

Vasa Lutheran Church

Simeon and Anna

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Anne Anderson pianist

Sunday, December 29, 2024

WELCOME

The angel said to [the shepherds], "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 Christ, the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).

As we gather we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed: God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem's manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God's forgiveness, grace, and love.

Silence is kept for reflection

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our lack of faith and trust.

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

Forgive our neglect of the poor.

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

With great joy the angels proclaimed, "Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

In ✝ Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God's forgiveness is good news of great joy!

Amen.

GATHERING CAROL

GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE

ELW 288

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who is Savior and Lord, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

ELW 289

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Glory of Israel, **the coming of your son, Jesus broke open the heavens and prepared a way for all of your children to come home to you. Give us eyes to see your miraculous spirit moving in this church and in this world. Teach us to be proclaimers of your love to the nations, for the sake of the one whose name is redemption for the peoples, Jesus Christ, our salvation. Amen.**

PSALM 131

L: O LORD, my heart is not lifted up, my eyes are not raised too high;

C: I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me.

L: But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother;

C: my soul is like the weaned child that is with me.

L: O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time on and forevermore.

C: O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time on and forevermore.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:21-38 After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came,

and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

CHRISTMAS CAROL: ALL MY HEART AGAIN REJOICES ELW 273

MEDITATION

CHRISTMAS CAROL: LET OUR GLADNESS HAVE NO END ELW 291

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

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

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.**

GENEROSITY MOMENT

SENDING CAROL

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

ELW 290

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

L: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
and the everlasting peace of Jesus
who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.
Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you and keep you now and forever.

C: Amen.

L: Go in peace.

Serve our Savior, Christ, and Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: Duane Hanson

Reader: Barry Skog

Hospitality: Kent Volz

**Worship Assistants Next
Week (January 5)**

Usher: Ben Norman

Reader: B-J Norman

Hospitality: B-J Norman

Comm. Asst: Megan Carlson

Parish Pulse:

December 24

Participating in Worship:

168

+ 5 Live Stream

The Offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary, and by the East Door. They are there to receive your offering as you enter for worship.



Paul Mikaelson, Jay Mikaelson, Scott Sorenson, Max Tilderquist, Anne Rathman, Lorrie Samuelson, Dale Anderson, Lynda Rosener Sack, Arleen Stahnke, Connie Gillis, Carolyn Lindstrom, Merle Pearson, Amber Nelson, Yvonne Belin, Sarah Jacobson Parker, Chris Finne, and the family of Lorraine Aherns, Sue

MUSIC FOR December 29, 2024

GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS REJOICE

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866

Music: German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795-1856

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Text: French carol; tr. H.F. Hemy, The Crown of Jesus Music, 1864

Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

ALL MY HEART AGAIN REJOICES

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Music: Johann G. Ebeling, 1637-1676

LET OUR GLADNESS HAVE NO END

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Text: Bohemian carol, 15th cent.; tr. Unknown

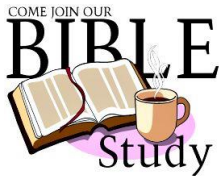
Music: Bohemian carol, 15th cent.

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

Music: African American spiritual

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Ages and Stages Bible Study will meet only once in January, on January 15th. After that they will resume their normal schedule of the first and third Wednesdays, through May.