

# Vasa Lutheran Church

## *Season of Creation: Forest Sunday*

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist: Anne Anderson

**Sunday, July 7, 2024**



### **ANNOUNCING THE DAY: BREATHING LIFE INTO CREATION**

#### **Psalm 139:13-16**

L: For it was you who formed my inward parts;

**C: you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

L: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

**C: Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.**

L: My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

**C: Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.**

**In your book were written all the days that were formed for me,  
when none of them as yet existed.**

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the God of manna,  
the God of miracles,  
the God of mercy.

**Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: God, our provider,

**C: help us.**

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.**

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways  
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding  
rather than trusting in you.**

**We take offense at your teachings and your ways.**

**Turn us again to you.**

**Where else can we turn?**

**Share with us the words of eternal life  
and feed us for life in the world.**

**Amen.**

L: Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven,  
you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,  
there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, † the bread of life,  
you are shown God's mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**Amen.**

**HYMN**

**OPEN NOW THY GATES OF BEAUTY**

**ELW 533**

*We will sing verses 1-3 and 5*

### **GREETING**

L: 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 (PRINTED ON INSERT)**

### **HYMN OF PRAISE (PRINTED ON INSERT)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:** Gracious God, **By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit you breathe life into us. Continue to inspire us to breathe life into all who suffer and bring renewal to creation. We pray this in the name of your Son, our redeemer, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS: Genesis 2:4b-22** In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, 5 when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up-- for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; 6 but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground-- 7 then the LORD God

formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. 8 And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 10 A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. 11 The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; 12 and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. 13 The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. 14 The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. 15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." 18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." 19 So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

**Acts 17:22-28** Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. 26 From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27 so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him-- though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28 For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

**John 3:1-16** Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." 3 Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the

kingdom of God without being born from above." 4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' 8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." 9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 11 "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**

**O GOD OF MERCY, GOD OF LIGHT**

**ELW 714**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**BUILT ON A ROCK**

**ELW 652**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH** using the words of the Apostles' Creed

**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. Please respond with: **hear our prayer.**

## **GENEROSITY MOMENT**

**CONSECRATION OF COMMUNION ELEMENTS:** *After the consecration of the communion elements you will be invited to partake in the body and blood of Christ as we kneel at the railing.*

We give you thanks, Father,  
through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,  
whom you sent in this end of the ages  
to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you,  
through whom you created all things,  
and in whom you take delight.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.  
He there took on our nature and our lot  
and was shown forth as your Son,  
born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will  
and won for you a holy people;  
he stretched out his hands in suffering  
in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,  
in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,  
to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,  
to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,  
taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,  
we take this bread and cup,  
giving you thanks that you have made us worthy  
to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;

gather into one all who share this bread and wine;  
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,  
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ;  
through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,  
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **THE 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 OF COMMUNION**

*Communion will be received by kneeling at the railing. 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.

**PRAYER** Jesus, Bread of life, **we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN:                      GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS                      ELW 733**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

L: The blessing of God, who provides for us,  
feeds us, and journeys with us,  
✠ be upon you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Paul Mikaelson, Jay Mikaelson, Scott Sorenson, Max Tilderquist, Anne Rathman, Wendy Anderson, Dale Anderson, Lorrie Samuelson, Rosann Pearson, Lynda Rosener Sack, Rodney Nelson and Arleen Stahnke.

### Worship Assistants Today:

**Usher:** *volunteer needed*

**Reader:** Mo Hauck

**Hospitality:** Mo Hauck

**Comm. Asst.** *volunteer needed*

### Worship Assistants Next Week

(July 14<sup>th</sup>)

**Usher:** Rick Samuelson

**Reader:** Sid Featherstone

**Hospitality:** Marcia Featherstone

### MUSIC FOR JULY 7, 2024

#### OPEN NOW THY GATES OF BEAUTY

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Music: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

#### O GOD OF MERCY, GOD OF LIGHT

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt.

Music: Joseph Barnby, 1838-1896; arr. hymnal version

#### BUILT ON A ROCK

Text © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867-1937, adapt.

Music: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812-1887

#### GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

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Parish Pulse:

**June 26 & 30, 2024**

Participating in Worship: 59

+ 12 Live Stream

Total Offerings:

\$1,735.00



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 the sanctuary for worship.



Cabin Reflections on the Lake Free Vector

Pastor Maureen will be on vacation starting Thursday, July 11. She will return to lead worship on July 28. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor C.J. Boettcher. He can be reached at 920-858-7066.

**There will be no Wednesday Evening Worship on July 17 or July 24.**



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