

# Vasa Lutheran Church

*More than a Prophet*

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist-Anne Anderson

**Sunday, February 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,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God-with-us,

**we confess that we have turned away**

**those seeking shelter,**

**claiming there is no room when we have plenty.**

**We have made power and wealth our idols,**

**while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.**

**We have overlooked the shepherds,**

**expecting good news in prettier packaging.**

**Too often, we have valued violence**

**instead of your peace.**

**Turn us from our ways to your ways.**

**Grant us the grace to begin again.**

**Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin,  
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice!

You are God's chosen ones,

holy and beloved, † forgiven in Christ,

and freed to respond in joy.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** God of mystery, just as the crowds wondered about Jesus, we too, wonder about you. Who are you to us? Are you the one? Show us that you are God, mysterious, wonderful, mighty. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 146:5-10**

L: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God,

**C: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith forever;**

L: who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.

**C: The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**

L: The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.

**C: The LORD watches over the strangers;  
he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.**

L: The LORD will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

**C: Praise the LORD!**

**GOSPEL READING: Luke 7:18-35** The disciples of John reported all these things to him. So John summoned two of his disciples and sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" When the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?'" Jesus had just then cured many people of diseases, plagues, and evil spirits, and had given sight to many who were blind. And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who put on fine clothing and live in luxury are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' I tell you, among those born of women no one is greater than John; yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." (And all the people who heard this, including the tax collectors, acknowledged the justice of God, because they had been baptized with John's baptism. But by refusing to be

baptized by him, the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's purpose for themselves.)

"To what then will I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not weep.' For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Nevertheless, wisdom is vindicated by all her children."

### **SUNG RESPONSE**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**HYMN                                      OUR FATHER, WE HAVE WANDERED                                      ELW 606**

### **SERMON**

**HYMN                                      RESTORE IN US, O GOD                                      ELW 328**

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

**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, **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**

**COMMUNION HYMN:            WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS            ELW 742**

## **HOLY COMMUNION WITH THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Give us the courage to follow in the footsteps of Christ,  
who taught us to pray, saying...

**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**

*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.*

### **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.

Merciful God, **we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.  
Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace,  
comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen.**

**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. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

**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, Terri Mandelkow and the family of Paul Mikaelson.

**Worship Assistants Today:**

**Usher:** Marv Fredrickson

**Reader:** Tim Carlson

**Hospitality:** Audrey Rosener

**Comm Asst:** Barry Skog

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

**Usher:** Duane Hanson

**Reader:** Barry Skog

**Hospitality:** Marilyn Hanson

Parish Pulse:

**February 5 & 9**

**Participating in Worship: 66**

+ 14 Live Streams

Total Offerings:

February 9: \$965.00

**MUSIC FOR February 16, 2025  
ON JORDAN'S BANK**

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. Composite  
Music: European tune, adapt. Michael  
Praetorius, 1571-1621

**OUR FATHER, WE HAVE WANDERED**  
by Msgr. Kevin Nichols from Resource  
Collection of Hymns and Service Music for  
the Liturgy © 1981, International  
Commission on English in the Liturgy  
Corporation. All rights reserved.

**RESTORE IN US O GOD**

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company  
Music © 1985 Hope Publishing Company,  
Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.  
Used by permission.

**WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS**

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886  
Music: Charles C. Converse, 1832-1918

**DRAWN TO THE LIGHT**

Text and music © 1990 John C. Ylvisaker

Reprinted/Streamed with Permission under  
ONE LICENSE #A-740635  
CCLI #22330766 & 22330759  
All rights reserved

**IN THE ABSENCE OF USAID,  
CONSIDER THESE OPTIONS**

If you are wondering what you can do to help those who aren't receiving help from USAID due to suspended funding, these groups welcome donations:

**GLOBAL REFUGE** (formerly known as Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) gives help to refugees who have just come to the USA.

**GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES** helps provide supplies for health systems in Africa, Asia, and Central America. Kathy Tilderquist takes medical supplies, ace bandages, orthopedic braces and slings, gauze, band-aids, etc. to Coon Rapids where they are then shipped out. A list of items accepted by Global Health Ministries can be found at:

<https://www.ghm.org/always-needed>.

If you have items to donate, see Kathy. Global Health Ministries also needs monetary donations so they have the money to ship medical supplies to those who need them.

**LUTHERAN PARTNERS IN GLOBAL MINISTRY** works with global partners to provide education for marginalized people, especially women and girls.

**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF** gives aid during emergencies in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. They try to break the cycle of poverty by teaching people how to earn a living so that both families and their communities can grow.

If you are interested in donating to any of these programs which the Lutheran Church sponsors, you can **make your donation payable to Vasa and label it in the memo line for the group you want to help**. Kathy, Vasa's treasurer, will make sure it is sent on to the appropriate agency.

*What YOU do  
matters...*



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