

Vasa Lutheran Church

Jesus' Baptism

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist-Nick Kees

Sunday, January 12, 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 bend the knee:

C: Let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

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: Heavenly Father, **With joy and awe we praise you for claiming us as your sons and daughters, and for pouring your Holy Spirit upon us. Help us to prepare this earth for your glory, and shine your light on all your faithful children, for the sake of the one whose birth and baptism brought renewal and transformation to this world, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 51:6-17

L: You desire truth in the inward being;

C: therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

L: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

C: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

L: Let me hear joy and gladness;

C: let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

L: Hide your face from my sins,

C: and blot out all my iniquities.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.**

**Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

L: Then I will teach transgressors your ways,

C: and sinners will return to you.

L: Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation,

C: and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

L: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

C: For you have no delight in sacrifice;

L: if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

**C: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

GOSPEL READING: Luke 3:1-22 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE

ELW 256

SERMON

HYMN

BE THOU MY VISION

ELW 793

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.**

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.**

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

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, Arleen Stahnke, Carolyn Lindstrom, Merle Pearson, Yvonne Belin, Sarah Jacobson Parker, Brad Ahrens (Sue H's brother), and the family of Connie Gillis.

Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: Marv Fredrickson

Reader: Sasha Diercks

Hospitality: Kent Volz

**Worship Assistants Next Week
(January 19)**

Usher: OPEN

Reader: Mark Hagen

Hospitality: Kent Volz

Comm Asst: Geri Lindholm

Parish Pulse:

January 5

Participating in Worship: 58

+ 13 Live Stream

Total Offerings:

January 5: \$2,350.00

MUSIC FOR JANUARY 12, 2025

WE ARE BAPTIZED IN CHRIST JESUS

Text and music © 1985 John Ylvisaker

COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt. Music: Trente quatre psaumes de David, Geneva, 1551

BE THOU MY VISION

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931
Music: Irish traditional

GOD, WHOSE ALMIGHTY WORD

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.
Music: Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796

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- January 15: Ages and Stages Bible Study 9:30-11:00
- 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!**