

Vasa Lutheran Church

Daniel's Hope in God

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist-Anne Anderson

Sunday, December 1, 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.

~Candle is lit~

However impossible it seems,
God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting,
and blessed is the one gifted with God's vision.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. **By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, 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.

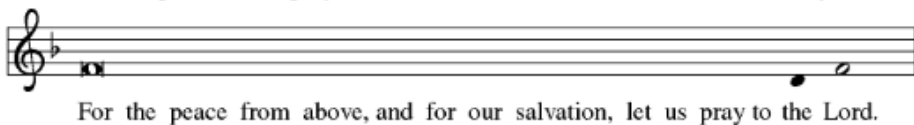
A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through † Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: YOU SERVANTS OF GOD

ELW 825

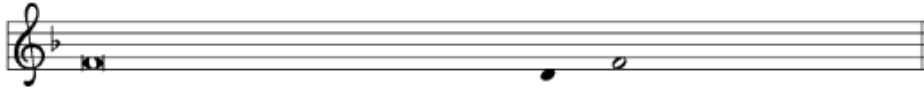
GREETING: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you

KYRIE





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

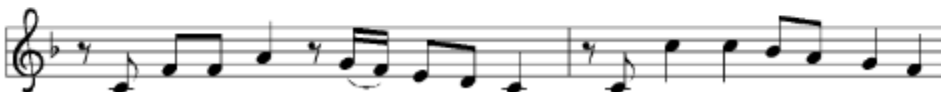


Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

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.



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 deliverance, **You rescued Daniel from the mouths of the lions when he was punished for worshiping you. Liberate all who are endangered for the sake of their faith, and rescue us from anything that separates us from worshiping only you, for the sake of the one who made your name known to all people, across land and seas, Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING Daniel 6:6-27

So the presidents and satraps conspired and came to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever! 7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish

an ordinance and enforce an interdict, that whoever prays to anyone, divine or human, for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions. 8 Now, O king, establish the interdict and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." 9 Therefore King Darius signed the document and interdict.

10 Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open toward Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously. 11 The conspirators came and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God. 12 Then they approached the king and said concerning the interdict, "O king! Did you not sign an interdict, that anyone who prays to anyone, divine or human, within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions?" The king answered, "The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked." 13 Then they responded to the king, "Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the interdict you have signed, but he is saying his prayers three times a day."

14 When the king heard the charge, he was very much distressed. He was determined to save Daniel, and until the sun went down he made every effort to rescue him. 15 Then the conspirators came to the king and said to him, "Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no interdict or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed."

16 Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!" 17 A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. 18 Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no food was brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

19 Then, at break of day, the king got up and hurried to the den of lions. 20 When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver you from the lions?" 21 Daniel then said to the king, "O king, live forever! 22 My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no wrong." 23 Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. 24 The king gave a command, and those who had accused Daniel were brought and thrown into the den of lions-- they, their children, and their wives. Before they reached the bottom of the den the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces.

25 Then King Darius wrote to all peoples and nations of every language throughout the whole world: "May you have abundant prosperity! 26 I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people should tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: For he is the living God, enduring forever. His kingdom shall never be

destroyed, and his dominion has no end. 27 He delivers and rescues, he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth; for he has saved Daniel from the power of the lions."

L: Word of God, word of life,

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN TAKE UP YOUR CROSS THE SAVIOR SAID ELW 667

SERMON

HYMN ROCK OF AGES ELW 623

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.**

GENEROSITY MOMENT

CONSECRATION OF COMMUNION ELEMENTS:

After the consecration of the communion elements you will be invited to partake in the body and blood of Christ as we kneel at the railing.

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 *Communion will be received 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.*

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.

Let us pray (*in unison*) Generous God,
**we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name.
Amen.**

SENDING HYMN THE DAY YOU GAVE US, LORD, HAS ENDED ELW 569

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, Dale Anderson,
Lorrie Samuelson, Rosann
Pearson, Lynda Rosener Sack,
Arleen Stahnke, Connie Gillis,
Jim Hedeem, Carolyn Lindstrom,
Merle Pearson, Amber Nelson,
Yvonne Belin, and Sarah
Jacobson Parker.

MUSIC FOR December 1, 2024

MUSIC FOR DECEMBER 1, 2024

YOU SERVANTS OF GOD

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Music: attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737-1806

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS THE SAVIOR SAID

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

Text: Charles W. Everest, 1814-1877,
alt.

**Music: W. Hauser, Hesperian Harp, 1848;
arr. hymnal version
ROCK OF AGES**

Text: Augustus M Toplady, 1740-1778

Music: Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872

THE DAY YOU GAVE US, LORD, HAS ENDED

Text: John Ellerton, 1826-1893, alt.

Music: Clement C. Scholefield, 1839-1904

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Dec. 5 NOON

Poinsettia Orders Due by noon

Dec. 8 9am

Christmas Program rehearsal

Dec. 8 3pm

Advent Celebration

Dec. 11 5:30-7pm

Vasa Family Fun Night

Dec. 15 10am

Children's Christmas Program

(Final Rehearsal at 9am)

Dec. 24 2 & 5pm

Christmas Eve worship

Parish Pulse:

November 20 & 24

Participating in Worship: 43

+ 20 Live Stream

Total Offerings:

\$1,205.00

Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: Duane Hanson

Reader: Melanie
Carlson

Hospitality: Audrey Rosener

Comm. Asst: Tim Carlson

**Worship Assistants Next
Week (December 8)**

Usher: Tim Carlson

Reader: Sid
Featherstone