

Vasa Lutheran Church
The Birth of Our Savior

Pastor Maureen Hagen
2:00 Service Anne Anderson, pianist
5:00 Service Tom Erickson, organist

Saturday, December 24, 2022

Christmas Eve

PRELUDE

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

L: Tonight old dreams die and new dreams come to life.
The promise is fulfilled.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

L: Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

L: The candles tell the story. Dawn invades midnight.
The Light of the world has come.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

L: This light is a light for all, warming us from within, radiating love,
lighting our lives with the presence of God in human flesh,
within us and among us now and always.

C: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

Goodwill to all.

SUNG RESPONSE

Candles glowing, promise showing Jesus born a baby small.
Hosts rejoicing, shepherds voicing – praising Christ the Lord of all.
God is with us, shout hosanna, raise a chorus, singing ever:
Praising Christ the Lord of all! Praising Christ the Lord of all!

*Sung to the tune of Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Lyrics by Rev. Elana Keppel Levy, 2021*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,
**you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.
We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.
We nurture conflict and build barriers.
We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.
Have mercy on us.
Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.
Renew us with your grace
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.
Amen.**

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.

Amen.

HYMN

YOUR LITTLE ONES, DEAR LORD

ELW 286

PRAYER OF THE DAY: *(In unison)*

Almighty God, **you made this holy night shine with the
brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may
walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to
the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING LUKE 2:1-5

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY ELW 276

THIRD READING: LUKE 2:8-14 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

HYMN: ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY ELW 275

FOURTH READING: LUKE 2:15-16 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

HYMN: WHAT CHILD IS THIS ELW 296

FIFTH READING LUKE 2: 17-20 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY:

LOVE HAS COME

ELW 292

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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Each petition will end with: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

COLLECTION OF OFFERING

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be served by kneeling around the railing. Gluten free wafers and non-alcoholic wine are available for those who have dietary restrictions. Pre-packaged elements are available for those who prefer that option.

CONSECRATION OF COMMUNION ELEMENTS:

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars; beneath the sea;
within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water; by night and day;
across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

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 his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **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.

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 We thank you, **wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION: John 1:1-14

You are invited to light a candle during the reading of the gospel lesson.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his

own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Silent Night, Holy Night!
Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!



Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Hold - er Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C: The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness,
on them light has shined.

**C: We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

P: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C: In the Word was life,
and the life was the light of all people.**

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you,

✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,

and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,

now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

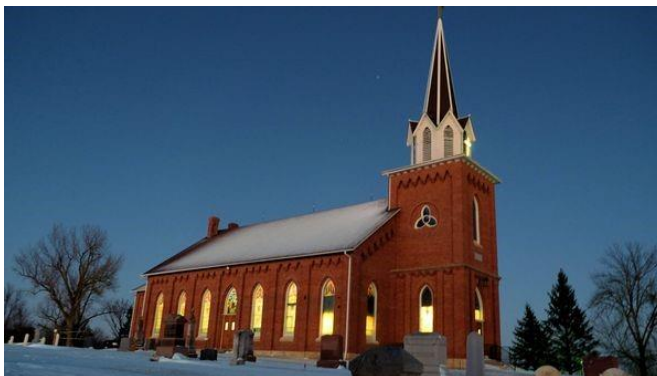
Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.



Scott Sorenson, Max Tilderquist, Irene Carpenter, Jessie Otto, Paul
Mikaelsen, and Eileen Anderson.





In Loving Memory of:

- Harold and Rose Peterson
Given by Chuck Peterson
- Myron & Arlene Samuelson, Vernon & Luella Mandelkow, and Vern Mandelkow
Given by Brian and Andrea Mandelkow
- Norvin & Gloria Skog; Magnus & Asta Peterson
Given by Barry Skog
- Ray & Irma Swanson, Ray and Lucille Peterson, Ray and Edith Berg
Given by Carolyn Smith
- Swan Olson & Family
Given by Lucy Fountain and Family
- Art & Mildred Baringer
Given by Jerry & Betty Rietman
- Derek MacNamara & Gayle Lindstrom
Given by Courtney Hovel

In Honor of:

- Our Family
Given by John and Maureen Hauck

In Memory of Loved Ones:

- *Greg & Faye Drewianka*
- *Bruce & Kathy Tilderquist*
- *Jim and Sue Hedeem*
- *John & Ellie Gardiner*

Thank you to Beth Matthees at *Blooms on Broadway* in Goodhue, for the poinsettia flowers. Thank you to the volunteers who helped decorate the church.



American Red Cross

The next Vasa Lutheran Church Blood Drive is scheduled for Thursday January 19th from 1:00pm – 7:00pm, and Friday, January 20th from 9:00am – 2:00pm. You can schedule an appointment by calling 1-800-733-2767, or by visiting RedCrossBlood.org. Enter Vasa Lutheran to schedule your appointment.

Free Community Dinner



The January Community dinner will be on January 11th. The menu features scalloped potatoes with ham, peas & carrots, Violets in the Snow Salad, a roll, and mini cheese cake! Take-out orders will be available at 5:00pm, and in-person dining will begin at 5:30.

Reservations are due by NOON on January 4. You can make a reservation online (www.vasalutheran.org), by email (office@vasalutheran.org) or by phone (651-258-4327). Be sure to include your name and a phone number in case we need to reach you!