

**Vasa Lutheran Church**  
*Lament Over Jerusalem*

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist-Anne Anderson

**Sunday, March 16, 2025**

**OPENING WORDS**

P: O Lord, let my soul rise up to meet you

**C: as the day rises to meet the sun.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**

P: Come let us sing to the Lord:

**C: let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One,

**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
but our lives do not always reflect you  
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion  
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality  
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,  
even though you have set us free again and again.**

**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.**

**Transform our lives  
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide  
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** Holy One of mighty power, **Your word is powerfully dangerous. Your word casts out demons. Your word heals incurable diseases. Your word devours empires. Your word transforms the fabric of the universe. Help us to stand in awe and fear of what your word is capable of doing. Give us courage to speak your word and wisdom to hear it, for the sake of the one whose very whisper can demolish sin, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 122**

L: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

**C: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

L: Jerusalem-- built as a city that is bound firmly together.

**C: To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,  
as was decreed for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.**

L: For there the thrones for judgment were set up,

**C: the thrones of the house of David.**

L: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

**C: Peace be within your walls,  
and security within your towers."**

L: For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you."

**C: For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.**

**GOSPEL READING: Luke 13:1-9** At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them-- do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

**Luke 13:31 - 35** At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her

brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### SUNG RESPONSE



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**HYMN**

**GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

**ELW 733**

**SERMON**

**HYMN**

**IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY**

**ELW 324**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH** (This profession of faith was written by Paul and Annette Godtland, friends of Pastor Maureen and Mark Hagen. We have permission to use their work.)

**We believe in one God, maker of all that is, seen and unseen. God loves and sees good in all creation, including all people. Yet we sometimes separate ourselves from God—we sin.**

**We believe God became man as Jesus to bridge those separations and so forgive our sins. Jesus fully experienced and understood human life, and showed people a different way—love God and all people wholeheartedly, forgive sins, and invite all to follow God.**

**Jesus was killed by people intent on power over others, but he rose from the dead and ascended to heaven, proving the transcendent power and everlasting nature of God's love.**

**We believe that God's Holy Spirit is always with each person, reaching out to help us live out God's kingdom on earth. We strive to discern what the Holy Spirit is guiding us to do now, while knowing that we are continually called to deeply love—God, our neighbors, and ourselves. Our neighbors include everyone we may interact with, whether or not they believe all that we believe.**

**We humbly acknowledge that no one can fully understand God or God's creation. Together we seek to learn more about both, yet we also realize others will understand God and creation differently. Even so, each person is unique and loved by God. All are invited to everlasting communion with God. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION**

Each petition will end with the words: Lord, in your mercy, **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:** *We will receive communion by intinction. 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.*

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER** Generous Host, **you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN: MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS ELW 597**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

P: May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you:

**C: Wherever he may send you;**

P: May he guide you through the wilderness:

**C: Protect you through the storm;**

P: May he bring you home rejoicing:

**C: At the wonders he has shown you;**

P: May he bring you home rejoicing:

**C: Once again into our doors. Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



Jay Mikaelson, Scott Sorenson, Max Tilderquist, Anne Rathman, Lorrie Samuelson, Dale Anderson, Lynda Rosener Sack, Carolyn Lindstrom, Merle Pearson, Yvonne Belin, Sarah Jacobson Parker, Terri Fredin, and Terri Mandelkow.

**Worship Assistants Today:**

**Usher:** Rick Samuelson  
**Reader:** Mo Hauck  
**Hospitality:** Mo Hauck  
**Comm Asst:** Geri Lindholm

**Worship Assistants Next Week  
(March 23)**

**Usher:** Randy Klein  
**Reader:** Melanie Carlson  
**Hospitality:** Audrey Rosener

Parish Pulse:

**March 9**

**Participating in Worship:** 60

+ 12 Live Streams

Total Offerings:

March 9: \$815.00



## COMING UP AT VASA

- 3/16-3/19 Pastor Maureen away at a spiritual retreat
- 3/19 9:30-11:00 Ages and Stages Bible Study
- 3/19 6:30 Lenten Weekly Worship + Holden Evening Prayer
- 3/23 9:00 Sunday Morning Worship + Sunday School
- 10:15 First Communion Instruction begins – LC, classroom #3

### **MUSIC FOR March 16, 2025**

#### **THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY**

Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

#### **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

Text and music © 1923, Ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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#### **IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST, I GLORY**

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Music: Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

#### **MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS**

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.

Music: John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

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We, the Vasa Congregation,  
Called by God, commit to:  
Worshipping together,  
Growing in faith.  
Serving others, and  
Welcoming and loving all!