

VASHON LUTHERAN CHURCH



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 29, 2023 10:30 AM Worship

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PRELUDE:

Marita Ericksen

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Patte Wagner, Lay Leader

Pastor (P): Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

Pastor Thomas M. Aitken

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection

P: Holy One, source of our renewal,

C: we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare.”

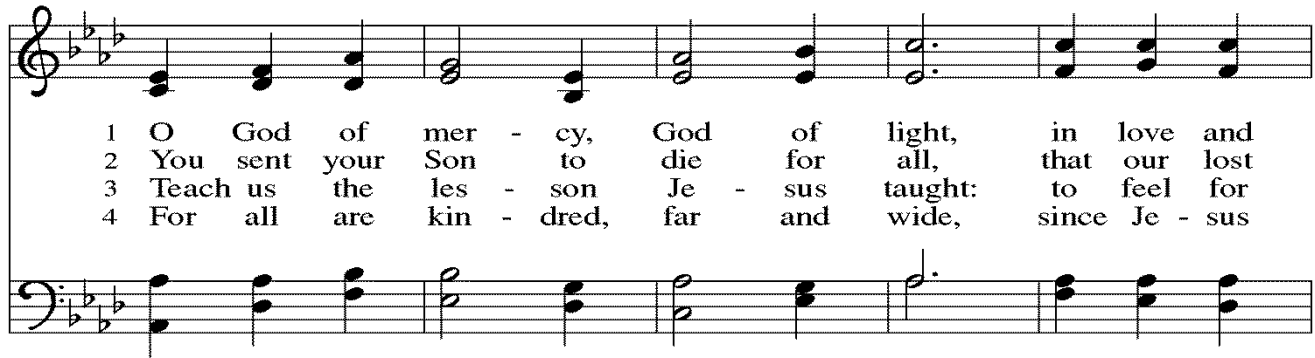
God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of ✚ Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

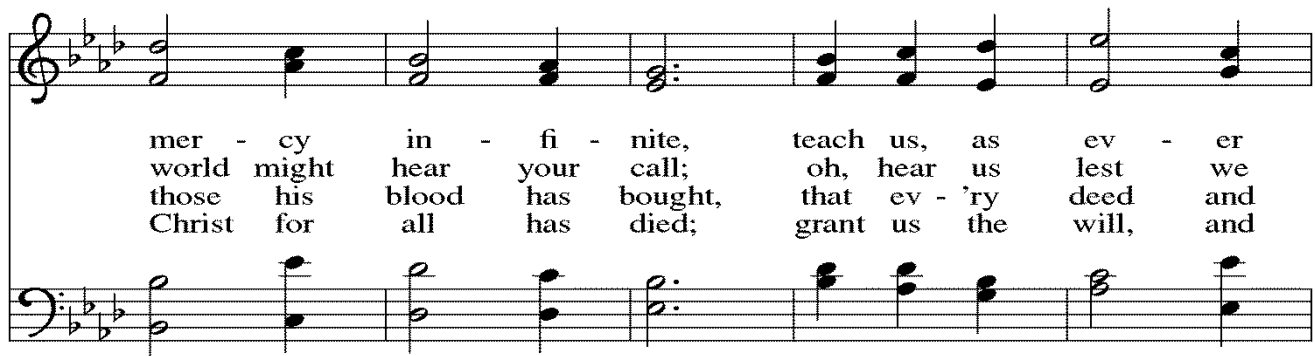
Gathering Hymn (next page):

ELW, #714, vs. 1-4

O God of Mercy, God of Light



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
 2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
 3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
 4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
 world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
 those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
 Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
 stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
 word and thought may work a work for you.
 grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
 may we each other's burdens share;
 may we, where help is needed, there
 give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
 all those who live to live in love,
 till you receive in heav'n above
 all those who live in you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt.
 Music: JUST AS I AM, Joseph Barnby, 1838-1896; arr. hymnal version
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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P: 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.

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
 2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the

u-ni-ty of all; for
 hun-gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam-i-ly; for
 wa-ter and the word; that you

this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus-tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,

Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray. Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Congregation may be seated

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

Marlee Koch, Lector (L)

L: A reading from Micah, Chapter 6.

L: Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;

for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,

and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 15

Dr. Gary Koch, Cantor



LORD, who may dwell in your ^ltabernacle? *Who may abide upon your ^lholy hill?

Those who lead a blameless life and do ^lwhat is right,

***who speak the truth ^lfrom their heart;**

they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil ^lto their friends;

*they do not cast discredit up- ^lon a neighbor.

In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who ^lfear the LORD.

***They have sworn upon their health and do not take ^lback their word.**

They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- ^lgainst the innocent.

*Those who do these things shall never be ^loverthrown.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Marlee Koch, Lector

L: A reading from 1 Corinthians, Chapter 1.

L: The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

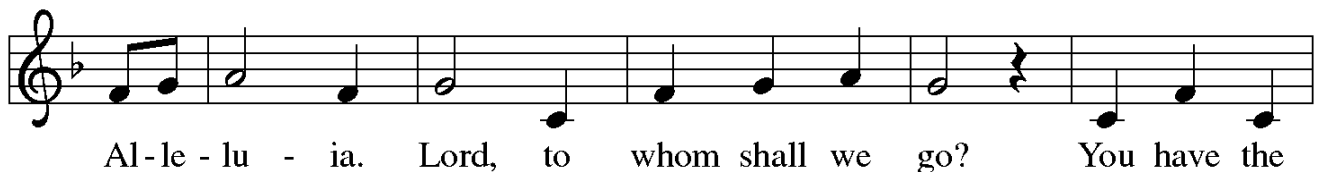
Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Congregation stands as able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

Pastor Thomas M. Aitken

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 5. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Congregation may be seated

MESSAGE:

Pastor Thomas M. Aitken

Congregation stands as able

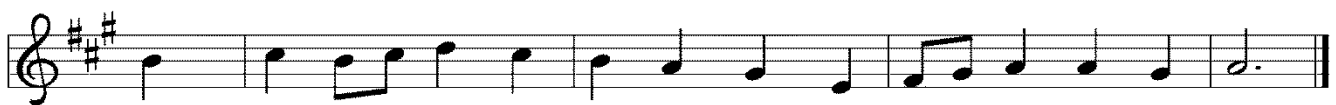
Hymn of the Day:

ELW, 669

Rise Up, O Saints of God!



1	Rise up,	O saints of God!	From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2	Speak out,	O saints of God!	De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
3	Rise up,	O saints of God!	The king - dom's task em - brace;
4	Give heed,	O saints of God!	Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5	Com - mit	your hearts to seek	the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant	that your hearts with	no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal	grace, the word of hope pro - claim.	
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence;	give jus - tice larg - er place.	
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing	now, with love the weak sus - tain.	
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r,	rise up, O saints of God!	

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893
Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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THE APOSTLES' CREED:

C: 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. *Be seated*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

Harriet Nelson, Assisting Minister (A)

A: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A: Cultivate humility in your church. In gatherings of every size, teach us to boast only in the cross. Shape your church to be people of kindness, generosity, and justice.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: The foundations of the earth bear witness to your faithfulness; the mountains and hills echo with your holiness. When we mistreat your creation, show us the error of our ways. Inspire us with reverent awe to honor all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: You make foolish the wisdom of the world. Raise up honorable leaders who seek justice, love mercy, and pursue peace. Frustrate plans that are corrupt, wicked, and self-seeking. Prosper the work of peacemakers. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Bless all whom the world rejects. Accompany those who are regarded as foolish, weak, low, and despised; reveal your power and presence at work where it is least expected. Give your life, strength, and wisdom to all in need. We especially remember those for whom we pray either silently or aloud... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: As with your people Israel, remind this congregation of your saving acts. Remind us how your faithfulness brought us through difficulties and sustained us despite our weaknesses. Establish the cross as the center of our life together. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A: Praise to you for your blessed saints in every time and place. Trusting you accompanied them in poverty, persecution, and in every trial, we trust you abide with your people always. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **C: Amen.**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

Offertory/Offering (next page):

TFF, #292

Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And
now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Last time

Text: Henry Smith
Music: GIVE THANKS, Henry Smith

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OFFERING PRAYER:

P: Let us pray. Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, Amen.

Congregation Stands as able

GREAT THANKSGIVING:

P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

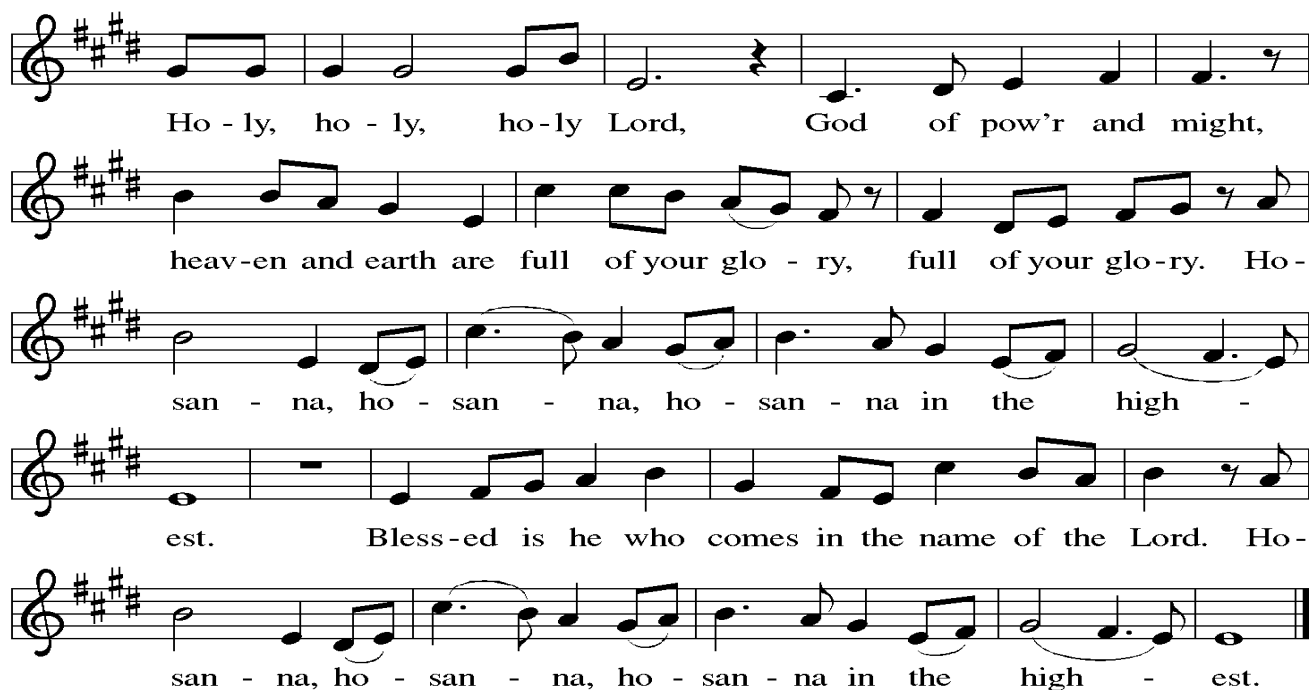
P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY :



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION/COMMUNION:

P: 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

P: Come and taste the joy of God!

Congregation sits

Communion Hymn(next page):

ELW, #725

When the Poor Ones

Cuando el pobre



1 *Cuan-do el po-bre na-da tie-ne y aún re-par-te,*
 1 When the poor ones, who have noth-ing, still are giv-ing;
 2 When com-pas-sion gives the suf-f'ring con-so-la-tion;
 3 When our spir-its, like a chal-ice, brim with glad-ness;
 4 When the good-ness poured from heav-en fills our dwell-ings;



cuan-do al-guien pa-sa sed y a-gua nos da,
 when the thirst-y pass the cup, wa-ter to share;
 when ex-pect-ing brings to birth hope that was lost;
 when our voic-es, full and clear, sing out the truth;
 when the na-tions work to change war in-to peace;



cuan-do el dé-bil a su her-ma-no for-ta-le-ce:
 when the wound-ed of-fer oth-ers strength and heal-ing;
 when we choose love, not the ha-tred all a-round us:
 when our long-ings, free from en-vy, seek the hum-ble:
 when the strang-er is ac-cept-ed as our neigh-bor:

Refrain / Estribillo



Va Dios mis-mo en nues-tro mis-mo ca-mi-nar;
 We see God, here by our side, walk-ing our way;



va Dios mis-mo en nues-tro mis-mo ca-mi-nar.
 we see God, here by our side, walk-ing our way.

- 2 *Cuando alguno sufre y logra su consuelo,* 3 *Cuando crece la alegría y nos inunda,*
cuando espera y no se cansa de esperar, *cuando dicen nuestros labios la verdad,*
cuando amamos, aunque el odio nos rodee: *cuando amamos el sentir de los sencillos:*
 Estribillo Estribillo
- 4 *Cuando abunda el bien y llena los hogares,*
cuando alguien donde hay guerra pone paz,
cuando "hermano" le llamamos al extraño:
 Estribillo

Text: José Antonio Olivar, b. 1939; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951
 Music: EL CAMINO, Miguel Manzano, b. 1934
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

P: Let us pray. Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

BLESSING:

P: God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song:

ELW, #754

Jesus, the Very Thought of You

1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you fills us with sweet de - light;
2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind re - call
3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,
4 O Je - sus, be our joy to - day; help us to prize your love;

but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with - in your light.
a sweet-er sound than your blest name, O Sav - ior of us all!
how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!
grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home a - bove."

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878
Music: ST. AGNES, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

DISMISSAL: P: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE:

Marita Ericksen

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Worship Assistants Today:

Guest Pastor – Rev. Thomas M. Aitken
Assisting Minister – Harriet Shull Nelson
Lector – Marlee Koch
Communion Assistant – Sindy Rice
Usher – Jim Dam
Musicians – Marita Ericksen
Cantor – Dr. Gary Koch
Communion Set Up – Sindy Rice
Flowers – Gary & Marlee Koch

Worship Assistants next week (2/5/23):

Guest Pastor – Deacon Jan Cherry
Assisting Minister – TBA
Lectors – TBA
Communion Assistants – TBA
Usher – Jim Dam
Musicians – Marita Ericksen
Cantor – TBA
Communion Set Up – TBA
Flowers – Gary & Marlee Koch

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you, Rev. Thomas M. Aitken, for leading us in worship today!

VLC annual Congregational Meeting has been postponed to Sunday, Feb. 19, 2023, right after the worship service. Hard copies of the most recent VLC Constitution/Bylaws and the minutes from the last congregational meeting will soon be available on the information table in the fellowship hall.

Sunday Bible study class will begin again Sunday, Feb. 5., 9:15 – 10:00 AM. Roger Gebhard will return to lead the class on that day & Sunday, Feb. 12. Pastor Thomas M. Aitken will lead the class Sunday, Feb. 19 & Feb. 26. Coffee and refreshments included. All are welcome!

AARP Free Tax Preparation – will begin Thursdays, February 2 – April 7, 2023. Open between 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. By appointment: vashonaarp@gmail.com.

Giving Your Offering – If you would like to continue giving an offering to VLC, our mailing address is: Vashon Lutheran Church, P. O. Box 2930, Vashon, WA 98070.

The Care Closet, Medical Equipment/Supplies – 206-473-8715. Vashon Care Network – 206-604-3253. Email: contact@vashoncarenetwork.org; website: www.vashoncarenetwork.org

Contact Gail Larson (206/567-4779) with your prayer requests.

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

SUNDAY

1st

9:15 – 10:00 AM, beginning Feb. 5, 2023

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Feb. 19, 2023, 11:30 AM

Food Bank Sunday

Bible Study Class

Worship and Coffee Hour

AA Group

VLC Annual Congregational Meeting

MONDAY

10:00 AM

TBA

Intercessory Prayer Group

Mission Planning Committee ZOOM Mtg.

TUESDAY

2nd, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

3rd, 10:00 AM – noon

Quilt Sewers Group

Vashon Quilting Group

WEDNESDAY

1st, 9:00 AM – noon

Jan. 25, 7:00 PM

Lutheran Quilters Group

Council ZOOM Meeting

THURSDAY

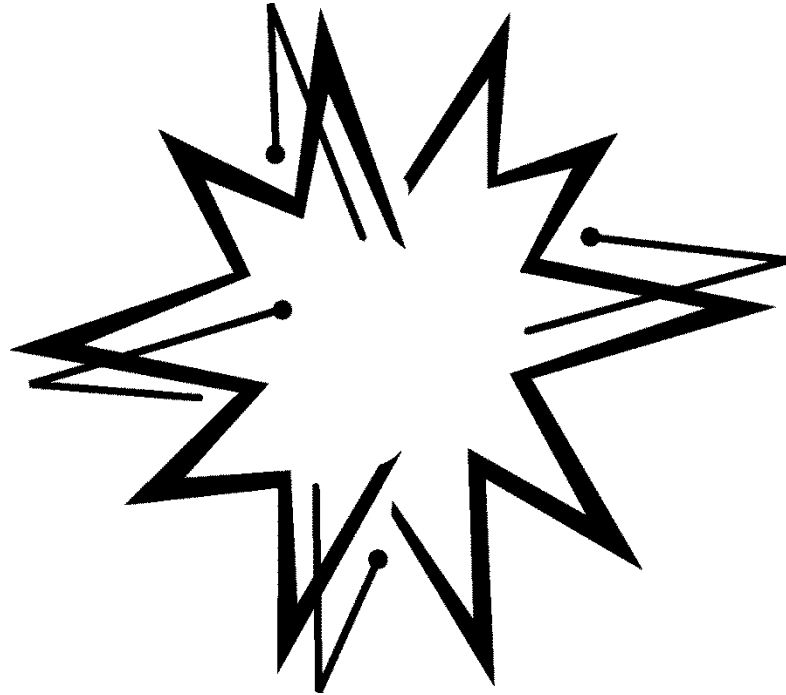
Feb. 2 – Apr. 7, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

AARP Free Tax Prep, by appointment

FRIDAY

7:00 – 8:30 PM

AA Group for Men



Vashon Lutheran Church

**Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2930
Vashon WA 98070**

Street Address: 18623 Vashon Hwy. SW

Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 11 AM–2 PM

Phone: 206-463-2655

email: vlc98070@centurytel.net

Hymns for Jan. 29, 2023

ELW, 714, v. 1-4

O God of Mercy, God of Light

ELW, 669

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

TFF, 292

Give Thanks

ELW, 725

When the Poor Ones

ELW, 754

Jesus, the Very Thought of You

