

† FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT †
December 21, 2025

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

PRELUDE

Milwaukee

Jan Bender

OPENING HYMN (*Congregation rising*)

LSB Hymn 341

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

INVOCATION and CONFESSION

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of Your people, turning us from our sin to live for You alone.

C Gracious God, have mercy on us. In Your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by Your Spirit so that we may live and serve You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for us, and for His sake 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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P As we light our Advent wreath, we remember the One who comes – Jesus, the light of the world.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

(The four outer candles are lit)

ADVENT CANTICLE O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (LSB Hymn 357, v. 5)

O come, Thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

A Let us pray:

C Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come among us with great might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." ¹³Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(9:00) **CHANCEL CHOIR** Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine Erhard Bodenschantz

*Joseph dearest, Joseph mine, help me cradle the Child divine;
God reward both thee and thine in paradise, so sings the Mother Mary.*

Eia. Slumber, lovely Child divine.

Virgo Deum genuit, quod divina voluit clementia.

[The Virgin brought forth God, because divine mercy willed it.]

GOSPEL CANTICLE (*Congregation rising*)

(LSB Hymn 384, v. 3)

This is He whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord
evermore and evermore.

GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 1st chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found

to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

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

HYMN OF THE DAY The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came LSB **Hymn 356**

SERMON

Rev. Mark Budenholzer

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 God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING/MUSICAL OFFERING

(9:00 duet)

A Carol Tapestry

Mary Lynn Lightfoot

In dulci jubilo – The Holly and the Ivy – The First Noel –

Infant Holy, Infantly Lowly – Song of the Crib

Lorelei Heath and Henry Podoll

(10:45 piano)

Gabriel's Message

Colin Curtis

† 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. You comforted Your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom You will also make all things new in the day when He comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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 The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

AGNUS DEI (*Sung to the hymn "On Jordan's Bank"*)

Lord Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, who takes the sin of the world away, have mercy on us, grant us peace, and fill us with Your love and grace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN Arise, O Christian People **LSB Hymn 354**

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 (*Congregation rising*)

A God for whom we wait, in this meal You have given us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known Your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son 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 My Soul Rejoices **LSB Hymn 933**

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE In dir ist Freude Kevin Hildebrand

* * * * *

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.

Evening Service of Holy Communion 5:30 p.m.

PRELUDE

INVOCATION and CONFESSION *(Congregation rising)*

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

C **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things and Judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. For the sake of Your beloved Son, have mercy on us, forgive us all that is past, and with the power of the Holy Spirit move us to serve You faithfully; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for us, and for His sake 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.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P As we light our Advent wreath, we remember the One who comes – Jesus, the light of the world.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

(The four outer candles are lit)

ADVENT CANTICLE O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (LSB Hymn 357, v. 5)
O come, Thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

C **Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come among us with great might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." ¹³Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall

bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL (*Congregation rising*)

Matthew 1:18-25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 1st chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

LSB **Hymn 356**

SERMON

Rev. Mark Budenholzer

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

P God of grace,
C hear our prayer.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING/VOLUNTARY

† 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. You
comforted Your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom
You will also make all things new in the day when He comes again to judge
the world in righteousness. 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

On Saturdays, distribution will be at the main altar. You will receive the bread first (please ask for "gluten-free" if desired), then the wine in the individual cup. White grape juice is available in the center of the tray. Empty cups will be collected at the end.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (*Congregation rising*)

- P God for whom we wait, in this meal You have given us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known Your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son 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

LSB Hymn 341

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (v. 1 and 4-5)

DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace to serve the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

* * * * *

Participants in the Services:

Rev. Mark Budenholzer, Associate Pastor/Director of Youth & Family Ministry
 Philip Auman Godlewski, Associate Organist (Saturday)
 Deborah Reiss, Minister of Music (Sunday)

	5:30	9:00	10:45
Lector	Mimi Blanco	Beverley Lorie	George Pietarinen
Asst. Minister		Janet George	George Pietarinen
Youth/Comm. Asst.	Mimi Blanco	Jack Henry	Joan Condon
Altar Care	Volunteer	Janet George	
Usher Team	Volunteer	Bill Vogt Warren Wong	Georgine Read Ilse Koerper
Sexton		Zachary Gleason	

Stewardship Reflection

(Fiscal Year July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026)

Offering received last week: \$20,122
 Offering needed weekly to meet budget: \$5,770
 Offering received to date: \$141,840
 Offering needed to date: \$138,480

News and Notes:

Christmas Eve Worship – Invite family and friends to worship with us on Christmas Eve as we welcome in the newborn King:

- ❖ **5:00 p.m.** – Family service with children’s choirs and a children’s message
- ❖ **8:00 p.m.** – Carols and candles with choirs
- ❖ **9:20 p.m.** – Christmas Eve spoken eucharist. If you would like to partake, please gather in the front pews and join us for quiet reflection and the sacrament.

Winter Worship – Please note the changes to our worship schedule:

- ❖ The Saturday service will be on pause as of December 27
- ❖ On **December 28** there is one combined service at **10:00 a.m.**
- ❖ The winter schedule begins on **January 4** with services on Sundays only at 9:00 & 10:45 a.m.

The Christmas trees by the altar are known as the Tree of Darkness and the Tree of Light. The dark tree has no lights and is decorated with apples as a reminder of the sin that drove Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. The lit tree has roses, a symbol of the Messiah, as a reminder that Jesus is the Light of the World who came to remove the curse of sin and usher in the kingdom of God.

Undecorating Party – We will be putting away our Christmas decorations on **Sunday, January 4**, after the 10:45 service. A pizza lunch will be offered before we get to work. Please join us!

COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS are needed for the winter and spring. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the MPR or speak to Warren Wong.

THE CHOSEN – Season 2: Back by popular demand, we will host viewing sessions on **Wednesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** The first set of episodes will be shown before Lent, from **January 14 to February 11**, and the rest will be shown after Easter, from **April 15 to May 4**. Sessions will include soup & sandwich with wine. For planning purposes, please RSVP to the church office using the pew card, email to Krapillo@VLC-NY.org, or call 914-337-0207, x1003. For more info, contact Deacon Janet George or Deacon Tony DeRosa.

BINGO NIGHT – Enjoy a fun game night on **Saturday, January 17, at 7:00 p.m.** (open to the public, age 18 and older). Entry fee is \$50 in advance for a 10-game Bingo Deck; entry at the door is \$60 if space is available. Coffee, tea and dessert will be provided; bring your own additional beverages or food. For more information, contact Lisa Jones, Development@TheChapelSchool.org.

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 to sign up and indicate what food you will prepare. The next date is **Wednesday, January 21**. Contact Katie Bukofzer at etakwhit@aol.com.

Voter's Meeting – Save the date for our next voter's meeting on Sunday, January 25, at 12 noon.

"Strengthening God's House" Capital Campaign Pledges – As the saying goes, "It takes a Village..." If you are in a position to offer financial support, please prayerfully consider what you might give and make a pledge today. Thank you for helping to sustain our ministry.

Wednesday Bible Study – We will take a break over the holidays. The next session is on January 14, when we will begin the miracle of the raising of Lazarus in John chapter 11.

Music Ministry: Rehearsals for **Christmas Eve** are as follows:

- ❖ Cherub Choir – Meet at 4:45 p.m.
- ❖ High School Choir – Meet at 4:30 p.m.
- ❖ Youth Choir – Meet at 4:30 p.m.
- ❖ Village Bells – Meet at 7:15 p.m.
- ❖ Chancel Choir – Meet at 7:40 p.m.

Youth News: Voyagers (Grades 3-6) meet on Thursday, January 8 at 6:00 p.m.; Lifers (Grades 7-8) Confirmation class on Sunday, Dec. 21; Crusaders (Grades 9-12) Donuts & Discussion on Sunday, Dec. 21

Prayer Line: We pray for the sick and those experiencing any kind of difficulty: Adele Acosta, Marcela Acosta, Victor Acosta, Giovana Boniello, Davenport Family (William, Jordan, Joshua, Sonya, Wayne), Wilma DeRosa, Amani Fahr, Michelle Ghiorso, Aurora Rose Gitter, Ruth Gitter, Anita Gould, Brandi Grissmeyer, Logan Grissmeyer, Anita Kebschull, Sue Kobylack, Michaela Kroppel, Christy Krum, Freddie Lando, Michelle Liscoe, Robert & Susan & Rosalind Magilton, Douglas Miller, Rome Martello, Cole Martello, Aaliyah Pedrosa, Elizabeth Pedrosa, Joshua Pedrosa, Jose Pedrosa, Paola Pedrosa, Torrey Pietarinen, John Scaramuzzo, Diana Schrader, Peter Williams

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

David P. Condon, Jr., husband of Deacon Joan Condon, passed away on December 9, 2025

Phoebe Carey, a young wife and mother of two small children, and a family friend of Jean Hanson, passed away on December 6

CHRISTMAS EVE
Wednesday, December 24

5:00 p.m. Family Service

8:00 p.m. Carols and Choirs

9:20 p.m. Christmas Eve Eucharist

Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School

172 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY 10708

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

Connect Card – Scan QR code to contact us via digital link

