hunger, from drought to bombings. May their actions bring your peace to all the people of the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, our world changed with the 9/11 attacks. As we remember that day may it remind us that you are our only true security. Give us your compassion to help each other and recognize need around the world. Give us your hope as we face an uncertain future. Give us your peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the strong name of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, **Amen.**

Written by Carrie Steenwyck in 2005

GATHERING HYMN

LET THE WHOLE CREATION CRY

ELW 876

ANNOUNCING THE DAY John 1:1-5

L: In the beginning was the Word,

C: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

L: He was in the beginning with God.

C: All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

L: What has come into being in him was life,

C: and the life was the light of all people.

L: The light shines in the darkness,

C: and the darkness did not overcome it.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure,
and whose love is endless.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter:

like lost sheep, we have gone astray.

We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.

We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.

We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.

Free us from our sin, gracious God.

Listen when we call out to you for help.

Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

Amen.

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.

KYRIE *The kyrie is found on page 3 of the worship booklet or ELW 157.*

HYMN OF PRAISE *The hymn of praise is found on pages 4 & 5 of the worship booklet. It is also found in the ELW-hymn number 167.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Grand designer of all things, **The light and darkness, the dome in the midst of waters, the sky and dry land, the vegetation, the seasons, the swarms of living creatures, birds and great sea monsters, creeping things and wild animals, and us; all these were brought into being with a word on your lips. And it was good. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 1:1 - 2:4 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2 the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good; and God

separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

6 And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." 7 So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. 8 God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

9 And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. 10 God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. 11 Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. 12 The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. 13 And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, 15 and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. 16 God made the two great lights-- the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night-- and the stars. 17 God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, 18 to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

20 And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." 21 So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." 23 And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

24 And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. 25 God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

27 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be

fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." 29 God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. NRS Genesis 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. 2 And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

4 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

L: Word of God, word of life,

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN: GOD, WHO STRETCHED THE SPANGLED HEAVENS ELW 771

SERMON

HYMN: THY STRONG WORD ELW 511

We will sing verses 1 and 3 through 5.

CONFESSION OF FAITH using the words of 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION: Each petition will end with the words: Hear us, O God. Please respond with: **Your mercy is great.**

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.

GENEROSITY MOMENT

SENDING HYMN:

O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

ELW 632

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the God who brought everything into being simply by speaking God's word help you to believe that you are part of the miracle.

In the name of the Father, †
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

C: Thanks be to God.



Scott Sorenson, Linda Thompson, Max Tilderquist, Eileen Anderson, Irene Carpenter, Paul Mikaelson, Grace Nelson, Zac Carlson, and Pauline Carlson.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Usher: Jason Pagel
Reader: Katie Lindahl

Assisting Next Week:
Usher: Chuck Peterson
Reader: Jim Hedeem
Communion Asst: Martha Hanson

Parish Pulse:
September 5, 2021
Participating in Worship:
31 (+ 8 at WEW 09/08/21)
Total Offerings: \$1,863.00



Looking for an "over the winter" indoor project? Vasa has three picnic tables that need to be sanded down and re-painted. We will move them to your shed/garage. We will also provide the paint. Contact Pastor Maureen.



New Members Are Joining

There are a number of people who have expressed interest in becoming members of Vasa. Therefore, Vasa will be receiving New Members on Sunday, September 26th during the worship service. Contact Pastor Maureen or the church office if you also are interested!



Wanted!! 2 black music stands! If you have one that you are not using, or know of someone who has one, please get in touch with Pastor Maureen!



A big shout out to Lorentz Meats for their generous donation of brats to the Community Dinner on Wednesday, Sept. 8. We served 310 meals! An equally big shout out to all the volunteers who baked cookies, grilled the brats, organized the bags for the drive through, assembled the meals, and the people who made deliveries. You all make a huge difference!



The King will reply,
"Truly I tell you, whatever
you did for one of the least of
these brothers and sisters of
mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40



Afghan Refugee Assistance

LIRS has been working since 2009 to resettle refugees from Afghanistan, many of whom were American allies during the war. With the recent and rapid withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan, the need for financial support for the Afghan refugees is greater than ever. **This is where you can help.** Making a gift to **Neighbors in Need: Afghan Allies** will provide food, housing assistance, clothing, and other basic needs for our Afghan friends as they await the official services available to them. You can mail donations to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, PO Box 17467, Baltimore, MD 21297-1467. For additional information on how to help the Afghan refugees, or to donate online, visit: <https://www.lirs.org/help-our-afghan-allies/>.

Hurricane Ida AND Haiti Earthquake Relief



Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with area synods and other partner organizations in the Northeast and in Haiti to meet relief needs for the victims of Hurricane Ida and Haiti's recent earthquake. Most immediate needs include food, water, medical supplies and temporary shelter. In the future, other areas of support will include psychosocial care, water and sanitation, and housing. For more information about either of these two tragic disasters, visit disaster@elca.org.

Your gifts will support both the hurricane and earthquake survivors. Make checks payable to: Lutheran Disaster Response. Write **"Hurricane Ida" OR "Haiti Crisis"** on your check's memo line and send to:

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