

Vasa Lutheran Church

God's Word Accomplishes God's Purpose

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist-Anne Anderson

Sunday, December 7, 2025

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—and it is dazzling!
For in its light, we see light: God in our midst.

~Candles are lit~

2. Kindle Advent candles.
Peace will be restored.
Clashes serve the schemers:
Victims' cries ignored.
Scars appear around us.
Can they ever heal?
We must walk a new path:
Make peace real.

*Sung to the tune: Cranham, the same tune used for "In the Bleak Midwinter."
Lyrics by Rev. Elana Keppel Levy, 2024*

However impossible it seems,
hope is alive, even in the midst of this world,
and blessed is the one whose living hope reveals God's good news.

Stir up our hearts, **Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,
**we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.
† You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN:

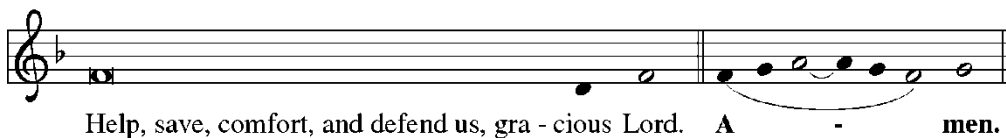
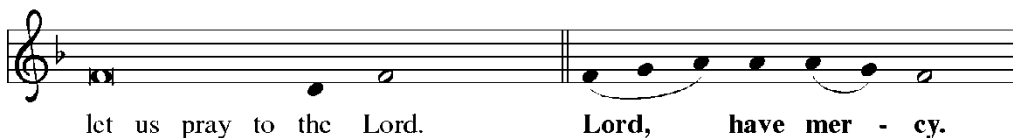
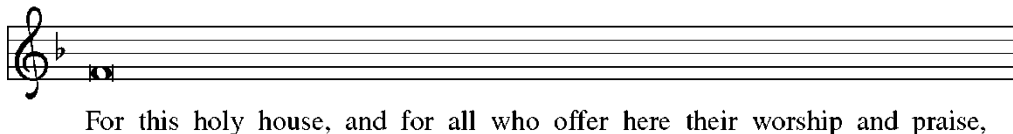
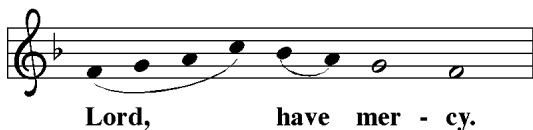
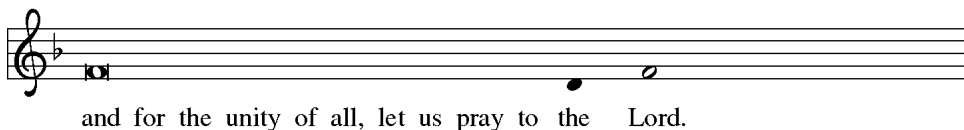
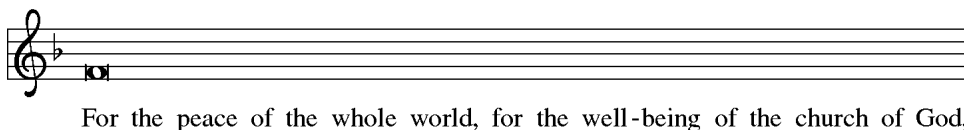
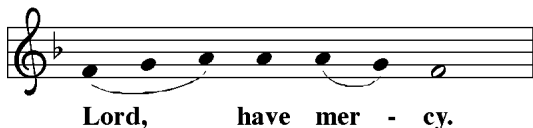
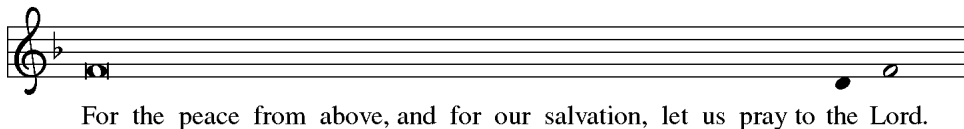
LOST IN THE NIGHT

ELW 243

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



KYRIE



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.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



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: God of restoration, **Save us when we find ourselves spiritually thirsty. Help us walk your road with your purpose, strengthened by your living water. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 55:1-13

L: Word of God, word of life,

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

ELW 272

SERMON

HYMN

YOU SATISFY THE HUNGRY HEART

ELW 484

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: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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

HOLY COMMUNION WITH THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.**

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

We will receive communion by 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 Let us pray (*in unison*) God our host, **at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN:

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

ELW 283

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May God who comes among us,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Parish Pulse:

Nov. 30

Participating in Worship: **26**

+ **15** Live Streams

Total Offerings:

November 30rd \$ 990



Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: Duane Hanson

Reader: Jeannette Anderson

Hospitality: Kent Volz

Communion Asst.: Geri Lindholm

Worship Assistants Next Week

December 14

Usher: Rick Samuelson

Reader: Barry Skog

Hospitality: *Volunteer Needed*



Wendy Anderson, Jay
Mikaelsen, Scott
Sorenson, Lorrie
Samuelson, Lynda
Rosener Sack, Terri
Fredin, Terri Mandelkow,
Jake Jacobson, Connor
Mikolich (Rosann
Pearson's grandson), and
Roger Guttromson.

MUSIC FOR NOVEMBER 30, 2025

LOST IN THE NIGHT

Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House, admin.
Augsburg Fortress

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

YOU SATISFY THE HUNGRY HEART

Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia,
admin. International Liturgy Publications.

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786;
tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4;
tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: attr. John Francis Wade

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Vasa Family Night

Wednesday, December 10th

5:30-7:00 pm

Vasa Lutheran Center

Fruit of the Spirit: PATIENCE

Please join us for a
Celebration of Advent:

We will sing the Holden Evening
Prayer and Christmas Carols

Fun Activities for the Kids

A Lasagna meal will be served



"YOU ARE CALLED TO LIVE WITH HUMILITY, GENTLENESS, AND PATIENCE." EPHESIANS 4:2



Bells of the Bluffs

We Need a Little Christmas

Friday, December 5 - 7:15 PM
St. Luke Lutheran Church
7000 Hinton Ave. So
Cottage Grove, MN

Sunday, December 7
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Silent Auction
2:00 Concert
First Lutheran Church
615 W 5th Street
Red Wing, MN

Sunday, January 11, 2026
3:00 PM
St. Ansgars Lutheran Church
7459 Hwy 19 Blvd
Cannon Falls, MN



Gather the Goods

This December, join us in showing the generosity of Vasa Lutheran Church by participating in one of these multiple opportunities to bless individuals and families in our community. Pick a color coordinated tag on the giving tree to support our community. This “Gather the Goods” drive will continue through December 24th.



Valley View
Recovery Center
Cannon Falls, MN

Valley View Recovery Center is an addiction and mental health treatment facility in Cannon Falls. We are collecting clean and gently used Men’s winter coats, shoes, and socks. Items need not be new.



HOPE Coalition
Red Wing, MN

HOPE Coalition is a Women’s Shelter in Red Wing. We are collecting cleaning supplies, dish soap, sponges, baby wipes, paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent, sanitizing wipes, and feminine products.



Goodhue County
Christmas
Project

Due Date Dec. 14th

Goodhue County Christmas Project blesses low-income families in the county with Christmas gifts. Vasa has “adopted” two families this year.



Food Shelf
Red Wing &
Cannon Falls

Donate items for the local food shelves, or give a cash donation. All cash donations will be matched by two generous donors. This means a \$5 cash gift will become \$15!