

Vasa Lutheran Church

Children's Christmas Program

Pastor Maureen Hagen Accompanist – Anne Anderson

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

In the darkest times we cannot see to make our way...
our eyes adjust, but still everything is shadowed and grey.

We reach out, desperate

**for comfort
for balance
for the familiar
for hope**

In the darkest times,
even a faltering light can be just enough:
the flame flickers, twinkles—and it is dazzling!
For in its light, we see light: God in our midst.

~Candles are lit~

However impossible it seems,
here we are, the servants of the Lord, both perplexed and joyful —
and blessed is the one who trusts that with God all things are possible.

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Spirit of the Lord God, **you bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and release the prisoners. You comfort all who mourn, and shower your people with the oil of gladness instead of mourning; a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. We will greatly rejoice in the Lord, our whole being shall exult in God, for the sake of the one who brought righteousness to life, Jesus Christ our salvation. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 61:1-11 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 3 to provide for those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. 4 They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. 5 Strangers shall stand and

feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines; 6 but you shall be called priests of the LORD, you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory. 7 Because their shame was double, and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot, therefore they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs. 8 For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. 9 Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. 10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

CHILDREN TELL THE CHRISTMAS STORY

HYMN

JOY TO THE WORLD

ELW 267

OFFERING

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 foot steps 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.

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.

Let us pray (*in unison*) Generous God, **we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

O COME O COME EMMANUEL

ELW 257

We will sing verses 1, 2, 7, and 8.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Skit: "Just a Little Christmas" was written in 2009 by Sharon Kay Chatwell and posted on www.SundaySchoolCenter.com.



Worship Assistants Today:

Usher: Barry Skog
Reader: Barry Skog
Comm. Asst: Barry Skog

**Worship Assistants
Next Week (December 22)**

Usher: Bruce Tilderquist
Reader: Mo Hauck
Hospitality: Mo Hauck

Parish Pulse:

December 4 & 8

Participating in Worship:

61

+ 16 Live Stream

Total Offerings:

\$1,205.00



American Red Cross

The next American Red Cross Blood Drive at Vasa will be **TUESDAY, January 21, 2025, from 8:00AM-7:00PM**. This will be a one-day drive ONLY. Mark your calendars!!



ALL HANDS ON DECK!! Volunteers are needed after worship on December 29th to clear the sanctuary of all Christmas Decorations, pew Bibles and Hymnals, and to clean out the "Flower Room" and "Pastor's Office" in preparation for the repainting of the sanctuary! Please join us! As the saying goes...many hands make light work