

† LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICE †  
Wednesday, March 6, 2024

<b>Service of Evening Prayer 7:30 p.m.</b>
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**PRELUDE**

Rhosymedre

Ralph Vaughan Williams

**INVOCATION and CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Congregation rising*)

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

**C Amen.**

P A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy dwelling.

**C God sets the lonely in families, He leads forth the prisoners with singing.**

P This is what the Lord says: "I will extend peace to Jerusalem like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream."

**C "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you."**

**CONFESSION**

P As we come together as one family in Christ, 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.**

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.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

**C O Lord, let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us, that with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host, and may glorify You forever. Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

**OFFICE HYMN**

Our Father by Whose Name

LSB Hymn 863

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Proverbs 1:8-19

<sup>8</sup> Listen, my child, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

<sup>9</sup> They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck. <sup>10</sup> My child, if sinful people entice you, do not give in to them. <sup>11</sup> If they say, "Come along with us; let's lie in wait for innocent blood, let's ambush some harmless soul; <sup>12</sup> let's swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; <sup>13</sup> we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder; <sup>14</sup> cast lots with us; we will all share

the loot" — <sup>15</sup> my child, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths; <sup>16</sup> for their feet rush into evil, they are swift to shed blood. <sup>17</sup> How useless to spread a net where every bird can see it! <sup>18</sup> These people lie in wait for their own blood; they ambush only themselves! <sup>19</sup> Such are the paths of all who go after ill-gotten gain; it takes away the life of those who get it.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE**

Ephesians 6:1-4

<sup>1</sup> Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother" — which is the first commandment with a promise — <sup>3</sup> "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." <sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **RESPONSORY** (*Congregation rising*)

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

## **GOSPEL**

Luke 2:41-52

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

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

<sup>41</sup> Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. <sup>43</sup> After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. <sup>44</sup> Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." <sup>49</sup> "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>51</sup> Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **CATECHISM REVIEW**

P The Ten Commandments, as the head of the family should teach them in a simple way to the household. The Fourth Commandment:

**C Honor your father and your mother.**

P What does this mean?

**C We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.**

## **SERMON**

"The 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment: Putting Parents in Their Place"

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.**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

A In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

A For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

A For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

A For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

A For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

A For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

A For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

A For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, including those we lift up in the quiet of this moment...(pause), let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

A For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

**C Thanks be to God.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P Taught by our Lord, and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.**

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

P Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of family. Fill us with the love of Christ, to soften our hearts, cover a multitude of sins, and enable us to live in peace and harmony with one another; 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**

Children of the Heavenly Father

LSB Hymn 725

## **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

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Kevin Hildebrand

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## ***Participants in the Service:***

### **Officiant**

Rev. Mark Budenholzer  
Associate Pastor/Director of Youth & Family Ministries

### **Asst. Minister**

Deborah Reiss

## **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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