

The congregation is seated. If you would like to receive the sign of ashes on your forehead or hand, please come forward down the center aisle and return to your seat down the side aisle. Music for meditation will be offered during this time.

(12:00 Piano hymns)

(7:30 Handbells) Wondrous Love – Susan Geschke

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (*Congregation rising*)

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

(LSB Hymn 563, v. 4-5)

Lord, I believe, were sinners more than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid, for all a full atonement made.

When from the dust of death I rise to claim my mansion in the skies,
this then shall be my only plea: Jesus hath lived and died for me.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

¹Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near – ^{2a}a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains, a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come... ¹²Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. ¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar, let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 5:20 – 6:10

5 ²⁰We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. **6** ¹As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the

acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see – we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY (*Congregation rising*)

P Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

C slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus taught them, saying:] ¹"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you... ¹⁶And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Renew Me, O Eternal Light

LSB Hymn 704

THE APOSTLES' CREED (*Congregation rising*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING/VOLUNTARY

(12:00 organ)

Near the Cross

Robert Powell

(7:30 handbells)

Two Meditations on the Cross

Barbara Kinyon

† HOLY COMMUNION †

PREFACE (*Congregation rising*)

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might; heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION and SIGN OF PEACE

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

P Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

C **Lord, have mercy upon us and grant us Your peace.**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

DISTRIBUTION

As you come forward, you will receive the bread in your hand (please ask for "gluten-free" if desired); then take the wine in the individual cup from the tray. White grape juice is available in the center of the tray. After drinking, place empty cups in the second tray.

CLOSING PRAYER

A Merciful God, accompany our journey throughout these forty days. Renew us by our baptism to provide for those who are poor, to pray for those in need, and to fast from self-indulgence, that we may find our treasure in the life of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

LSB **Hymn 426**

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Rockingham Old

Healey Willan

COMMUNION STATEMENT

Village Lutheran Church welcomes to Holy Communion those baptized Christians who: †Know Jesus Christ as their Savior (*John 20:31*); †Recognize that the body and blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine (*1 Cor. 11:29*); †Are able to examine themselves and repent of their sins (*1 Cor. 11:28*); and †Look to God's Holy Spirit for help in living the Christian life (*Col. 1:10*). Persons not receiving Communion may come forward to receive a blessing.

Participants in the Service:

Rev. Mark Budenholzer, Associate Pastor/Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Deborah Reiss, Minister of Music

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|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Lector | 12:00 Mimi Blanco | 7:30 Ralph Schoene |
| Asst. Minister | Janet George | Ralph Schoene |
| Communion Asst. | Volunteer | Joan Condon |
| Altar Care | Janet George | Joan Condon |
| Usher Team | Volunteer | Warren Wong |

News and Notes:

Prayer Conference Call – All are welcome to our service of evening prayer by phone on the last Tuesday of the month, led by Pastoral Assistant Morris Mayer. A printed copy of the liturgy is available in the tract rack at the back of the sanctuary. To participate, simply dial (1) 732-434-3982. The next service is **Tuesday, February 24, at 6:00 p.m.**

LENTEN WORSHIP – During the Lenten season, February 25 through March 25, we will have a Service of Evening Prayer with Holy Communion on **Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.** If you would like to serve as a lector and/or communion assistant, please make a note on the pew card or contact the church office by email Krapillo@VLC-NY.org or call 914-337-0207, x1003

First Holy Communion – First communion classes for children in 5th grade or higher will be held during the Wednesdays in Lent. We will meet from 6-7 p.m. on **February 25, March 4, March 11 and March 18**. A parent or guardian must attend each session. First Communion Sunday will be **March 22** at the 10:45 a.m. service. To register, go to www.VLC-NY.org/first-communion-form

Voter's Meeting – Please note the date for our next Voter's Meeting on **Sunday, March 1**, at 12:00 noon. The agenda will include a continuation of matters discussed on February 1.

Lutheran Schools Sunday – We will kick off Lutheran Schools Week on **Sunday, March 1**, with special observances at the 9:00 a.m. service. The Chapel School Select Choir will sing, we will present The Chapel School Award, and the school faculty and staff will host the coffee hour. Please note that there will be no communion at 9:00. We will offer our traditional service of Holy Communion at 10:45, followed by the voter's meeting at noon.

ATLANTIC DISTRICT FESTIVAL OF WORKSHOPS – This one-day conference covers a wide variety of topics, including personal spiritual development, ministry tips and ideas, church music, and a keynote address by Bishop Emeritus David Benke. To be held on **Saturday, March 7**, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. at SUNY Maritime College, 6 Pennyfield Ave, Bronx NY 10465. Cost is \$35/person (including lunch) if registered by February 24; \$40 after that. Register and choose workshop sessions at www.AD-LCMS.org

TEAM CHAPEL HALF MARATHON – We have spots reserved for runners in the NYC Half Marathon on **March 15**. Open to any interested runner who is willing to commit to and guarantee a fundraising goal of \$1,750 in support of Team Chapel Arts. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact the Development Office, email Development@TheChapelSchool.org or call 914-337-3202, x1040.

SOUP KITCHEN – Prepare food in aluminum trays (available at the Reception desk) and drop-off in the parking lot from 12:00-1:00. The next date is **Wednesday, March 18**. Sign up through our web site or contact Katie Bukofzer directly at etakwhit@aol.com.

GATHERING OF FRIENDS – This year's gala on **March 20** will feature "A Taste of the Caribbean" with a cocktail hour, dinner and dancing along with silent and live auctions. Held at The Surf Club on the Sound in New Rochelle. Tickets still available. You can also support the event by donating auction items, purchasing ads, or by becoming a benefactor or sponsor. Go to www.VLC-NY.org/gathering-of-friends

PEW CARDS are located by the hymnal racks in every pew. They are available for you to submit prayer requests, update your contact info, or sign up for events:

- ❖ If you are visitor, please fill out the front side to let us know you were here

- ❖ Update your phone, email and/or mailing address. If you have not been receiving communications from the church, we would like to include you!
- ❖ Add a name to the Prayer Line or Bereavement Prayer Line
- ❖ Sign up for a fellowship event
- ❖ Submit other requests or information to the church office

Please place the pew cards in the offering plate or hand to an usher or pastor after the service.

Wednesday Bible Study – On February 25, we will continue with our discussion of John’s gospel.

Music Ministry: Rehearsals resume as follows:

- ❖ High School Choir – Sunday, March 8, at 10:15 a.m.
- ❖ Village Bells – Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 6:00 p.m.
- ❖ Youth Choir – Thurs., Feb. 26, at 7:00 p.m.
- ❖ Chancel Choir – Sun., Feb. 22, at 8:40 a.m.; Thurs., Feb. 26, at 7:30 p.m.

Youth News: Voyagers (Grades 3-6) meeting on Thursday, February 26, at 6:00 p.m.; Lifers (Grades 7-8) Confirmation class on Sunday, February 22; Crusaders (Grades 9-12) Donuts & Discussion on Sunday, February 22

Prayer Line: We pray for the sick and those experiencing any kind of difficulty: Andrea Ansorge, Denise Corbett, Davenport Family, Elaine Davis, Donna Heath, Layne Klein, Chris Ledley, Benny Leyro, Michelle Liscoe, Thomas Marks, Andrew “Andy” Micek, Ethan Podoll, Morena Rodriguez, Marion Scaramuzzino, John Scaramuzzo, Shaw Family, Unateresa Sheahan, Benjamin Schultz, Daphne and Pierre Thompson and Family, Bill Vogt, Ronnie Walsh, Donald Westerby

Bereavement Prayer Line: We pray for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

† **Tim Deppner**, friend of a parishioner, passed away on February 3, 2026

Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School

172 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY 10708

914-337-0207 + www.VLC-NY.ORG

Connect Card – Scan the QR code for questions or general info

