

Vasa Lutheran Church

God's Care for the Widow—All Saints Sunday

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist: Anne Anderson

Sunday, November 3, 2024

ANNOUNCING THE DAY: Since its earliest centuries, the church has set aside a day to remember the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us in the faith, stretching across the centuries and around the globe. However hard it might seem to follow the way of Jesus in our own time and place, this is a day to remember that we may be crazy, but we are not alone.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us
cause conflicts and disputes.**

In our desire to be first

we make distinctions among ourselves.

We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.

In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.

**Draw near to us with grace in time of need,
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

L: God promises to forgive our iniquity
and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of † Jesus Christ,
the source of eternal healing,
your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

HYMN

FOR ALL THE SAINTS (1-3, 6, 7)

ELW 422

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.

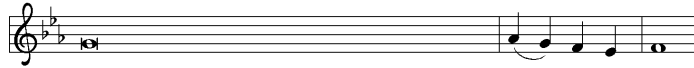
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



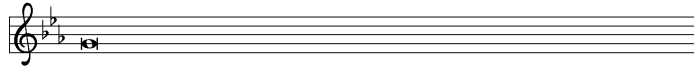
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



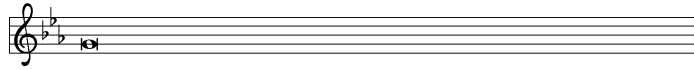
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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, a - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

Refrain

hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

Refrain

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY: God of compassion, **By the power of God, Elijah provided bread and oil for the widow and her household. By faith in God, the widow provided food and water for Elijah. Give us hearts to love one another, so that in providing and in receiving, we too, might experience the unimaginable power of God, through the one who has provided life itself, your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING:

1 Kings 17:1-24 Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word." 2 The word of the LORD came to him, saying, 3 "Go from here and turn eastward, and hide yourself by the Wadi Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. 4 You shall drink from the wadi, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." 5 So he went and did according to the word of the LORD; he went and lived by the Wadi Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. 6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the wadi. 7 But after a while the wadi dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

8 Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 9 "Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you." 10 So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink." 11 As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." 12 But she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." 13 Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. 14 For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth." 15 She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. 16 The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

17 After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill; his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. 18 She then said to Elijah, "What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to cause the death of my son!" 19 But he said to her, "Give me your son." He took him from her bosom, carried him up into the upper chamber where he was lodging, and laid him on his own bed. 20 He cried out to the LORD, "O LORD my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I am staying, by killing her son?" 21 Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried out to the LORD, "O LORD my God, let this child's life come into him again." 22 The LORD listened to the voice of Elijah; the life of the

child came into him again, and he revived. 23 Elijah took the child, brought him down from the upper chamber into the house, and gave him to his mother; then Elijah said, "See, your son is alive." 24 So the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth."

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

ELW 796

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

AMAZING GRACE

ELW 779

REMEMBRANCE OF THE SAINTS

Even as we remember the dead today, we look to the heavenly banquet to come.

Even as we taste the broken bread, we proclaim the risen Christ.

Even as we mourn the dead, we rejoice in the living.

We live wearing our baptismal robes and our burial shrouds.

We confess that sometimes our shroud of mourning wraps around us so tight that we cannot escape our grief. We confess that as we mourn the deaths of those we love, with throats sore from our wailing and our tears, we cannot speak the words of Martha to proclaim, "Yes, Lord, I believe" (John 11:27).

We confess that we do not have strength to proclaim it, and we lean on the voices around us who recite, "We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come."

We confess that we are tired, hungry, worn out by the weight of the death and sin that surrounds us.

We confess that we sometimes forget what that heavenly banquet tastes like.

You do not have to end your weeping, but know that God desires to wipe away every tear.

You do not have to have the strength to say the names of your dead today, but know that the Lord knows and cares for all souls. You do not have to have the taste of heaven on your lips today, but you are invited to eat the bread of heaven.

O God, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come; We give you thanks for all your faithful people, who have followed the light of your word throughout the centuries into our time and place. Today we remember:

Irene Carpenter, Jerry McRae, Jerry Keppers, Carolyn Gardiner, Grace Nelson

As we remember these people, strengthen us to follow Christ through this world until we are carried into the harvest of eternal life, where suffering and death will be no more. Hear our prayer in the name of the good and gracious shepherd, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE REMEMBRANCE CANDLES

Worshippers are invited to come forward and light a candle in memory of loved ones.

P: O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION: Each petition will end with the words: Lord, in your mercy. Please respond with: **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 God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:
you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos;
you encircled the globe with air;
you created fire for warmth and light;
you nourish the lands with water.
You molded us in your image,
and with mercy higher than the mountains,
with grace deeper than the seas,
you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying,
might be adopted to live in your Spirit,
you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

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.

Together as the body of Christ,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Son,
the first-born of your new creation.
We remember his life lived for others,
and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.
We await his coming,
when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom,
all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate,
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,
whose breath revives us for life,
whose fire rouses us to love.
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Holy and benevolent God,
receive our praise and petitions,
as Jesus received the cry of the needy,
and fill us with your blessing,
until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,
we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:
through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Communion will be received 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.**

PRAYER Holy God, **you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN:

LEAD ON O KING ETERNAL

ELW 805

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

L: God all mighty,
God most merciful
✠ bless you, keep you,
and give you peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.





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, and Yvonne Belin.

Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: Roger Guttromson

Reader: Barry Skog

Hospitality: David/Grace Hector

Comm. Asst: Roger Guttromson

**Worship Assistants Next Week
(November 10)**

Usher: Marv Fredrickson

Reader: Sasha Diercks

Hospitality: Sue Ness

Parish Pulse:

October 23 & 27

Participating in Worship: 40

+ 11 Live Stream

Total Offerings:

\$3,050.00



(The QR code connects to: <https://give.fmsc.org/campaign/c591773>)

The Feed My Starving Children mobile pack is coming to Cannon Falls High School on Saturday, November 9 and volunteers are still needed for several shifts.

Sign up online at the *Feed My Starving Children Website*. Use the code CFFMSC. You can also use the above QR code..

Donations continue to be accepted for the ongoing project of repair/restoration and cleaning of the Stained Glass windows in the church, which were installed in 1955. Since we began this project about 3 years ago, just over 20% of the windows have been restored.

If you participate in Thrivent Choice Dollars, this would be an ideal project to direct your contribution(s). If not, just note Stained Glass on the memo line of your check. As always, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

MUSIC FOR NOVEMBER 3, 2024

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

Text: J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt.

Music: Early American

AMAZING GRACE

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921, alt.

LEAD ON O KING ETERNAL

Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1862-1917

Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

Reprinted/Streamed with Permission under

ONE LICENSE #A-740635

All rights reserved



If you are interested in making a contribution to Lutheran Disaster Response to assist those areas devastated by Hurricanes Helene AND Milton, you can make a check payable to Vasa Lutheran with *Disaster Relief* on the memo line. Rest assured gifts to "Hurricane Response" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by hurricanes, until the response is complete.