

# Vasa Lutheran Church

*Esther*

Pastor Maureen Hagen    Accompanist – Anne Anderson

**Sunday, December 4, 2022**

## **ANNOUNCING THE DAY: the second Sunday of Advent**

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again.

You fasten righteousness around your waist  
and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire.

Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames,  
and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare.

We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth. **Amen.**

## **HYMN RESPONSE: LIGHT ONE CANDLE TO WATCH FOR MESSIAH    ELW 240**

*We will sing verses 1-2.*

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who redeems us in Christ Jesus,  
whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors.**  
**We have ignored voices that call for your justice.**  
**We have neglected actions that witness to your righteousness.**  
**We have spoken and acted**  
**in ways that disrupt your beloved community.**  
**We truly repent of things we have done and left undone.**  
**For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**  
**Restore our troubled spirits, so that we may live in newness,**  
**follow the way of the Spirit, and build up the body of Christ.**  
**Amen.**

Rejoice and be glad!

God hears the prayers of all who cry out,  
and restores us to life through the death  
and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

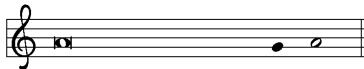
Therefore, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins,  
in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN EACH WINTER AS THE YEAR GROWS OLDER ELW 252

## GREETING

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.**

## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

# HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*  
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

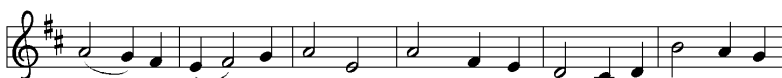
*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** God of justice, **you sent your servant Esther into a life of privilege so that those without would be taken care of. In our privilege, show us how to advocate for those who have less, so that your world might be peaceful and just. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE TEXT: Esther 4:1-17**

When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went through the city, wailing with a loud and bitter cry; 2 he went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. 3 In every province, wherever the king's command and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and most of them lay in sackcloth and ashes. 4 When Esther's maids and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed; she sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth; but he would not accept them. 5 Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what was happening and why. 6 Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate, 7 and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. 8 Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and charge her to go to the king to make supplication to him and entreat him for her people. 9 Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. 10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai, saying, 11 "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law-- all alike are to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone, may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days." 12 When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, 13 Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. 14 For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this." 15 Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, 16 "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish." 17 Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**

**COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE**

**ELW 256**

*We will sing verses 1 and 3.*

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: MY SOUL PROCLAIMS YOUR GREATNESS ELW 251**

### **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.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

### **GENEROSITY MOMENT**

#### **HOLY COMMUNION**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.  
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
to fulfill for us your holy will  
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,  
and the promise of his coming again,  
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought but as we are able;  
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**Amen, amen, amen.**

## **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.**

**DISTRIBUTION** *We will receive communion by kneeling at the railing. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available for those who have dietary restrictions. Children are welcome to join you and will receive a blessing.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** We give you thanks, **most gracious God, that you have fed us with the bread of heaven and given us a foretaste of Paradise. Enliven us to be your body in the world and to serve those who are in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT**

**ELW 715**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

The God of peace,  
who creates all things and calls them good,  
who makes us alive in Jesus,  
and who breathes on us the Spirit of hope,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

**L:** Go in peace, be a blessing to the world.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**



**Scott Sorenson, Max Tilderquist, Irene Carpenter, Jessie Otto, Paul Mikaelson.**

#### **Worship Assistants Today**

Usher: **Duane Hanson**

Reader: **Mo Hauck**

Communion Assts: **Geri Lindholm**

Hospitality: **Audrey Rosener**

#### **Worship Assistants Next Week(12/11)**

Usher: ***volunteer needed***

Reader: **Jeannette Anderson**

Hospitality: **Hanson's**

Parish Pulse:

**November 27, 2022**

Participating in Worship: **59**

+    concurrent live-streams

Total Offerings: \$4,125.00

IN CASE YOU MISSED THEM AT ST.  
ANSGAR'S YESTERDAY...

**Bells of the Bluffs**  
Handbell Ensemble

*We Need a Little  
Christmas*

Saturday, December 3, 2022  
3:00 PM  
St. Ansgars Lutheran Church  
7459 MN-19, Cannon Falls, MN

Free Will Offering at both events

Sunday, December 4, 2022  
4:00 PM  
First Lutheran Church  
515 W 5th Street, Red Wing, MN  
Silent Auction in Red Wing



Next Sunday Dec 11) is the last Sunday to have your photo for the church directory taken here at church. If you can't get one taken, please submit a jpeg photo via email to the church office – [office@vasalutheran.org](mailto:office@vasalutheran.org).

## AT VASA THIS WEEK:

### Monday, December 5

- Team Meetings

### Tuesday, December 6

- 9:30 Coffee & Conversation

### Wednesday, December 7

- NOON – Community Dinner Reservations due
- 5:30 Faith Formation (Christmas Program Rehearsal)
- 6:30 Wednesday Evening Worship + Everyday Bible Conversation