Vasa Lutheran Church

Jesus' Baptism

Pastor Maureen Hagen Accompanist: Tom Erickson

**Sunday, January 10, 2021**

**ANNOUNCING THE DAY**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

the fountain of living water,

the rock who gave us birth,

our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,

we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,

for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters

and by your Word you created the world,

calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,

making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,

and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit,

and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise

through Jesus Christ our Lord

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE: OPEN NOW THY GATES OF BEAUTY ELW 533**

**Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent from heaven above, be with you all. **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**

You desire truth in the inward being;

therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness;

let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins, 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.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,

and sinners will return to you.

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

and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare your praise.

For you have no delight in sacrifice;

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

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

**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 Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4 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.'"

7 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? 8 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. 9 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." 10 And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" 11 In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." 12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" 13 He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." 14 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." 15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16 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. 17 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." 18 So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. 19 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, 20 added to them all by shutting up John in prison. 21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 22 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."

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST'S CRY ELW 249**

**MEDITATION**

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE BE THOU MY VISION ELW 793**

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS and CONFESSION OF FAITH**

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for Megan Lindstrom, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as a new member into the life and ministry of this congregation.

**APOSTLES' CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our 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.**

**ADDRESS and QUESTIONS**

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God’s faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Pastor: Megan, as a sister in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God’s people in this place?

Megan: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for Megan as a new member of Vasa and for her life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us welcome Megan as a sister in Christ to this community of faith.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.**

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God**

**and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

**prayers of the congregaton:** 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 words of institution you will be invited to partake in the body and blood of Christ. We believe that God is present with us in our homes as we share in this sacred meal.

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:

beyond the stars; beneath the sea;

within each cell; with every breath.

**We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness:

through the water; by night and day;

across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

**We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son:

at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;

beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

**We thank you, O God.**

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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,

we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:

in our gathering; within this meal;

among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus,

by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **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.**

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE BAPTIZED IN WATER ELW 456**

**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** Christ Jesus, **at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name. Amen.**

**Sending HYMN: GOD, WHOSE ALMIGHTY WORD ELW 673**

**BLESSING**

God the creator strengthen you;

Jesus the beloved fill you;

and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace.

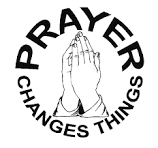
**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

Today, we welcome Megan Lindstrom as a new member at Vasa. Megan is married to Dustin Lindstrom. Their son Anders was baptized at Vasa in 2019.

Scott Sorenson, Linda Thompson, Max Tilderquist, Jerry McRae, Eileen Anderson, Jessie Otto, Jeannette Larson, Ezekiel (Zeke) Pearson, Paul Mikaelson, Gloria Skog (Katie Featherstone’s Grandma).

Parish Pulse:

**December 27-31, 2020**

Participating in Worship: All, in spirit!

Total Offerings: $8,972.00.

The next American Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for January 21, 2021 from 1:00-7:00pm AND January 22, 2021, from 9:00am-3:00pm. To sign up, go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). If you need assistance, go to [customercare@redcross.org](mailto:customercare@redcross.org).



Vasa Lutheran is continuing to collect food for the local food shelves through the end of February because the need is still so great. Please feel free to drop off your donations at the Lutheran Center. The doors to the lobby will be open from 9:30-6:30 Monday-Friday. Thank you for your generosity.





*(Photo: Courtesy of Mark Hagen)*