

# Vasa Lutheran Church

## *"All Part of God's Plan"*

Dahmon Romness, worship leader Accompanist: Anne Anderson

July 23, 2023

**ANNOUNCING THE DAY:** Today's Bumper Sticker is: "It's all part of God's plan." The folly is that this implies that God has already created a plan for my life and everyone else's and so whatever happens to me must be part of God's plan. The main idea: In the reading from the prophet Jeremiah, the exiles are invited by God to grow where they are planted. They will not return to Israel or Jerusalem. I know the plans I have for you and they are different than we want sometimes.

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who greets us in this and every season,  
whose word never fails,  
whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

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

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned.  
We have hurt our community.  
We have squandered your blessings.  
We have hoarded your bounty.  
In the name of Jesus,  
forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Righteous God,

**we confess that we have sinned.  
We have failed to be honest.  
We have lacked the courage to speak.  
We have spoken falsely.  
In the name of Jesus,  
forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.  
God offers boundless grace when we fail.  
Claim the gift of God's mercy:  
you are freed and forgiven  
in the name of † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** Almighty and most merciful God, **your bountiful goodness fills all creation. Keep us safe from all that may hurt us, that, whole and well in body and spirit, we may with grateful hearts accomplish all that you would have us do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS: Psalm 66:1-12**

L: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

**C: sing the glory of his name;  
give to him glorious praise.**

L: Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!

**C: Because of your great power,  
your enemies cringe before you.**

L: All the earth worships you;  
they sing praises to you,

**C: sing praises to your name."**

L: Come and see what God has done:

**C: he is awesome in his deeds among mortals.**

L: He turned the sea into dry land;

**C: they passed through the river on foot.**

**There we rejoiced in him, who rules by his might forever,**

L: whose eyes keep watch on the nations—

**C: let the rebellious not exalt themselves.**

L: Bless our God, O peoples,

let the sound of his praise be heard,

**C: who has kept us among the living,  
and has not let our feet slip.**

L: For you, O God, have tested us;

**C: you have tried us as silver is tried.**

L: You brought us into the net;

**C: you laid burdens on our backs;**

L: you let people ride over our heads;

**C: we went through fire and through water;**

**yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.**

**Jeremiah 29:1-7** These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. 2 This was after King Jeconiah, and the queen mother, the

court officials, the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the artisans, and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem. 3 The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah son of Shaphan and Gemariah son of Hilkiah, whom King Zedekiah of Judah sent to Babylon to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. It said: 4 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. 7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN** **ABIDE WITH ME** **ELW 629**  
**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS** **ELW 733**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH** using the words of 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.**

**PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION:** Each petition will end with the words: Lord, in your mercy. Please respond with: **hear our prayer.**

**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.

**SENDING HYMN**

**LEAD ON O KING ETERNAL**

**ELW 805**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

L: The God who calls across the cosmos  
and speaks in the smallest seed  
‡ bless, keep, and sustain you  
now and to the end of the age. **C: Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Share the harvest.  
**C: Thanks be to God.**



**Eileen Anderson,  
Irene Carpenter, Deloris  
Clemens, Paul Mikaelson,  
Scott Sorenson, Max  
Tilderquist, Ivan Nelson,  
and Dale Safe.**

**Music for Sunday, July 23, 2023**

**Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer**

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams,  
1722-1796, alt.

Music: John Hughes, 1873-1932

**Great is Thy Faithfulness**

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**Abide with Me**

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847

Music: William H. Monk, 1823-1889

**Lead on O King Eternal**

Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1862-1917

Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

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