

VILLAGE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Easter Eve



Saturday, March 30, 2024
5:30 p.m.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

The order of worship is printed in the bulletin and the hymnal, “Lutheran Service Book” (LSB), is located in the pew racks in front of you.

● *We extend a special word of welcome to first-time visitors* and invite you to take a welcome kit located by the Jesus Fountain in the church entrance.

● *Please fill out the Attendance Card* (one per family or individual) and place in the offering plate or hand to an usher after the service.

● *Digital Connect* - If you would like to receive church information or update the church office scan the bar code for a digital link.



COMMUNION STATEMENT

† The congregation of 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.

† Communion may be brought to those with limited mobility. Please alert the pastor or usher if you wish to commune in this way.

Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School

172 White Plains Road

Bronxville, NY 10708

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP AT 5:30 P.M.
Service of Light, Remembrance of Baptism, and Holy Communion

† SERVICE OF LIGHT †

PRELUDE

Joyous Light of Glory

John Behnke

INVOCATION

We begin in semi-darkness. The congregation is invited to stand and turn towards the back of the church.

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

C **Amen.**

P Dear friends in Christ, on this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church invites its members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord. In hearing the Word and celebrating the Sacraments, we share in Christ's victory over death.

C **Christ Jesus, the same yesterday, today and forever, the beginning and the ending, the Alpha and Omega.**

P His are time and eternity; His are the glory and dominion, now and forever. By His wounds we have healing both now and forever.

C **Amen.**

(Silent processional with the Christ Candle.)

BLESSING OF THE NEW FLAME

P Let us pray. O God, through Your Son You have bestowed upon Your people the brightness of Your glory.

C **Bless this new fire and inflame us with new hope. Purify our minds by this Easter celebration that we may be brought one day to the feast of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

P The Paschal candle represents our risen Lord shining in the light and splendor of His resurrection. He is the new "pillar of fire" leading redeemed Israel out of the bondage of sin into the promised land.

C **May the light of Christ, who is risen in glory from the dead, scatter all the darkness of our hearts and minds.**

P Almighty and most merciful God, pour out on us Your abundant blessing that all who in true faith share this night in joyful celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead may be filled with Your heavenly benediction. Once we were in darkness, but now we are in the Light, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.** *(The Paschal candle is lit)*

PROCESSION OF LIGHT

P The light of Christ.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The congregation is invited to proceed down the center aisle. As you pass by the Paschal candle, light your candle and then return to the pews by way of the side aisles. Once all the individual candles are lit, we continue with the hymn and Prayer of the Day.

HYMN

(LSB Hymn 461, v. 1 & 5)

I know that my Redeemer lives; what comfort this sweet sentence gives!

He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever-living head!

He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears;

He lives to calm my troubled heart; He lives all blessings to impart.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

C **Eternal Giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew Your church with the Spirit given to us in baptism, that we may worship You in sincerity and truth and may shine as lights in the world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

(Please extinguish candles)

† SERVICE OF THE WORD †

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24

¹I am the man who has seen affliction by the rod of the Lord's wrath. ²He has driven me away and made me walk in darkness rather than light; ³indeed, he has turned his hand against me again and again, all day long. ⁴He has made my skin and my flesh grow old and has broken my bones. ⁵He has besieged me and surrounded me with bitterness and hardship. ⁶He has made me dwell in darkness like those long dead. ⁷He has walled me in so I cannot escape; he has weighed me down with chains. ⁸Even when I call out or cry for help, he shuts out my prayer. ⁹He has barred my way with blocks of stone; he has made my paths crooked... ¹⁹I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. ²⁰I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. ²¹Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: ²²Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Romans 6:3-11

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL (*Congregation rising*)

John 19:38-42

P The Gospel according to St. John, the 19th chapter:

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³⁸Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. ³⁹He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. ⁴⁰Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. ⁴¹At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE

P In Holy Baptism our sins are forgiven and we are granted new life in Christ, our Lord. We solemnly renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways; we confess the gift of faith in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Therefore, I ask you anew: Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

C **I do renounce them.**

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

C **Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

C **Yes, I believe 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.

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

C **Yes, 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.**

P May almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.

C **Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY Awake, My Heart, with Gladness (v. 1-3) **LSB Hymn 467**

SERMON “Mary’s Lament” Deacon Dr. Anton DeRosa

CELEBRATION OF THE LIGHT (*Congregation rising*)

P Rejoice now, all you heavenly choirs of angels; rejoice now, all creation; sound forth, trumpet of salvation, and proclaim the triumph of our King. Know that the ancient darkness has been forever banished. Rejoice, O Church of Christ, clothed in the brightness of this light; let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing, with the praises of all God’s faithful people.

As all of the sanctuary lights are turned on and the chancel is prepared for the celebration of Easter, we sing the Paschal Hymn:

PASCHAL HYMN The Day of Resurrection (LSB Hymn 478, v. 1-3)

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
The passover of gladness, the passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin’s dominion free,
Our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Let hearts be purged of evil that we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light,
And list’ning to His accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
His own “All hail!” and hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heav’ns be joyful, let earth its song begin.
Let all the world keep triumph and all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen, their notes of gladness blend;
For Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end!

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING/VOLUNTARY

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Melody Bober

† 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. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life.

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. (*Matt. 6:9-13*)**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 testament 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."

AGNUS DEI

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 (Congregation rising)

A O Almighty God, on the cross Your Son Jesus Christ experienced death for all people, and on the third day He rose from the dead that all people might experience new life in Him. Grant that we might die to sin and rise to newness of life in Him; through the same 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.**

P Alleluia. Christ is risen!

C **He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

LSB Hymn 457

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Healey Willan

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PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE:

Officiant	Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell
Assisting Minister	Anton DeRosa
Organist	Marcia Kollmann
Sexton	Claire Story

News and Notes:

MUSIC MINISTRY – Thank you to all of our musicians for their preparations during this Lenten season and festive Easter celebration. After a break this week, all choirs will resume regular rehearsals the week of April 8.

Wednesday Bible Study – On April 3 we will look at the account of Jesus being anointed by a “sinful woman” and the parable of Two Debtors (Luke 7:36-50)

FREE EDUCATIONAL ZOOM SEMINAR! The Halter Legacy Circle “Prepare Wisely: Estate Strategy Essentials with William O’Doherty” on Wed., **April 3**, at 6:00 p.m. (rescheduled from Feb. 7). *What is estate planning? Is a will the only document needed to complete my estate plan? How can I make charitable gifts in my estate plans? Is there a way I can enjoy tax savings and other benefits from charitable gifts now?* Register to receive the Zoom link 914-337-0207 x 1040 or online <http://tinyurl.com/Thrivent2024>

Youth News: Voyagers (Grades 3-6) next meeting Thursday, April 11, at 6:00 p.m.; Lifers (Grades 7-8) Dinner Talk on Thursday, April 11, at 6:00 p.m., next Confirmation class Sunday, April 14; Crusaders (Grades 9-12) next Donuts & Discussion on Sunday, April 14

Crusader Pre-Gathering Retreat – Youth currently in Grades 8-12 are invited to a weekend retreat at Koinonia on April 5-7. This is in anticipation of the national youth gathering in New Orleans in 2025. For more information, contact [Amy Heath at amyheath1023@gmail.com](mailto:amyheath1023@gmail.com)

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, April 17**. Contact Katie Bukofzer at etakwhit@aol.com.

Spring Voters Meeting is Sunday, **April 21** at 12 noon. We will be discussing our 2024-2025 Year Budget and the Capital Campaign preplanning process that is being conducted. Pizza lunch will be provided.

The Merlin & Lois Rehm Pastoral Residency is pleased to welcome Rev. Dr. Joshua Hollmann as guest speaker on **Wednesday, April 24**, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Dr. Hollmann is familiar to many of us from his time as professor of religion at Concordia-NY. He is currently Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Concordia-St. Paul and senior pastor of True Light Lutheran Church in Manhattan. He will speak on a life-long topic of interest and study, “Building Trust in Christian-Muslim Relations.”

SAVE THE DATE: Blood Drive May 18 - We are excited to again partner with the New York Blood Center on Saturday, May 18, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. to host a blood drive at our facility. To secure an appointment online please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/518blood>

Wanted: Runners for the 2024 New York City Marathon - Team Chapel is recruiting runners to run the NYC Marathon on November 3, 2024. Runners should be willing and able to run 26.2 miles, and commit to and guarantee a \$3,000 personal fundraising goal. If you are interested in joining the team, contact Kim Z. in the Development Office at KZwisdak@TheChapelSchool.org or 914-337-3202 (1040).

Prayer Line: We pray for the sick and those experiencing any kind of difficulty:
Linda & Dennis Bottos, Maxine Britt, Carole Burke, Bennett Chevalier, Alexandra Armillas Cuipak, Joshua Davenport, Rowena del Castillo, Nicholas DePierro, Theresa DePierro, Rev. Rudy DeRosa, Eleanor Escherich, Francisca Febus, Faith Forliano, Sharon & John Hargrove, Edna Harris, Mackenzie Hayes, Nancy & Elijah Hylton, Joshlynn Laguerra, Merline Leon, Joseph Leonard, Steve Leone, Isaiah Nieves, Sunny Pettinati, Louise Podszus, Agnes Rendo, Joun Robinson, John Scaramuzzo, Irmgard Schoene, Odila Stern, Ben Tashoff, Grant & Paxton Thomas, Jeff Wacaster, Liz Wagner

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

- † **Halina Stellmaszyk**, dear friend of the Podszus family, passed away on March 23, 2024
- † **Lorraine Taylor**, former VLC member, passed away on March 17, 2024
- † **Greta Krull**, member of Christ Lutheran in Yonkers until it closed and then a VLC member, passed away on March 16, 2024

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Make Easter offerings online during the Easter season! It is encouraging to see both new and familiar faces at our worship services. Throughout the year, many of you already support the congregation with your time, talent and financial contributions. But greater seasonal participation is always welcome. We encourage you to consider our electronic giving program. We accept donations made from your bank account and credit card or debit cards. It takes just a few minutes to set up a recurring giving plan. To learn more, visit the church website at <https://www.vlc-ny.org/give>.

You can also text to give at 833-685-4130.

Thank you for supporting our mission “to know, live and share the love of Christ.”

Offering received last week: \$5,331

Offering needed weekly to meet budget: \$6,860

Offering received to date: \$276,811

Offering needed to date: \$267,540

Thank you to everyone who donated flowers to beautify our sanctuary and celebrate the new life that is ours through our Resurrected Lord.

Names are listed on the back page.

You may pick up your flowers following the 10:45 a.m. service on Easter morning.

Please be sure to look for your name on your plant.

**FLOWERS DECORATING OUR CHURCH THIS EASTER
ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY:**

Katie Bukofzer
Terry & Charlie Eisenberg
Forshee Family
Melissa Kobernitski
Marcia Kollmann
Andrea & James Maxeiner
Reyes-Guerra Family
Swain Family

AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Grace Ansorge, Dorothy & Walter Cornelison, Ohmer & Edna Gabbard from the Ansorge Family
Jane Bennett from the Bennett Family
Jim & Jean Bryan and James & Genette Bunn from James & Jacqueline Bunn
Stephen Cea from his wife Evelyn
Joe Bales, Frank Coffey and Helen & Bill Messner from Kathy Coffey
Edwin & Jean Andrews, David & Shelia Condon and Betty & Bob Roberts
from Joan & Dave Condon
Margo McKay from Sonya Davenport
Anthony DeRosa, Herb & Marie Anderson, and Gertrude & Anton Birli from Anton & Ruth DeRosa
Carol & Edward Raff and the DiGiovanni Family from RoseAnn DiGiovanni
Nancy Roth from Carolyn Fiuza
Vincenzo & Orsola Cerrato and Sidney & Rosalind Gitter from Maria & Dwayne Gitter
Departed members of the Auman-Bucher-Godlewski-Hayes Family from Philip Auman Godlewski
Loved ones from the Gotte Family
Janet Lunog from Rob & Sue Hartwell
Joan Ashwort & Helen Britz from Ilse Koerper
Melville Massey from his wife Shashi
Angelina Kimei and Abenezzer Ngowi from the Ngowi Family
Marisefa & Luis Olay from Celeste & Pablo Olay
Donald Gilder from his daughter Kim Rapillo & Family
Robert Horensky from Sharon Renzo
Lee E. Schoenlank from the Schoenlank Family
Mark Emmons from Julie Schoenlank
Ragnar Sjonvall from his wife Sharon

AND IN HONOR OF:

Roth Davenport from Sonya Davenport
Virginia Stong from Arnold Mayer