

Service of Holy Communion 9:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Dorothy Wells

Angels from the Realms of Glory (v. 1-4)

C Lord God, You revealed Your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know Your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of Your glory; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 3:1-12

¹This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles – ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE HYMN

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

LSB Hymn 393

GOSPEL (*Congregation rising*)

Matthew 2:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the

people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea..." ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(9:00) **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

HYMN OF THE DAY

THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those Wise Men three, full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in His presence their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

MEDITATION

Deacon Dr. Anton DeRosa

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

Infant Holy

Greg Howlett

OFFERING HYMN (*Congregation rising*)

(LSB Hymn 388, v. 3)

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;

and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (*Repeat refrain*)

† HOLY COMMUNION †

PREFACE

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; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory, that seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

JSANCTUS (*Sung to "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God by heavn'ly hosts adored,

God of power, Lord of might, in Your glory infinite:

Our hosanna's now we bring to our glorious Lord and King.

Blest is He who from above comes with radiant joy and love.

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 The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

AGNUS DEI (*Sung to "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"*)

O Lamb of God, we pray, take all our sins away – our faith increase.

Have mercy on us all, strengthen us when we fall,
answer our fervent call and grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

What Child is This

LSB Hymn 370

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB Hymn 374

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.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen Your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on Your grace. May Your Word take flesh in us, that we may be Your holy people and shine forth the glory made known to us in 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

As With Gladness Men of Old

LSB Hymn 397

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Dix

Wayne Wold

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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:

	9:00	10:45
Lector	Anthony Forcinito	Peter Kollmann
Asst. Minister/ Altar Care	Anton DeRosa	
Comm. Asst.	Anthony Forcinito	Ilse Koerper
Usher Team	Richard Graham Mark Runge Fred Swain	Elaine Podszus Kathy Coffey John Ansorge
Sexton	Ava Renzo	
Refreshments	Gitter Family	

Stewardship Reflection

Offering received last week: \$14,178
Offering needed weekly to meet budget: \$6,860

Offering received to date: \$169,311
Offering needed to date: \$185,220

News and Notes:

The Undecorating Party will take place after the 10:45 service today. Pizza will be provided.

Pastor Hartwell, Pastor Budenholzer, and VLC Lifers are at their Confirmation retreat this weekend. We pray that they may enjoy spending this special time together and continue to grow in faith.

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed! – It's a new year! Please help us to maintain this opportunity for fellowship and outreach. You can sign up as a family or pair with another family/individual. There is a sign-up sheet in the MPR or speak to Warren Wong.

SOUP KITCHEN – Prepare food in aluminum trays (available at the Reception desk) and drop-off in the parking lot from 12:00-1:00. Please go to our church web site in advance to sign up and indicate what food you will prepare. The next date is **Wednesday, January 17**. Contact Katie Bukofzer at etakwhit@aol.com.

Parent Community Night: Parents of any age children are invited to meet with Pastor Budenholzer in the Friendship Room for Christian community, food and discussion on topics of faith and family. Bring food to share or just bring yourself. The next session is on **Thursday, January 18, from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

God Connects: An introductory class that connects you to God's love. Would you like to: Explore the basics of the Christian faith? Learn more about the faith values of The Chapel School? Prepare for adult baptism or confirmation? Join the Church? Talk and learn about your faith in a caring environment? Join Pastor Hartwell for God Connects via Zoom or in-person, 7:00 PM-8:30 PM (EST) on **Tuesday, January 23, 30 and February 6, 2024**. Call 914-337-0207 x1003 for more information.

Sluberski Film Series JUNIOR – Enjoy a free showing of **SING**, the animated family musical, at the Picture House Bronxville Theatre on **Sunday, January 28, at 2:00 p.m.** Tickets are available at church or in the theater lobby. Pre-register online at tinyurl.com/Sing24.

1st Communion - Save the Dates: Open to youth in the 5th grade and above who have not had their 1st Holy Communion. Classes meet Wednesdays during Lent from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Dates for **2024** are **February 28, March 6 and 13**, plus a lock-in on Friday, March 1, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. 1st Holy Communion will be on St. Patrick's Day (Sunday, March 17, 2024) at 10:45 a.m. Register on-line at www.VLC-NY.ORG under the Forms tab. If you have any questions, please feel free to call 914-337-0207 x1003.

MUSIC MINISTRY – We will resume regular rehearsals as follows:

- **High School Choir** rehearse Sunday, January 21, at 10:15 a.m.
- **Village Bells** rehearse Wednesday, January 17, at 6:00 p.m.
- **Youth Choir** rehearse Thursday, January 11, at 7:00 p.m.
- **Chancel Choir** rehearse Thursday, January 11, at 7:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Minister of Music Deb Reiss at DReiss@VLC-NY.org or 914-337-0207, x1018.

Youth News: Voyagers (Grades 3-6) meet on **Thursday, January 11**, at 6:00 p.m.; **Lifers** (Grades 7-8) Confirmation Retreat January 5-7; **Crusaders** (Grades 9-12) meet for Donuts & Discussion at 10:30 a.m. on **January 7**.

Wednesday Bible Study – On January 10 we will be looking at Romans chapter 14.

Prayer Conference Call – We are continuing with our monthly prayer service on the last Tuesday of the month. There is a brief liturgy with prayers for the needs of our community and the world. To join in, simply dial (1) 732-434-3982. The next service is **January 30 at 6:00 p.m.**

Prayer Line: We pray for the sick and those experiencing any kind of difficulty: John Accocella, Gisela Ardisson, Tammy Ardisson, Rebecca Blanco, Abby Bowling, Frank Clark, Tabatha Clark, Rita deLeo, Rowena del Castillo, Joan Deery, Nicholas DePierro, Rev. Rudy DeRosa, Elena DiLeo, Joan Eiler, Eleanor Escherich, Faith Forliano, Faith Gonzalez, Annabella Hansen, Judith Harrison, Nancy Hylton, Richard Krug, Christie Lealos, Merline Leon, Frank Lyman, Vito Michael, Isaiah Nieves, Elizabeth Pedrosa, Paola Pedrosa, Jose Pedrosa, Sunnaria Pettinati, Louise Podszus, Sylvia Puig, Hilda Qualitero, Ralph Qualitero, Jackie Rickman, Pamela Rogers, Astrid & Willi Rosendahl, Irmgard Schoene, Joyce Shigesake, Deb Tashoff, Jackie Toscano, Steve Witiuk

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

- † **Steve Rogers**, brother of David Rogers, passed away December 26, 2023
- † **Mary T. Collier**, mother of Treda Collier Dickenman, passed away on December 25, 2023
- † **Rachelle Krug**, cousins wife of Joyce Holz, passed away on December 24, 2023
- † **Asuncion Songco**, mother-in-law of Rev. David Elseroad, passed away in the Philippines during the Christmas weekend
- † **Bill Phipps**, VLC member, passed away on December 20, 2023; plans for a memorial will be considered in January

Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School
172 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY 10708
914-337-0207 + www.VLC-NY.ORG
Digital Connect – Scan QR Code

