

Vasa Lutheran Church

Sermon at Nazareth

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist-Anne Anderson

Sunday, January 19, 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.

HYMN RESPONSE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros-per your work and de-fend you;
- 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a-dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
if with his love he be - friend you.
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Erneuertem Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

PRAYER OF THE DAY: God of the nations, **Show us how to love all the people of the earth, of all colors and kinds: those with technology and without; those who make do with very little and those who use many resources; those with formal education and without; those who call upon your name and those who do not; so that all your children may be glorified in the name of the One who brought glory and liberty, Jesus Christ our salvation. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS PSALM 146

L: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**C: I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

L: Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

**C: When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.**

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.

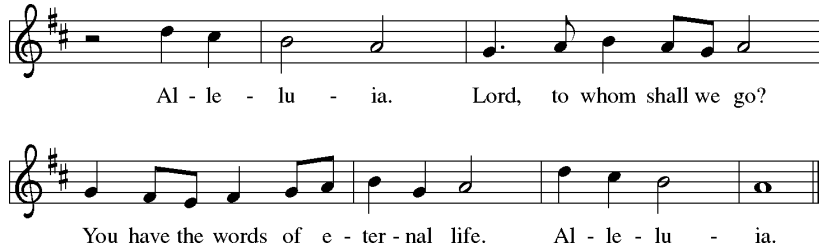
C: Praise the LORD!

GOSPEL READING: Luke 4:14-30 Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet

Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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 PRAISE THE ONE WHO BREAKS THE DARKNESS ELW 843

SERMON

HYMN O ZION HASTE ELW 668

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

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC DURING COMMUNION IN A FAR-OFF PLACE, JESUS COMES
Sung by the Vasa Choir

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.

SENDING HYMN

JESUS SHALL REIGN

ELW 434

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.



Paul Mikaelson, Jay Mikaelson, Scott Sorenson, Max Tilderquist, Anne Rathman, Lorrie Samuelson, Dale Anderson, Lynda Rosener Sack, Carolyn Lindstrom, Merle Pearson, Yvonne Belin, Sarah Jacobson Parker, Brad Ahrens (Sue Hedeem's brother), Terri Fredin, and Terri Mandelkow.

Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: OPEN

Reader: Mark Hagen

Hospitality: Kent Volz

Comm Asst: Geri Lindholm

Worship Assistants Next Week (January 26)

Usher: Sid Featherstone

Reader: Geri Lindholm

Hospitality: Marcia Featherstone

Parish Pulse:

January 12

Participating in Worship: 48

+ 11 Live Stream

Total Offerings:

January 12: \$4,675.00

MUSIC FOR JANUARY 19, 2025

PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Music: Ernewerten Gesangbuch, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

PRAISE THE ONE WHO BREAKS THE DARKNESS

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Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955 Music: J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part III, 1813

IN A FAR-OFF PLACE, JESUS COMES

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O ZION, HASTE

Text: Mary A. Thomson, 1834-1923 Music: James Walch, 1837-1901

JESUS SHALL REIGN

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt. Music: attr. John Hatton, d. 1793



- January 21: American Red Cross Blood Drive 9:00am-7:00pm
- January 22: Quilts for Grads 9:30-11:00am
- January 22: **Vasa Rummage Sale Planning Meeting 5:45pm**
- January 27: Endowment Team 7:00pm



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