† 10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST † August 17, 2025

Outdoor Service of Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.

PRELUDE Wondrous Love Zach Unke

WELCOME (You are invited to choose additional hymns for the service)

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 gather under the wings of God's mercy, confessing our sin and seeking forgiveness.
- C Gracious God, we recognize that we are sinful and we confess our sins those known to us that burden our hearts and those unknown to us but seen by You. Forgive us our sins, free us from the burden of guilt, and work in us that which is pleasing in Your sight; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
- P God is faithful and full of grace, granting forgiveness through Jesus Christ to all who confess their sin. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sin, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

OPENING HYMN

The Lord is Present in His Sanctuary

AGPS Hymn 232

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray:
- O God, You love justice and hate oppression. As You call us to share Your zeal for truth, give us courage to follow Your servants and prophets in faith, and receive with thanksgiving the redeeming work of Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 23:23-29

²³Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? ²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" ²⁶How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back – those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot

my name for Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2

11 ²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. ³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented – ³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground. ³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect. 12 ¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY (Congregation rising)

(Psalm 82)

- P God has taken His place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods He holds judgment:
- C "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked?
- P Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.
- C Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."
- P They have neither knowledge nor understanding; they walk around in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
- C I say, "You are gods, children of the Most High, all of you;

- P nevertheless, you shall die like mortals and fall like any prince."
- C Rise up, O God, judge the earth, for all the nations belong to You!

GOSPEL Luke 12:49-56

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter.
- C Glory to You, O Lord.

[The Lord answered Peter:] ⁴⁹"I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." ⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY What God Ordains is Always Good AGPS **Hymn 263**

SERMON "Love in the Hammer" Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

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 Let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, hear our prayer.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING & HYMN CHOICE

† 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, for You have mightily governed and protected Your holy Church, in which the blessed apostles and evangelists proclaimed Your divine and saving Gospel. 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 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:
- 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 & HYMNS

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)

- O God, our life, our strength, and our food, we give You thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of Your Son. By Your Holy Spirit, equip us to be the body of Christ in the world, that we may give You praise and serve one another with our whole being; 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

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

AGPS Hymn 208

DISMISSAL

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

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COMMUNION STATEMENT

Village Lutheran Church welcomes to Holy Communion those baptized Christians who: \dagger Know Jesus Christ as their Savior (*John 20:31*); \dagger Recognize that the body and blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine (*1 Cor. 11:29*); \dagger Are able to examine themselves and repent of their sins (*1 Cor. 11:28*); and \dagger 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.

Service of Holy Communion 10:45 a.m.

PRELUDE St. Denio Franklin Ashdown

OPENING HYMN (*Congregation rising*)
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

LSB Hymn 802

INVOCATION and CONFESSION

- P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C who made heaven and earth.
- P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us first confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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.

JHYMN OF PRAISE

(LSB Page 204)

To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth; goodwill from God in heaven proclaimed at Jesus' birth! We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name we sing – our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.

To You, O sole-begotten, the Father's Son, we pray; O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away. Have mercy on us, Jesus; receive our heartfelt cry, where You in pow'r are seated at God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord. Forever and forever, be worshiped and adored; You with the Holy Spirit alone are Lord Most High, in God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray:
- O God, You love justice and hate oppression. As You call us to share Your zeal for truth, give us courage to follow Your servants and prophets in faith, and receive with thanksgiving the redeeming work of Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 23:23-29

²³Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? ²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" ²⁶How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back – those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2

11 ²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. ³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented – ³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground. ³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect. 12 ¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus

the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY (Congregation rising)

(Psalm 82)

- P God has taken His place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods He holds judgment:
- C "How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked?
- P Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.
- C Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."
- P They have neither knowledge nor understanding; they walk around in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
- C I say, "You are gods, children of the Most High, all of you;
- P nevertheless, you shall die like mortals and fall like any prince."
- C Rise up, O God, judge the earth, for all the nations belong to You!

GOSPEL Luke 12:49-56

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter.
- C Glory to You, O Lord.

[The Lord answered Peter:] ⁴⁹"I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." ⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB Hymn 760

What God Ordains is Always Good (v. 1-2 and 6)

SERMON "Love in the Hammer"

Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

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 Let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, hear our prayer.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS OFFERING/VOLUNTARY

Wondrous Love

Sarah Douglas

† 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, for You have mightily governed and protected Your holy Church, in which the blessed apostles and evangelists proclaimed Your divine and saving Gospel. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Holy, holy Lord, God by heav'nly hosts adored, God of power, God of might, in Your glory infinite: Hail, hosanna! Now we sing to our glorious Lord and King. Blest is He who from above comes to us with joy and love.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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 (LSB Page 210, adapted)

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, and grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN What Wondrous Love is This LSB **Hymn 543**

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)

- O God, our life, our strength, and our food, we give You thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of Your Son. By Your Holy Spirit, equip us to be the body of Christ in the world, that we may give You praise and serve one another with our whole being; 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 Sent Forth By God's Blessing LSB **Hymn 643**

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE The Ash Grove John Behnke

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Participants in the Service:

Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell, Senior Pastor Deborah Reiss, Minister of Music

9:00 10:45

Lector Chris Gleason Philip Auman Godlewski

Asst. Minister Anton DeRosa Philip Auman Godlewski

Communion Asst. Chris Gleason Volunteer

Altar Care Anton DeRosa

Usher Team Warren Wong Georgine Read

Ilse Koerper

Sexton Joshua Gleason

Refreshments Mathew Family

News and Notes:

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, August 20**. Contact Katie Bukofzer at etakwhit@aol.com.

Youth News: All youth entering Grades 3-9 are invited to come out for some summer fun, and bring a friend! Meet on the playground and wear a swimsuit or clothes that can get wet. The next event is Water Scavenger Hunt on **Thursday, August 21**, at 6:00 p.m.

Crochet Ministry – Meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Yarn, crochet hooks and instructions provided. Knitters are also welcome to attend and use the yarn. The next date is **August 26 at 7:00 p.m.**

JOYFUL JAMS is a music program for young children and their caregivers led by Mrs. Kate Marino (TCS music teacher and VLC member). A fall class will be offered for children ages 10 months to 3 years. There will be two time slots on Friday mornings starting September 19. The class fee is \$300 for eight sessions, due with registration by September 12. For more information, contact preschool Director Maureen Butler at 914-337-3202 (x1008) or MButler@TheChapelSchool.org

Coffee Hour - Volunteers are needed as we return indoors for the fall. If you would be available to host please sign up on the bulletin board in the MPR or speak to Warren Wong. Thank you for sharing in the ministry of hospitality!

Are you a veteran or actively serving in the military or reserves? Deacon Larry Cosentino would like to talk with you regarding ways to be in ministry to and with the community of the brave men and women who have or are serving in our military. Contact Deacon Larry at Larry.Cosentino@gmail.com or (646)369-7408.

FALL PREVIEW: Here is a look at some of the activities which will be coming back or introduced in September. Please take note of the start dates and watch for further details.

- ❖ September 6-7: **Rally Day Weekend** Sunday School classes resume at 9:00 a.m.; Saturday service resumes at 5:30 p.m.
- ❖ September 11: **Chancel Choir** First rehearsal 7:30 p.m.
- September 17: Bible Study Weekly meetings resume at 11:00 a.m., continuing with stories from the Gospel of John
- ❖ September 18: **Youth Choir** First rehearsal 7:00 p.m.
- ❖ September 21: High School Choir First rehearsal 10:15 a.m.
- ❖ September 24: **Village Bells** First rehearsal 6:00 p.m.
- ❖ September 24: The Chosen Watch season 1 of this series on Bible reenactments and enjoy wine, dessert and discussion together, Wednesdays 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. through November 1
- ❖ September 30: Prayer Conference Call Monthly prayer service by phone 6:00 p.m.

Prayer Line: We pray for the sick and those experiencing any kind of difficulty: Adela Acosta, Marcela Acosta, Victor Acosta, Sal Alleluia, Austin Ansorge, Paula Belli, Tabatha Clark, Joshua Davenport, Sonya Davenport, Randy Delling, Nicholas Depierro, Joan Eiler, Francisca (Paquita) Febus, Dick Forliano, Marilyn Griffin, Brandi Grissmeyer, Logan Grissmeyer, Rev. Lee Hagan, Lena Hakanson, Marie Iammatteo, Gudrun Krüger, Cleo Lealos, Michelle Liscoe, Joe Marino, Tom Marra, Rev. Morris Mayer, Lucille McGeough, Cathy Certa Niebanck, Aaliyah Pedrosa, Joshua Pedrosa, Paola Pedrosa, Janet & George Perotto, Elaine Podszus, Darci Porter, Jenn Quish

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

† **Patricia DiCuio**, mother of Kindergarten teacher Danielle DiCuio, passed away on August 11, 2025

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

