

# Vasa Lutheran Church

## *Loving Our Uncomfortable Neighbors*

Pastor Maureen Hagen

Accompanist: Anne Anderson

**Sunday, September 1, 2024**

**ANNOUNCING THE DAY: Mark 12:28-34** One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; 30 you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." 32 Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; 33 and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,'-- this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." 34 When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

### **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.

**We sing:** Create in Me a Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart oh God  
And renew a right spirit within me.

Create in me a clean heart oh God  
And renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence oh Lord  
And take not your holy spirit from me  
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation  
And renew a right spirit within me.

Repeat.

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**

**WE ARE CALLED**

**ELW 720**

**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**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

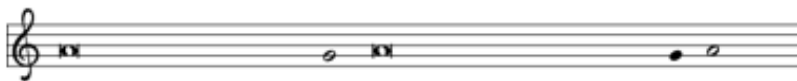


For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

## KYRIE (cont.)



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.



ROMANS 8:16

# 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:** Almighty God, **you have taught us by the words of your Son that love fulfills the law. Inspire us to love you with all our heart, our soul, our mind, and our strength, and teach us how to love our neighbor as ourselves, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**1 Peter 3:13-17**

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? 14 But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, 15 but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; 16 yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.

**Matthew 5:43 - 48** "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**

**WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME**

**ELW 798**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT**

**ELW 715**

**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: LET STREAMS OF LIVING JUSTICE**

**ELW 710**

### **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, Arleen Stahnke, Connie Gillis, Jim Hedeem and Carolyn Lindstrom.

Parish Pulse:

**August 21<sup>ST</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Participating in Worship: 56**

+ 13 Live Stream

Total Offerings:

**\$2,985.00**

### **Worship Assistants Today:**

**Usher:** Rick Samuelson

**Reader:** Barry Skog

**Hospitality:** Marilyn Hanson

**Comm. Asst:** Barry Skog

### **Worship Assistants Next Week (September 8)**

**Usher:** Bryan Diercks

**Reader:** Sasha Diercks

**Hospitality:** Lora Gruber

## **MUSIC FOR SEPTEMBER 1, 2024**

### **WE ARE CALLED**

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### **WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME**

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### **CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT**

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### **LET STREAMS OF LIVING JUSTICE**

Text © 1989 William Whitla

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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.

## **FEED THE FUEL FUND**



**Donations are being taken for the Vasa fuel fund. If you are able to donate toward this need, it will be gratefully**



**Looking for people to cut jeans and flannel, and to help**

- sew the quilts for the graduates. We will work from 9:30-11 am on the 4th Wednesday of each month. We have many quilts to make for grads over the next few years. The first work-bee will be Sept 25. If you can sew, please bring your machine. If you can cut, please bring a scissors.
- There's something to do for anyone who wants to help.



FOR WOMEN  
OF ALL  
AGES AND  
STAGES!

...resumes on September 4<sup>th</sup> at the Lutheran Center from 9:30-11:00. All women are welcome as the study continues exploring the Gifts of the Spirit, focusing on kindness in particular. The group will continue to meet every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday throughout the school year.



*Faith Formation*

- **Sunday School** for ages 3– Grade 6 begins next Sunday, Sept. 8. Classes will meet at the Lutheran Center during Worship.
- **9<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation** classes begin next Sunday, Sept. 8 at 10:15, at the Lutheran Center.
- **7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation** classes begin Wed. Sept. 11 at 5:45 at the Lutheran Center.

