

**† ASH WEDNESDAY †**  
**February 14, 2024**

<b>Service of Holy Communion 12:00 &amp; 7:30 p.m.</b>
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**PRELUDE**

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

James Mansfield

**OPENING HYMN** (*Congregation rising*)

LSB Hymn 606

I Lay My Sins on Jesus

**INVOCATION and CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

**C Amen.**

P God spoke to Moses, saying: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

**C You shall have no other gods before me."**

P Jesus rebuked the devil, saying: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only."

**C For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To God be the glory forever!**

**CONFESSION**

P As we stand in the presence of the one true God, let us confess our sin:

**C Heavenly Father, we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have failed to keep Your commandments. O Lord, have mercy upon us.**

P Because of the perfect obedience, atoning death, and glorious resurrection of Jesus:

**C O Christ, have mercy upon us.**

P Strengthen and preserve us in the true faith, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C O Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**PRAYER and IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

P Brothers and sisters in Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope. Let us pray:

**C O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We acknowledge that we are dust, and to dust we shall return. Create in us a clean heart, that we might keep our eyes fixed on You and receive the promise of new life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*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.*

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS** (*Congregation rising*)

P As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I 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. 5)

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

<sup>1</sup>Blow 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 – <sup>2a</sup>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... <sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. <sup>14</sup>Who 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? <sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. <sup>17</sup>Between 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** <sup>20</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. **6** <sup>1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For 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! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of

spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see – we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

(7:30) **CHANCEL CHOIR** When I Was Sinkin' Down Hall Johnson  
*When I was sinkin' down, O my soul, beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul, that caused the Lord of Bliss  
to send His precious peace to my soul.*

**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:] <sup>1</sup>"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. <sup>2</sup>So 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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>5</sup>And 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. <sup>6</sup>But 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... <sup>16</sup>And 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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so 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. <sup>19</sup>Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For 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**

Take My Life and Let It Be

LSB Hymn 783

## CATECHISM REVIEW

P The Ten Commandments:

**C As the head of the family should teach them in a simple way to the household.**

P The First Commandment:

**C You shall have no other gods.**

P What does this mean?

**C We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.**

**SERMON** "The 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment: Who's On First?" 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 Lord, in Your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OFFERING/VOLUNTARY

(12:00 organ)

Picardy

Arnatt/Mahnke

(7:30 bells)

Just As I Am

Linda Lamb

### OFFERING HYMN (*Congregation rising*)

(LSB Hymn 956)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation and uphold me with Thy free spirit.

Amen.

## † 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 Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness and salvation that come to us in His life-giving body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.**

### **HYMN OF PREPARATION**

(LSB Hymn 621, v. 2)

King of kings yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

Lamb of God

LSB Hymn 550

Drawn to the Cross

LSB Hymn 560

*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 Holy God, we face ongoing temptations to replace You with other loves and loyalties. Help us to fear, love, and trust in You above all things, and through the redeeming power of Christ enable us to seek You first in every part of our lives; 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

Abide, O Dearest Jesus

LSB Hymn 919

## DISMISSAL

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

Christus, der ist mein Leben

Johann Pachelbel

\* \* \* \* \*

## 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:***

	12:00	7:30
<b>Lector</b>	Philip Auman Godlewski	Jennifer Podoll
<b>Asst. Minister</b>	Philip Auman Godlewski	Kristin Pimentel
<b>Altar Care</b>	Ilse Koerper	Joan Condon
<b>Ushers</b>	Kathy Coffey Ilse Koerper	Ralph Schoene Joe Wilkinson

### **News and Notes:**

**Midweek Lenten** worship continues each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. with a service of evening prayer. On February 21, we will consider "The Second Commandment: What's in a Name?"

**LENTEN DEVOTION BOOKLETS** for personal use are available in the tract rack at the church entrance. The focus of these daily devotions is the "Lamb of God," including a brief reflection for each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Copies are available in English and Spanish. If you need additional copies, please contact Kim Zwisdak at 914-337-0207, x1040 or [KZwisdak@TheChapelSchool.org](mailto:KZwisdak@TheChapelSchool.org)

**Parent Community Night** – Our first gathering of the year is on February 15! These are opportunities to get together for food, community, and consideration of how to live well into our callings to raise our children in faith. We'll meet on **Thursday, Feb. 15 from 6-7 p.m. in the Friendship Room**. Pastor Mark would love for you to be able to join us. If you've never been, definitely consider coming. We each bring a bit of food to share, but if you're able to come and have nothing to bring, don't worry about it!

**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, February 21**. Contact Katie Bukofzer at [etakwhit@aol.com](mailto:etakwhit@aol.com).

**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 **February 27 at 6:00 p.m.**

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

**The Saturday service** will resume on **March 2** at 5:30 p.m. and continue through the end of June.

**The Lunch Bunch Spring Luncheon** will be on **Tuesday, March 12**, featuring music by local artist Jeannie Claire. Arrival time is 11:30 a.m., with lunch at noon followed by the program. In order to plan for food and set-up, **please RSVP** no later than Sunday, March 10. Make a note on the back of the Attendance Form or contact the church office at 914-337-0207, x1003 or [KRapillo@VLC-NY.org](mailto:KRapillo@VLC-NY.org)

**Gathering of Friends** – Our annual gala in support of VLC/TCS is **Friday, March 15**, at Lake Isle Country Club in Eastchester. This year's co-chairs are school secretary Maura Condolff and music teacher/drama director Kate Marino, who have planned *Le Jardin des Rêves* (Garden of Dreams) to complement our overall theme of "Hope in the Lord." Cocktails at 7:00 p.m., followed by a live auction and dinner at 8:00 p.m. Get your tickets now! Go to [Gathering-of-Friends.com](http://Gathering-of-Friends.com) or call 914-337-0207 x1040.

- ❖ **The Garden of Dreams Raffle** is \$200 each and only 50 tickets will be sold. One winner will take home \$3,000. This is a great way to share in the event, even if you cannot attend. Tickets available during coffee hour February 4 through March 3 or online.
- ❖ **Children's Jardin**, with games, crafts and prizes on **Saturday, March 9**

**Team Chapel NYC Half Marathon** – We still have openings for runners to join Team Chapel Arts for the half marathon on **Sunday, March 17**. Funds raised are used in support of the TCS art and drama programs. If you or anyone you know would be interested, please contact Kim Zwisdak in the Development office, 914-337-3202 x1040 or [KZwisdak@TheChapelSchool.org](mailto:KZwisdak@TheChapelSchool.org)

**MUSIC MINISTRY** – Our schedule for this week is as follows:

- **High School Choir** off until Sunday, February 25, at 10:15 a.m.
- **Village Bells** off Wednesday, February 21
- **Youth Choir** rehearse Thursday, February 15, at 7:00 p.m.
- **Chancel Choir** rehearse Thursday, February 15, at 7:30 p.m.; off Sunday, February 18

For more information, contact Minister of Music Deb Reiss at [DReiss@VLC-NY.org](mailto:DReiss@VLC-NY.org) or 914-337-0207, x1018.

**Youth News: Voyagers** (Grades 3-6) meet **Thursday, Feb. 15**, at 6:00 p.m.; **Lifers** (Grades 7-8) Confirmation Dinner Talk on Thursday, **Feb. 15**, at 6:00 p.m.; **Crusaders** (Grades 9-12) Donuts & Discussion at 10:30 a.m. on **Feb 25**.

**Wednesday Bible Study** – On February 21 we will look at the final chapter of Romans.

**Prayer Line:** We pray for the sick and those experiencing any kind of difficulty:

Maxine Britt, Tabatha Clark, Zack Comeford, Tracie Davenport, Joan Deery, Nicholas DePierro, Rev. Rudy DeRosa, Bennett Dimarza, Eleanor Escherich, Faith Forliano, Nancy Hylton, Eleanor James, Carver Kroeger, Ralph Kuhn, Merline Leon, Joseph Leonard, Margo McKay, Katiana Michalski, David Mullen, Isaiah Nieves, Anita & Vincent Palmese, Jose Pedrosa, Steven Perotto, Sunnaria Pettinati, Louise Podszus, Chloe Runge, Irmgard Schoene, Joseph Silvestri, Eugene Siren, Chris Siren, Marian Terenzio, Diane Wade

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

- † **Dan Bolles**, graduate of Concordia-NY and friend to many in the community, passed away on February 8, 2024
- † **Helen Britz**, our oldest VLC member, passed away on February 4, 2024, just shy of her 105<sup>th</sup> birthday

**Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School**

172 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY 10708

914-337-0207 + [www.VLC-NY.ORG](http://www.VLC-NY.ORG)

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